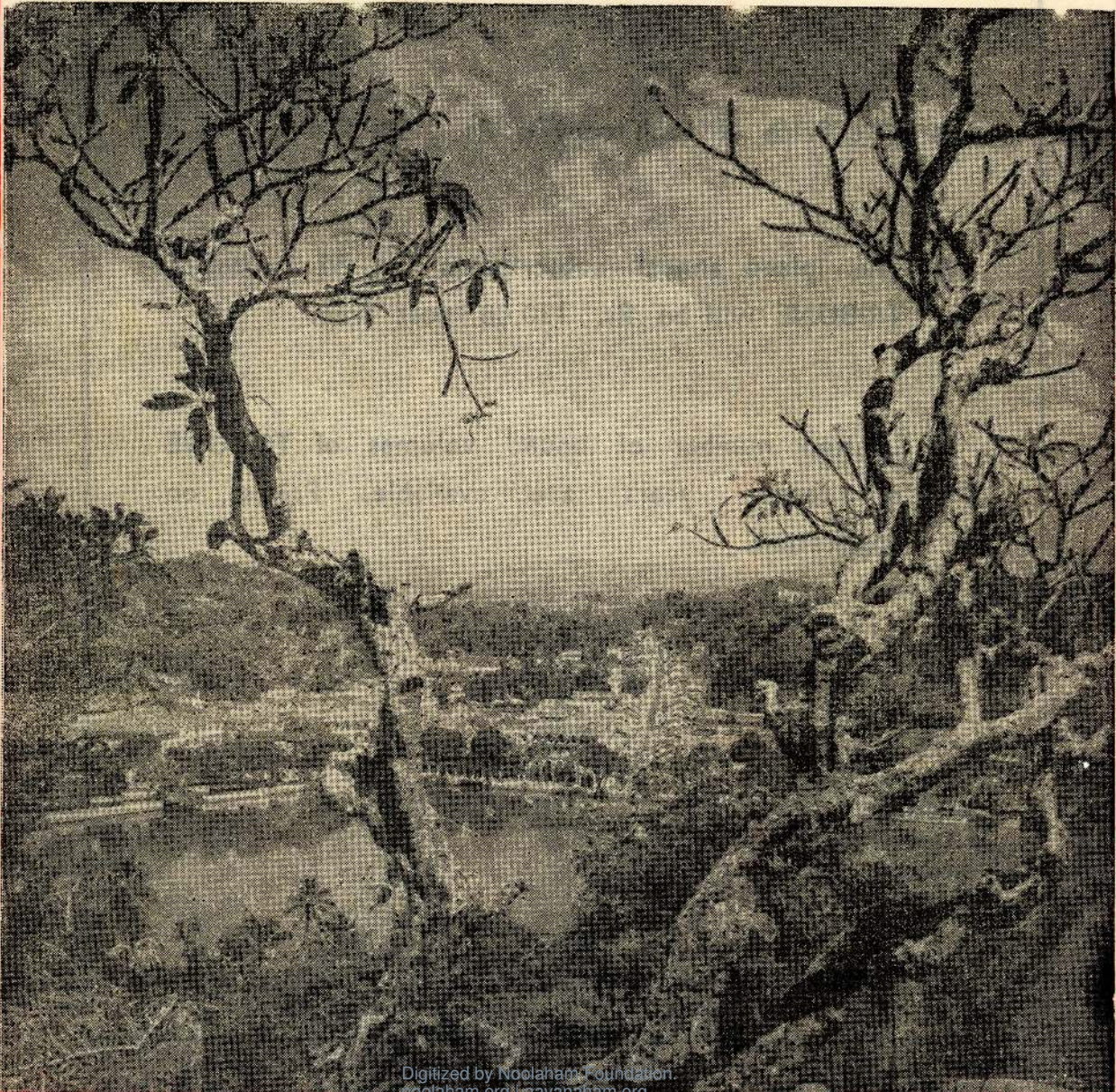


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From Our Desk



THIS ISLAND was once described as a land of lotus eaters meaning that the inhabitants are more prone to laze and dream than toil and work. This is probably an unfair oversimplification. But fears are now expressed that unless production and productivity increase in the traditional rural agricultural sector—especially in the dry zone territories of tanks and reservoirs where the lotus grows—the charge of lotus-eating can be made with justification. So many of us are lost in the petty trivialities of Sri Lankan parochial domesticity that we are little concerned with what takes place in the great big world outside. Our newspapers, in the past, published little on the logic and dynamics of world affairs. There has been a change for the better in recent times. But, in spite of this, Sri Lankan interest in the world outside is still very limited, even in regard to matters that have a tremendous impact on our life-styles. Take, for instance, gold. The price has shot up so high in the capitalist world—there is no trading in gold in the controlled, centralised and regulated economy of the socialist world—that even affluent middle families in developing countries can no longer afford to buy gold jewellery. In 1971, an ounce of gold fluctuated around \$ 35 per troy ounce. A year ago it was about \$ 200 per ounce and in mid-June this year \$ 280. Now it has topped the \$ 300 mark. The Western press attributes the present gold rush to the latest upswing in inflation and to the higher prices of oil. Is this all there is to it? American commentators suggest that French, West German and Saudi Arabian circles are working together to push up gold well beyond the \$ 300 mark. Why? First, by raising the value of European-held gold reserves, European countries are compensating for the 20-40 per cent rise in world oil prices since January. Second, the revaluation of European-held gold reserves will help the European Monetary Fund (EMF) which is now in a position to pour several tens of billions of dollars in trade and investment credits into the Third World. The US, Britain and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which presently control the Third World credit allocation, are opposed to the EMF because it will put an end to IMF monopoly with its policies of stringent austerities and carefully limited use of credits for debt-refinancing. Saudi support for the EMF has come in to raise gold prices and also because the Saudis want to work out state-to-state deals to guarantee European oil supplies and undercut speculative prices offered by oil multinationals. New York sources insist that the gold price rise was engineered by West German banks acting on behalf of Saudi Arabia. The Dresdner Bank, for example, is said to have purchased huge quantities of gold for the Saudi Government. The EMF went into business in January, without Britain, putting into the European Monetary System (EMS) \$ 70 billion worth of government held reserves. EMF funds will be raised by the sale of gold-backed EMS bonds. The reserves from these sales will then be available to the Third World. The Reserve Pool is so large that the period of repayment can be set at 10-20 years at low interest rates—the only arrangement which will attract Third World borrowing.

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What Ails The Tea Industry

We have a picture of the Kandy Lake from an unusual angle on the cover this week—a view that hides more than it reveals. What is hidden in and around the Kandy Lake does not really matter, but what ails the tea industry is of vital concern. Kandy is generally associated with Dalada Maligawa, the Perahera, the Botanical Gardens, Arts, Crafts, Dancing and what not. But, at the moment, we are interested in Kandy as the gateway to the tea country: For long it was the capital of Planters Raj, and even today more tea planters foregather in Kandy than anywhere else.

White Planters Raj is no more. The British have gone. The Brown Sahibs have also come and gone. The new elite are still unclassifiable, still in a state of flux. But, the tea industry remains and has to go on for wealth and happiness of Sri Lanka. From all reports, the tea industry is ailing today. Tea production is slipping. Indiscipline, corruption, theft and waste have become rampant. Industrial relations between the employers (JEDB and SLSPC) and the supervisory managerial staff (CPS) have broken down. The workers are not pulling their weight in spite of the exhortations of trade unions which have won

higher wages and fringe benefits for plantation labour.

Tribune had asked persons concerned with the tea industry to tell us what they think is wrong with it. We have received a massive volume of material which we hope to process and publish in the coming weeks. As an introduction, we publish below a reply we received for our query "What Ails The Tea Industry" from a person who has intimate knowledge of the subject. The document will speak for itself: "With the advent of nationalisation when plantations were taken over by Government, in October 1975, the Government of the day decided to set-up a Commission—Weerakkody Commission—to go into the terms and conditions of the Plantation Personnel and recommend a uniform system of recruitment, salaries, designations etc., relating to personnel of the estate management by the Public Sector Management Agencies. The recommendations of the Weerakkody Commission were not given effect due to a change in the Government. It is now sought to give effect to the recommendations made by the Weerakkody Commission Report by the present Government. The recommendations were so totally unsatisfactory in that it encroached on the salary scale adversely that the Ceylon Planters' Society (CPS) had several meetings and negotiations with the Ministry. The negotiations with the Ministry turned out to be in-

conclusive and unsatisfactory in that on every occasion the CPS met the Secretary, the Minutes were always in variance to what actually had transpired at these meetings—7 meetings. It eventually culminated in meeting His Excellency the President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, on 7th July 1978 and at this meeting a Memorandum was put up by the Ceylon Planters Society on the totality of what a contract of employment should be.

"At this meeting, as set out in the Ceylon Planters' Society minutes, His Excellency made a clear distinction between the old and new entrants. The old entrants were to continue on the same terms and conditions without any change. The new entrants had consented to employment on their new terms with the full knowledge of what these were and therefore His Excellency felt that they had no cause to complain. However, he was gracious enough to say that this category of personnel could agitate their case at a later date when a Committee would be appointed to go into their grievances. A perusal of the Minutes of the Secretary of the meeting held on 7th July 1978 will clearly demonstrate that the Minis-

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WILL APPEAR

NEXT WEEK

ter did not reflect what actually transpired at the meeting. The Ceylon Planters' Society had protested by letter that the Minutes were incorrect and there has been an exchange of correspondence on this matter. Since then, the CPS has addressed several communications to the Secretary requesting him to give the Society the copy of the letter of appointment they were intending to issue to the Planting Personnel so that the CPS could 'iron' out any differences before these were sent out, in order to ensure that an orderly and regulated change would take place without causing insecurity and frustration to develop in management. To the regret of the CPS the Secretary has all along given evasive replies to the Planters' request, and at a much later date wanted the CPS to obtain these letters from the Organisations (J.E.D.B. and S.L.S.P.C.) when in fact, by that time, letters were already being issued. In this connection, it is necessary to highlight these aspects of the matter and the point made that with nationalisation and the State taking over most of the business or controlling it in one way or other, there is a creeping 'monopolistic syndrome' apparent. The Employee has very little right to canvass his grievances and what is worse, the bureaucratic machinery taking over the role of Management does not have the capability to understand what it is all about.

There has been a lot said in regard to the running of Plantations. The first prerequisite of a good employer is to encourage and preserve good management. In the present instance the State has, in contravention of the Land Reform Commission Act, attempted to offer people employment on a temporary basis from the time of nationalisation, and this period was extended from time to time; the last communication being on the 21st March 1977 which has since lapsed, and is therefore no longer valid and never was. The present state of affairs has caused insecurity and a creeping malaise to set in, due to the attitude of the Ministry which has not the ability or the acumen to run an Industry. They do not seem to grasp the basic rudiments of business management, give way to bureaucratic trivialities and insist that a 'Kachcheri' type administration is the best form of management. This might be superb in the areas of issuing dog licences, radio licenses and car licences, but will not run the plantation industry in a viable manner. This is becoming blatantly obvious and it is time that the CpS ventilate this in the hope that the higher authorities will sit-up and take note before it is too late. To be silent today is to quote annihilation tomorrow when it will be too late for regrets."

We will welcome articles, comments and information that will throw more light

on the malaise that now afflicts the industry. The more we are able to publish on the true state of affairs in the tea industry, the sooner will it be possible to find a way to improve matters.

* * *

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Miracles And Otherwise

*MIRACLES. In the arena of the Customs of Sri Lanka miracles take place. Watches inside suitcases turn to sand and stone when unclaimed unaccompanied baggage are transported from Katunayake airport to the Customs premises in the Fort. More recently a similar miracle was observed in respect of a consignment of "gas cookers" that turned to textiles. How do these transformations take place—magic? Everybody knows of crates of cyclone relief goods that were miraculously changed into highcost swimming trunks and equally expensive skin-tight banian shirts. The age of miracles is not over.

*MORE MIRACLES. It is not only a case of a change wrought in the nature of the goods inside suitcases and crates. There are other equally wonderful miracles. Forty crates made up one consignment. All the crates were declared to contain "gas cookers" or "grinding wheels" or

some importable low custom-duty product. On a tip-off concerning the 40 crates, an investigation was launched. But 38 crates had disappeared. Were they carried away by spirits? Or were they taken out of the Customs warehouses on forged documents? Were the 38 crates carried away in lorries? Or an Alladin's magic carpet? Has anything been done to trace the lorries and the drivers? Or find Alladin? When the two crates were examined they were found to contain expensive textiles and other goodies.

GRINDING WHEELS. Of a consignment of 12 packages, said to contain grinding wheels, 9 had wheels. The balance 3 had textiles. There have been several consignments of "grinding wheels" and even the Customs are confused when it comes to "grinding wheels". The number of packages in various shipments are different, but grinding wheels is a common factor. In the case of one consignment, 3 grinding wheel crates were found to contain textiles. Is it not true that the marks and numbers on the crates containing contraband changed miraculously? Who passed the documents for delivery ex-warehouse? Was the signature not smudged when other Customs sleuths had moved in? Have similar shipments come in recently and are the relevant documents under scrutiny?

***WHERE AND WHO?** The amount of textiles and other consumer goodies smuggled in cannot be all

sold in Sri Lanka where the market is oversaturated with such goods. Everybody knows that the bulk of these goods are quickly re-smuggled into India where there is still a very big demand for "imported" and "foreign" goods. The answer to the question *Where do these goods go?* is simple—India. But the answer to the question *Who Gets Them Down?* is more difficult. Who is the lordly big-time stone exporter who is the brains behind the whole operation? This Mafia chief seems to have a special immunity in spite of recent exposures and detections.

***MULTI BILLION CONTRACTS.** Certain circles predict that a miracle will be announced in regard to the building of the new Parliamentary complex in Jayewardenepura. Miracle-makers seem to have persuaded MITSUIs of Japan to offer to build this complex either as a gift (emulating China's BMICH) in honour of our President and Japan's goodwill to Sri Lanka or on such generous terms that it will be almost a give-away. If this miracle comes off, then tenders need not be called for the construction of the Parliamentary complex. But fears are being expressed that the clever MITSUIs may tie up this near-gift with a no-ten der contract for the 25-storey Bank of Ceylon building by getting this contract to be awarded on a cost-plus basis to a firm of Sri Lankan architects. If a firm of architects should be awar-

ded a construction contract of this magnitude, it will shock not only architects but all engineering and construction firms. Government will be well-advised to call for international tenders for both jobs—the Parliamentary complex and the new Bank of Ceylon building. It will then be possible to really gauge the worth of the MITSUI generosity. And Government should insist that architects should stick to their functions—it will be bad for everybody concerned if prestigious architects get mixed up with Zaibatsu samurai chieftains and jap finance giants.

TWELVE SHIPS. Sri Lanka is also in the market for 12 freighters expected to cost US \$ 150 to 200 million. MITSUI is said to be a front-runner in the 12, ship stakes. In this case too, government should call for international tenders. European ship-builders are now willing to give the Japanese a run for the money and Sri Lanka should make the best use of the situation—in a world of sharp competition. A packaged horse-deal on the ships, the Bank of Ceylon building and the Parliamentary complex construction will be a miracle if it comes off, but as we said before the age of miracles is not over.

***WHO'S WHO?** It is time that a list is compiled and published of the local agents of the big firms from Japan, France and West Germany and other countries which

are now trying to muzzle into building and spending boom in Sri Lanka. It will take a little time for such a list to be complete and exhaustive. Such a list will be revealing. How many such "agents" are also chairmen of government corporations? Who represents Hitachi?—Cornell! Who's is Cornell? Who represents Mitsui? Who represent Marubeni? and so and so forth. For a clean government—such as was promised by the President—it will be best if agents, for all foreign firms and multinationals are published from time to time. One important question is whether agents of foreign firms should be Chairmen or Vice Chairmen of Corporations?

***RAW COTTON?** The National Textile Corporation (NTC) is likely to be dissolved in September, but before that a raw cotton tender for about Rs. 150 million will be awarded on August 14. It is now proclaimed that the *Lonestar* sample was okayed by some outfit in Katubedde. If this is so, the sample that will come in for the August 14 tender, should not be sent to Katubedde alone? Reports should be called from the technical experts in the NTC, the CISIR and other bodies competent to evaluate the quality of the raw cotton samples. Nobody should be in a position to say that the sample was approved at Katubedde through clever rigging. As it is, in the *Lonestar* matter, it is pos-

sible to pass the baby from one to another and take refuge under Katubedde. This escape hatch should be shut for the August 14 tender.

Sherlock Holmes

x x x

THE PRESS

• Forward On Local Polls

by Printers Devil

This column last week cited an extract from the *Forward* of June 1, 1978 which set out the CP thinking on the outcome of the May 19 polls. The *Forward* in the same issue went on to analyse SLFP reactions to the polls' results:

"Their eaction of the SLFP leaders (especially Mrs. B and her present caucus of family-cum-Maoist adviser-) to the electoral defeat has been both petulant and pitiful. Obviously, their complacent assumption that mass disillusion with the UNP had reached an advanced stage and was concentrating around them has received a rude shock. Their feeble attempt to portray defeat as victory by saying that they have a 100 percent increase in their representation in the Colombo Municipal Council is laughable. For they have failed to explain how it is that they now do not control a single urban local body when they controlled 17 earlier. Dissension in

the SLFP over the entrenchment of family power through a so-called (reorganisation' was already openly manifested during the election through rival 'lists' and the current Court action challenging the legality of the 'reorganisation' itself. Judging from Mr. T. B. Illangaratne's 'Open Letter' after the election this internal process has become even stronger. Nor has the anti-leftism of the SLFP leaders abated in anyway, with *Dinakara* joining the UNP to gloat over the so-called 'death of the Left.'

"The ULF too has many lessons to learn from the outcome of the elections. It needs a much more deep and frank self-criticism of earlier mistakes and positive steps to correct them, if it is to overcome the blemishes that certain of these mistakes have imposed its image and credibility. In this connection pamphlets like that recently put out by Batty Weerakoon, which seek to justify some of those mistakes, are hardly helpful. The ULF should also work out suitable ways and means to overcome the present disunity in the Left itself, both in action and in-principled programme. This will involve overcoming sectarian tendencies and the attempts of the UNP and capitalist reaction to promote conflicts between the so-called "old" and "new" Left. It is a complicated but inescapable task, if the working class and the Left are to discharge their responsibility

in the crisis that is steadily maturing."

Then the Forward went on to expose some of the inside goings-on in the SLFP:

The internal problems of the SLFP seem to be multiplying. The dashing of the high hopes it entertained (and engendered among its supporters) about the local polls has sharpened the criticism within the SLFP of Mrs. Bandaranaike, her children and the caucus around her in the present leadership of the SLFP, who are held to be directly responsible for the setback the party received. Mr. T. B. Illangaratne's "Open Letter" is not the only sign of the growing turmoil within the party. Many members and branches have begun to ask why there are no signs of any preparations for the Party Conference, which 8 months ago the Bandaranaike leadership promised in 9 months. The latest issue of the widely circulated anonymous, but strongly anti-Bandaranaike bulletin that is regularly circulated among SLFP members not only steps up its attacks on the Family bandy but also blasts the Maoist group who, with the assistance of some family members, have wriggled into leading positions in the SLFP and enjoy Mrs. B's confidence. The 'Chinese connection' of Mrs. B is another theme of this attack. The Maoists within the SLFP have retorted by getting their fellow Maoists outside to launch an attack on Mr.

and Mrs. Mait'hripala Senanayake.

"The possibility of a by election at Anamaduwa has become the occasion for another passage-at-arms. Although the decision to unseat Mr. Tissa Wadigamangawa MP does not carry a disqualification (and thereby allows him to re-contest) and although it is anyway under appeal, a section of the SLFP is already preparing the ground to have ex-son-in-law Kumar Rupasinghe as the candidate if the by election takes place. Mr. Wadigamangawa they feel is too close a buddy of Anura Bandaranaike."

Editorially, the *Forward*, in the same issue had issued an exhortation: "The working class and Left movement should not ignore these portents. They should learn the lessons of the local polls. They should strengthen their unity and their readiness to act both on their own and as leader of other anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist forces. They should correct past mistakes, especially those made in the period when the Left had a united front with the SLFP, so as to strengthen confidence among the masses and overcome impediments to the achievement of even wider and stronger unity than exists at present. This is not the time for jeers or boasts, for sectarian bickerings, or for meaningless debates about 'old' and 'new' forms of the Left. It is the time for serious work to build unity of the working

class and the Left. It is only in this way that the coming struggles can be correctly and effectively led. It is only in this way that the Left can emerge as the real alternative to both the capitalist parties —UNP and SLFP."

The *Forward* of June 15 was, in the main, a Non-aligned Bureau meeting issue. But it had a front page story of "a section of the UNP strongly supported by leading Ministers will soon attempt to effect a retro-active change in the electoral law concerning agency..." The *Forward* also published the statement of the ULF on the local polls: "The UNP has followed up its recent victories at the local polls with further attacks on the people. It has extended the notorious 'Tiger' law, begun a new round of price increases and is going ahead with its plans to withdraw the rice subsidy completely. In the recent elections, the UNP misused to the full its virtual monopoly of the mass media and its control of the state machine, with its possibilities of patronage, pressure and intimidation. It also practised generalised bribery of the voters through promises to gift the houses they occupy to certain classes of tenants and by other means. The new voting system, which the UNP had introduced with SLFP concurrence, also contained many built-in advantages which made it possible for the UNP to gain many more seats for itself than it would have received under any

proper system of proportional representation. Nevertheless, the overall results of the local polls indicate that there has been no marked change in voting patterns since July 1977, when the present government was elected. Despite widespread complaints about mounting difficulties caused by inflation and the concern of the working people and some others over the steady erosion of democratic rights, the election results show that, so far as those urban voters who supported the UNP in 1977 are concerned, their disappointment with specific aspects of governmental policy has not yet reached the stage of open and overall opposition to the UNP government and its general line of policy. However the facts that nearly one third of the registered voters did not care to vote at all and that nearly 47 per cent of those who voted did not vote for the UNP belie the UNP's claim that their so-called "mini general election" registered a massive endorsement by the people of the UNP government and its policy and work. They also signify the beginnings of protest against the UNP Government's failure to honour the promises it made in 1977. Certain temporary and chance economic factors in the past two years enabled the UNP to prolong the illusions it had created among the people in 1977. Apart from two record harvests which made the impact of the withdrawal of the rice subsidy less powerful than

before, improved foreign reserves, as a result of high export prices and other windfall factors, made possible the large-scale import of consumer goods, including articles which are part of the staple diet of the urban masses. All this helped the UNP to hide the realities of the steadily growing crisis under a spurious atmosphere of greater 'prosperity'.

"The election results also show that the exaggerated hopes and intemperate boasting of the capitalist-cum-family bandy leadership of the SLFP have suffered a severe rebuff. Their rabid anti-leftism, their acute internal dissension, and above all, the fact that they have no serious differences in basic policy from the UNP failed to convince the voters that they were a real or viable alternative to the UNP. A new feature of the local polls is the vote received by the JVP in Colombo, the only place it concentrated. Among other features, this reflected, in the specific conditions of 1979, a protest by some social forces at the UNP's failure to fulfil expectations it created among them in 1977. The Left movement, too, has its lessons to learn from the overall adverse results of the local polls. The fact that the ULF was able to hold positions it had earlier in some local bodies cannot detract from the fact that the overall disarray of the working class and Left forces in these elections stood in the way of the voters seeing the Left as a viable

alternative to the capitalist policies of both UNP and SLFP. While thanking those who, despite great difficulties and risks, voted for it, the United Left Front will therefore strive even harder both to bring about unity in action of the masses, principally the working class, in preparing for and conducting the struggles that lie ahead, and to broaden and strengthen the existing United Left Front of the LSSP and CPSL by including other Left elements on the basis of an agreed programme. In this connection, the two parties of the ULF will also seek to take positive steps to correct mistakes made in the period when they worked in a United Front with the SLFP and which are still an impediment to their militant and comprehensive mobilisation of the masses. The ULF reiterates its conviction that the process of disillusion with the policies of both the UNP and SLFP will advance with greater speed and intensity than it had done in the past two years. The deepening crisis of world capitalist economy and its impact on Sri Lanka reinforce this conclusion. The period ahead is one of growing mass struggles, which none of the intimidating measures of the UNP or the confusions spread by both UNP and SLFP can prevent."

The *Forward's* reactions to the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordination Bureau in the issue of June 15 will be examined in a subsequent article.

X X

Astrological Twins

Sir,

We refer to Fr. Claude R. Daly's letter of 19th June on this subject appearing in the *Tribune* of 7th July.

Starting from the statistical information that in the year 1975 373,138 persons were born in Sri Lanka, Fr. Daly has made the elementary arithmetical calculation that the frequency of births in the whole country was on the average 42 per hour, and that this works out to an average interval of 85 seconds between births. Of course no one can find fault with this reasoning.

But if the worthy Jesuit is under the impression that all persons who are born in Sri Lanka at the same instant of time have identical horoscopes he is mistaken.

Let us consider a hypothetical case where two persons were born in Sri Lanka at 5.12 a.m. Sri Lanka Standard time (SLST) on Friday 6th April 1979 (1) at Colombo, 6 degrees 55 minutes North latitude and 79 degrees 52 minutes East longitude, and (2) at Batticaloa, 7 degrees 43 minutes North latitude and 81 degrees 42 minutes East longitude.

Since SLST is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time, the GMT of these exactly simultaneous births is 11.42 p.m. on

Thursday 5th April 1979.

On 5th April 1979 the sidereal time at Greenwich at noon was 0 hours 52 minutes 47 seconds. This information can be obtained from an astronomical ephemeris for 1979. Since the time of birth was 11 hrs. 42 mins. of mean solar time after 12 noon at Greenwich, the sidereal time at Greenwich at the instant of birth was 12h 36m 42s. This figure is obtained by adding to 0h 52m 47s a figure of 11h 42m plus a correctional increment of 1 minute 55 seconds in order to convert mean solar time to sidereal time. (The correction that is added is called the acceleration of sidereal on mean solar time. Note that 24 hours of mean solar time are equal to 24 hours and 3 minutes 56.555 seconds of sidereal time).

From the sidereal time at Greenwich at the instant of birth—namely 12h 36m 42s—the local sidereal time at Colombo and at Batticaloa at that moment can be determined by adding the respective sidereal time differences, which are based on the differences between the geographic longitudes of Colombo and Batticaloa on the one hand and Greenwich on the other.

Now 1 degree of geographic or terrestrial longitude corresponds to 4 minutes of sidereal time and 1 minute of longitudinal arc corresponds to 4 seconds of sidereal time. Since Colombo is east of Greenwich by 79 degrees 52 minutes, the sidereal time difference between the two places is 5h 19m 28s. On adding this

figure to 12h 36m 42s the local sidereal time (LST) at Colombo at the instant of birth is obtained—namely **17h 56m 10s.**

The LST at Batticaloa can be obtained by adding to 12h 36m 42s the figure of 5h 26m 48s (which corresponds to the difference of geographic longitude between Batticaloa and Greenwich, namely 81 degrees 42 minutes). The LST at Batticaloa at birth is therefore **18h 03m 30s**, which is 7 minutes 20 seconds greater than the LST at Colombo, owing to the difference of geographic longitude between the two places—namely 1 degree 50 minutes of arc.

From the LST at any given terrestrial spot, the point of the ecliptic which is ascending on the eastern horizon at that moment can be calculated by means of spherical trigonometry, or obtained more conveniently by reference to tables compiled for various geographic latitudes.

By this means it is found that for the LST of 17h 56m 10s at the latitude of Colombo, the ascending point of the ecliptic is 28 degrees 54 minutes of Pisces, i.e. 358 degrees 54 minutes of celestial longitude measured eastwards from the vernal equinoctial point.

For the LST of 18h 03m 30s at the latitude of Batticaloa the ascending point of the ecliptic is 1 degree 0 minutes of Aries, i.e. 1 degree of celestial longitude measured eastwards from the vernal equinoctial point.

Here is a case where in two places in Sri Lanka, at the same instant of time, different divisions of the zodiac were intersected by the eastern horizon—Pisces at Colombo and Aries at Batticaloa.

From time immemorial astrologers have found that the character and destiny of an individual depend to a great extent on the ascending zodiacal sign—called the “lagna” in Eastern terminology—besides other factors of course, such as the whole configuration of planets and luminaries in the heavens above and below the earth.

Furthermore in this particular case at the stated moment of time the longitudinal position in the zodiac of the planet Mars was 29 degrees 10 minutes of Pisces, i.e. 359 degrees 10 minutes of celestial longitude measured eastwards from the vernal equinoctial point.

At Colombo Mars was located below the eastern horizon in that sector of the heavens which lies next beneath it and is called by astrologers the first house. But at Batticaloa Mars had risen above the eastern horizon into that sector of the heavens which lies next above it and is called the twelfth house. The house positions of the planets and luminaries are also significant factors to be reckoned with in matters of character and destiny.

In this particular case the horoscopes at Colombo and at Batticaloa cast for the same instant of time are therefore different in

more respects than one. All the calculations made here are strictly astronomical.

Fr. Daly has not taken into consideration the differences in terrestrial latitude and longitude between places lying apart in a whole country, which can make a significant difference between two horoscopes cast for the same instant of time. In matters astronomical and astrological he is an ignoramus and devoid of competence to speak on these matters which lie outside his field of jesuitry. (It is not for nothing that the last word in the preceding sentence has been given a special meaning in the Penguin English Dictionary).

“Astrological twins” are pairs of persons born of different parents at the same time in the same place. “Place” in this context means a small place or a spot, such as a town or a maternity hospital, not a whole country.

In Colombo the total number of births registered in the year 1975 was 30,953. (This information has been obtained from the Administration Report of the Colombo Municipal Council.) The frequency of births in the capital city that year was on the average 84 per day or 7 every 2 hours. This works out to an average interval of 17 minutes between births in the most populous city in Sri Lanka. Of course births are not equally spaced throughout. In some cases the intervals

may have exceeded 17 minutes, in others they might have been shorter. But from this average frequency would anyone judge that the phenomenon of simultaneous births in Colombo must be a matter of common occurrence?

The possibility of “time twins” coming into existence in the less populated towns, villages and hamlets is even more remote. Identity of horoscopes of persons born in Sri Lanka is not the commonplace feature that Fr. Daly has tried to make out. His insistently repeated question “Why are parallel careers so rare?” scarcely needs to be answered. We can hardly wait to hear the importunate Jesuit’s next attempt at rebuttal of our case for astrology.

One other point deserves emphasis. All the instances of parallel careers that have been discovered are those of “astrological twins”. Not even one case has been discovered of parallel careers in persons born of different parents on different dates. One solitary exception is sufficient to deal astrologers a shattering blow. Those who are so eager to demolish the case for astrology had better start searching for one. Good luck to them! They are not likely to succeed.

Dr. H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz
Colombo.
10th July 1979

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TRIBUNE, July 28, 1979

APPENDIX

Sidereal time is the astronomical measure which indicates precisely the location on the celestial sphere of the vernal equinoctial point—i.e., the first point of Aries in the tropical (or 'sayana') zodiac—in terms of its angular distance westward from the upper meridian.

When the ST is 0 hours 0 minutes 0 seconds, the VEP is the culminating point of the ecliptic on the upper meridian. When the ST is 6h 0m 0s, the VEP is the descending point of the ecliptic on the western horizon. When the ST is 12h 0m 0s, the VEP is exactly on the lower meridian at the bottom of the heavens. When the ST is 18h. 0m. 0s, the first point of Aries is the ascending point of the ecliptic on the eastern horizon. When the ST is 24h 0m 0s, the VEP is now back again exactly on the upper meridian after one complete rotation of the celestial sphere, which has taken 23 hours 56 minutes 4.09054 seconds of mean solar time.

Now please go back and note the different figures for the sidereal time at Colombo and Batticolca, and the two different ascending points of the ecliptic at those two places at the same moment (namely 5.12 a.m. Sri Lanka Standard Time on Firday 6th April 1979.)

H.D.W.J.

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Popes, Jesuits And Astrology

Sir,

On the subject of Astrological! Twins Fr. Daly has had his say and we have had ours. It now remains for us to point out that certain Roman Catholics more distinguished than Daly have held a more favourable opinion of astrology than he has.

Previous Popes had their court astrologers whom they honoured and whose advice they took seriously.

1. Pope Julius II chose the date of his coronation strictly in accordance with the advice of his astrologer and refused to leave Bologna for Rome until an astrologically fortunate day.

2. Pope Leo X in particular treated astrologers with the greatest respect. Before his elevation to the Papal throne, Leo X had been Giovanni de Medici. When Giovanni was a small boy the astrologer, Marsilio Finico, cast and read his horoscope and predicted he would become Pope. Soon after his enthronement Leo X appointed the seer as his court astrologer.

Now is Fr. Daly (and also Mr. Seemanpillai) going to say that these distinguished men—each in his day Supreme Patriarch and Pontiff, Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Christ—were foolish for being patrons of astrology?

At the present time a Jesuit who also happens to be a student and teacher of astrology is Fr.

Laurence L. Cassidy, Ph.D. In the 1979 Spring Number of the *Astrological Journal*—the quarterly publication of the Astrological Association in Britain—there is a reprint of an article by Fr. Cassidy, which originally appeared in the *Astrological Review (USA)* in 1978. It is titled: "The believing Christian as a dedicated astrologer." Fr. Cassidy lectures at St. Peter's College, Jersey City, New Jersey, USA, an educational institution sponsored by the Jesuit Order there.

From the reprint of this article we quote six short passages that should interest Fr. Daly:

1. The implicit question in the title is, of course: Can one really be a believing Christian, and at the same time, conscientiously accept the principles of astrological art/science?

2. I can spell out some of the reasons why I—a Catholic priest, a professor of philosophy, and a student of astrology—see no incompatibility in these three roles.

3. I will begin with Thomas Aquinas, who is the best known and the most influential of medieval theologians. There is no doubt but that he held the validity of astrology in rather much the same way that I have outlined it in the first section of this paper.

4. Albert the Great, who was a teacher of Aquinas, follows the same general rule of accepting astrology, which is the consistent tradition of these ages. If anything, he is even

more committed than his disciple, and goes so far as to admit occult force as a *modus operandi*.

5. This general rule—that the world of nature and of life on this earth is governed by the movements of the stars—is expressly repeated in Albert's works, and its truth is assumed even oftener.

6. The history of lofty authority that astrology enjoyed in Christian medieval Europe has served as a support for the reasoning presented.

Now is Fr. Daly (and also Mr. Seemanpillai) going to say that those illustrious divines, Thomas Aquinas and Albertus Magnus—both of them scholars and saints—were fools for having supported astrology? They had sound reasons for doing so; they knew what they were talking about.

In his article Fr. Cassidy also wrote: "For some six years I have taught some astrology here at St. Peter's College, and no one has ventured to suggest that I am putting any soul in peril by so doing."

We suggest that the worthy Fr. Daly S.J. takes lessons in astrology from Fr. Cassidy S.J. If he does, his poor opinion of astrology will change to something better. Unconvinced sceptics of astrology are generally those who know nothing of the subject and who show no eagerness at all to acquire a knowledge of it. Some of those who took up the study of astrology with a view to discredit it became

finally convinced of its truth. The case of a clergyman who was converted from being a rabid opponent of it to a staunch supporter of the art was that of Reverend John Butler, Anglican chaplain to the Duke of Ormonde. The study of the subject and the test of practical experience "instructed and compelled his unwilling belief", just as it did in the case of the eminent astronomer, Kepler, whose words we have quoted here.

To be considered valid a system of study and practice does not have to be the most perfect one under the sun. Such an ideal state of affairs might never be attained. Science is progressive in spirit; it is a persistent effort to obtain more and more knowledge and systematisation. Perfection is the goal to which the seekers who strive are ever moving closer. It is an endless quest.

Dr. H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz
Colombo.
10th July 1979

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Jansz-Daly-ESS

Sir,

Dr. Jansz and Father Daly are caught in the midst of a controversy on "Astrological Twins" and those of us who are following the *Tribune* debate would like Dr. Jansz to meet Father Daly's (*Tribune* 7.7.79) arguments. Reader E. S. Seemanpillai (*Tribune* 7.7.79) has a piece of literary value and I am

still unaware of a good part of it. His concern for care in handling Dogma and his crack of Jesuits and the Roman church, is obviously a general defence. As for the main debate, when Fr. Daly and Dr. Jansz, cross intellectual swords, and when these due specialists in their own line, debate a matter, it appears to me out of place, for others to influence one way or the other. In 1971 *Tribune* I had reminded E.S.S. that S.J.V. did not need intellectual assistance from him. Would it not be better for reader E. S. Seemanpillai (respected teacher of the English Language) to let Dr. Jansz and Fr. Daly to finish their match. Our postscripts may come later.

John B. Kumarakulasinghe
Batticaloa.
14.7.79

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Caeserian Birth?

Sir,

With reference to Dr H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz's letters about astrology, I wish to invite the attention of readers (and Dr. Jansz) to the following question:

Let us assume that the time and place of birth (meaning emergence of the baby from the mother's womb to the outside world, with commencement of air breathing) of a human being has a significant influence on the quality of the life that that person is

destined to live. Which means, an astrologer should be able to compute the time and the place where, if a child is born, that child would grow up to be a very intelligent, very lucky, very fortunate and a very prosperous person. This is a practical possibility today because a baby still in the mother's womb (preferably after 8 months of gestation) can be taken out as a live baby (i.e., can be "made to be born") by Caesarean Section (i.e. surgical operation), at a time and place decided by the parents.

Take an example: The astrologer says that a baby born in Kandy at 6 p.m. on 1.8.79 will grow up to be a very intelligent, very fortunate person. Then all the pregnant mothers who have passed 8 months of gestation can be taken to the General Hospital, Kandy or a private nursing home in Kandy, where, an obstetrician can be requested to perform a Caesarean Section on each of the pregnant mothers so as to take the baby out of the womb at 6 p.m. on 1.8.79. People will be happy to pay the fees of the nursing home and the obstetrician (and the astrologer) because, in return, they will have babies who will grow up to very intelligent and very fortunate. One difficulty that may arise is a shortage of Obstetricians, because each one of them can operate only one pregnant mother at the specified time.

Puzzled

Colombo.
16.7.79

EDUCATION

Without A Purpose—2

by R. Kahawita

THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT asserts that in recognition of certain limitations of the former systems of Education, the Govt. has decided to introduce educational reforms from the Financial year 1978. This was followed up by a new grading scheme from the school year 1978. The school going age was reduced from six years to five years plus and the grading now is Primary Education Grade 1 to 5 to end up in age group 10 years plus Junior Secondary Education—Grade 6 to 10—age to end up in group 14 years plus, Senior Secondary Education grade 11 to 12 to end up in age group 16 years plus. In this structure, there are two Government Examinations—G.C.E. (O)Level and G.C.E. (A)Level—these two examinations—are also the evaluating examinations for higher education. The reforms, for all intents and purposes seemed to have changed the school going age and the re-introduction of the old system of General Education certificate in place of the National Certificate of General Education and higher Examination. Thus the substance is the same. The so called "reforms" maintains the same ladder—starting at 5 years a student can struggle through to the top, until he is weeded out at the first Public

Examination—G.C.E. (Ordinary Level). This examination has also become the passport, for job seekers but without any skills. So their choice is to seek desk orientated or stool orientated jobs—just sit and wait. From a social point of view they are the most dangerous—they create an unstable society.

Once a student starts on the educational ladder, there is no means of assessing and evaluating a student's aptitudes, likes and dislikes; he is just pushed up, unless the student or the parent decides to give up the struggle, generally for other reasons than the student's ability to climb the educational ladder. This system is wasteful in manpower, resources, and money. To avoid such waste a system of channelling the student at different levels of education according to his aptitudes is called for immediately. Such a process, of following a student's aptitude is in the best interest of the student and the parent. Thus, while filling in gaps in the higher Educational Institutions, this is the only way to make our educational system meaningful to meet national needs of trained manpower. The first point of evaluation should be at 14 plus. At this point also there must be a public examination which should be designed to assess the pupils future. This should be the first educational bar. Those who do not make the grade should be channelled into trade schools and trade appren-

tieships in Agriculture, animal husbandry, Industry, handicrafts, services and maintenance, artisans and similar callings, where dexterity and manipulative ability are the requirements for success. These should also be at state expense.

Such training points should be based in villages and rural areas, closer to where pupils live, the type of training to suit the needs of the area. Primarily the places of training should be village based and if we want to translate our promises that planning and development should start at the village level, every V.C. should establish and maintain such training centres. They should be supervised and inspected by the Minister of Education. Private establishments for such training should be encouraged under "grant-in-aid" schemes if such institutions are up to standards laid down by the Ministry. **Under this suggestion, by the time the pupil reaches the age of 18 years or so he will be equipped to be on his own or find employment in the areas he was trained. Directing a student to develop his manipulative ability for gainful employment at this age level will reduce the prrsure on G.C.E. (O) Level.**

THE NEXT SLAB of guidance and channelling should be after the GCE (O) Level examination. This will be the second public examination. Higher Educational Institutions have already

laid down the minimum attainments at this examination to enter the Institutions. Those students who satisfy this requirement and also show promise of clearing the second hurdle—G.C.E. (A) Level examination, can proceed for higher education. This is the second stage of evaluation of a students ability to take advantage of "free education up to Univeristy."

Those who were not able to make the grade should be advised and drafted into Polytechnical Institutions, Junior Technical Institutions and similar middle grade training establishments, according to the needs of the country. The subjects to be trained academically and in practice are many. At present there are 14 such Institutions established by the Government. In addition there are several private Institutions. Some of these Institutions are successful and have turned out very good trainees who are readily absorbed by the Private sector establishments.

It is at this level of education that the privately operated training schools can help the Government to clear the back log of training in skills etc. Therefore the Government should encourage more such Institutions to be established, not in Colombc, but in the districts. The necessary encouragement can be given by (a) recognising them as approved places of technical and middle grade training Institutions, (b) Grant-in-aid to meet part of the teaching expenses,

materials and equipment needed for training, (c) working out a uniform syllabus for the subjects taught and (d) recognising the Diplomas and certificates issued by these Institutions after training for employment in the Public and private sector.

AS WE EXPLAINED EARLIER the Government has not given any serious thought to this aspect of education after "Nationalizing the Schools." As a result there is a very heavy backlog of unemployables. It was members of this group that formed the core of "1971 Insurgents." The previous Government suppressed the movement on the surface and the hard core has gone underground. The present Government does not seemed to be apprehensive of the problem and its repercussions if a satisfactory solution is not found. It may be the reason for her desire to multiply the Universities or take University education to every nook and corner of the country, while neglecting the basic need to canalize the school products to different educational and training centres to be employable each according to his or her ability, before the "whole bunch" reaches the centres of higher education and at the end of it face a blank wall employment wise.

The magnitude of the problem can be appreciated if we break down the total student population, the numbers that reach the G.C.E. (O) Level, G.C.E.

(A) Level and the numbers that could be admitted to the Institutions for higher education. The result is, there will be around 128,000 a year needing to be given alternative education to higher education. To handle this number there should be around 400 teaching and training establishments against the present 14 of which six are in the districts, against the 26 districts currently demarcated for administrative purposes.

It is a very difficult problem to handle by the Government alone. Therefore, a Government attempting to go it alone will build up a back-log of unemployed and unemployable, of serious proportions. What is the alternative? Obviously let others too participate and throw open the establishment of Technical and Poly-technical Institutions to private organisations. Benefitting from the historical back-ground the manner our educational system grew with the demand and the resources available till it was "Nationalized". Let the Government encourage and assist any organisation willing to participate in setting up and managing job orientated training establishments to absorb the school leavers (i) at the end of Elementary level—Grade 10. (ii) At the end of Grade 12 and, (iii) End of G.C.E. (O) and G.C.E. (A) levels.

Those Institutions set up for training the school leavers at the three levels of eliminations should be given a grant-in-aid to every

student who is on their roll for training with basic Government supervision.



FOR THE RECORD

Centre For Society & Religion

—Overall Orientation—

THE CENTRE FOR SOCIETY AND RELIGION was begun on 1st August 1971 by a group of persons who were convinced by the late 1960s that fundamental changes in society were required in Sri Lanka, and that religion had a relevance to such a reorientation of Society. Likewise it was seen that religion itself needed to be renewed in order to be faithful to its original inspiration and to be of service to contemporary humanity. We saw the inadequacy of many of the traditional activities of religious groups. New orientations in thought and action, new life styles and new ministers in religion were seen as urgently required for both the service of society and relevance of religion. It was also realised that in Sri Lanka all the religions could and needed to co-operate for the common good of the people of the country.

THE FIRST LOCATION of the Centre was in a suburban rural area at Talahena, Malabe, eight miles from Colombo. In October 1972 an Office was opened at 281, Deans Road, Colombo

10. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate made this site available for our work. This has now expanded to be its main place of work. The Negombo Centre for Society and Religion at 85, Katuwapitiya Road was begun on 22nd February 1976, thanks to the gift of a house and property for this work. Here we have residential facilities for 50 persons and non-residential Conference facilities for about 100 persons.

IN 1971 THE OBJECTIVE of the Centre for Society & Religion was defined as an endeavor to help in the integral human liberation and fulfilment of the people of our country by their realization of human values in economic development with social justice and the deepening of our cultural and spiritual values. We are convinced that Sri Lanka needs a fundamental reform of its socio-economic relations and structures in order to meet the urgent needs and legitimate aspirations of the masses of our country. Since the experience of the social orders based on different ideologies have in spite of their achievements many unsatisfactory features in their excesses specially in the neglect of human equality, freedom and dignity, we wish to work for a continual renewal of our society, beyond such limitations viz. towards one in which human freedom and equity in the sharing of the goods of the earth are safeguarded. There is a need of a mental and moral revolution

which can be brought about only by changing the convictions and values of persons, specially towards accepting the dignity and rights of all. At the same time there has to be a change in the relationships and structures of society to enable human beings to live as free and responsible persons in a just society.

THE METHODS were set out thus: (a) Organise groups for study, reflection, action and formation on specific tasks such as land reform, housing, food production, employment, budgetary policy, industrial relations, redistribution of wealth, income and power. Help to link up groups that are presently active in these or related fields. (b) Develop strategy of action of creative non-violence to achieve the general or specific objectives. The Centre endeavours to reduce clashes due to ideologies, race, religion etc. and increase the areas of genuine human understanding and co-operation. (c) Work for radical change through awareness building and formation in skills and methods of analysis of society and of specific issues. (d) Be open to the best inspirations of all religions and ideologies and work in collaboration towards the better realization of the social message. (e) Co-operate with any other groups working for similar objectives. (f) Be in relationship with similar work and groups in other countries and co-operate for international social justice,

development peace and human brother-hood in a spirit of service to mankind as a whole.

THE FACILITIES were: (a) Library and a Documentation service. (b) Study and Research on current problems and of a long-term fundamental nature. (c) Opportunities for training. (d) Creation of public opinion through seminars, publications etc. The Centre provides opportunities for individual and group reflection on the relevance of the spiritual dimension to one's daily life and thus develop authentically.

OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE SPONSORED studies, public seminars, publications and action projects concerning: Sri Lanka 1970-1974 Employment Relations, Liberation of Tea, 1975 Land Reform Multi-nationals and Liberation, Liberation of the village General Elections 1977 National Harmony, Educational Reforms 1978, Coconut and Liberation, Constitutional Reforms 1972, 1977 & 1978.

WE HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO CAMPAIGN for human rights, civil liberties, social justice specially for the oppressed and marginalised groups as well as for relevant and authentic religion. In the process we have been subject to much criticism, specially by those who may not appreciate our point of view or may even have a vested interest in the prevailing status quo. The process of the communication of our goals and their applica-

tion to concrete situations has not been easy or without difficulty. However this criticism often expressed through the medium of the secular and religious press, has not diluted our convictions or dampened our determination to do what little we can for the cause of integral human liberation in our country. Fortunately the criticism itself has spurred us on to a deeper commitment to this cause.

WE HAVE OPTED TO CONCERN OURSELVES with the important issues facing ever belonging to or supporting any political party. Our option involves us in issues which have political implications—e.g. Sri Lanka's path of development, race relations, civil liberties, land reform, education. However, we do not deal with these from a politically partisan point of view. Our basic commitment is to the people of this country and justice and freedom for them, irrespective of the vicissitudes of the fortunes of political parties. It is our experience over the years that parties in power tend to find a critical evaluation of relevant issues rather awkward for them. But these same parties, when in Opposition appreciate our open mindedness. Likewise our support for a worthy cause tends to be taken as partisan politics according to the approaches of political parties. **Within our democratic multi party policy much misunderstandings—in the short term—have to be faced**

by us. But over the years many fair minded persons see that our commitment is to the cause of the people as a whole, rather than to any political Party. Within the limitations of a human option and its execution this is what we have endeavoured to be faithful to. We intend to continue this approach in the future too.

EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL had a major impact on the activities of the Centre. We participated in this process of policy framing by making representations to the Government Commissions, and thereby also helping to form public opinion. This required a study of the issue involved and of the proposed legislation. Much of our time had to be given to such studies. Fortunately, our previous work on Race Relations, Constitutional Amendments, General Elections, Multinationals and Liberation and on the Just and Free Society helped us with research material as well as general orientations. We were thus able to present some recommendations to the Select Committee of Parliament on the Revision of the Constitution and the Sansoni Commission in spite of the brevity of time available to us.

ON THE EDUCATIONAL REFORMS we made a fairly substantial contribution, once again due to the work of previous years. During April and May much

of our research was devoted to the writing of our Report. It is credited with being the most comprehensive submission to the Education Reforms Committee, even though not everyone will agree with all its recommendations. **OUR SEMINARS & PUBLICATIONS** during the year were related mainly to these issues. As they had to come out hastily to meet the contingencies of time limits, we first published our material as Dossiers in cyclostyled form. Eventually we hope that the more valuable of these will see the light of day in printed form. Our studies on Coconut, on the Free Trade Zone, on Tea, on Fisheries, on the City, Slums and Shanties, on the Trade Union Movement and on Theology were carried on at a more leisurely pace and will, we hope, bear fruit in the coming year in terms of publications, seminars and specific action programmes.

(To be Concluded)

x x x x

ON EATING OUT

Good And Bad

The **YMCA Cafeteria** at Duke Street, Fort, was dirty. The quality of the food in this place is below average with short eats ranging from 60 to 80 cents; rice and curry at Rs. 3/00; fish and meat, courses at Rs. 3/50 and tea at 50 cents and a watery passiona at 75 cents. The tables

were not clean, the floors unswept and it seems that the place has not seen a coat of paint for many many years. One dreads to think of the state of the kitchen after seeing what the restaurant is like.

The filthiness at the **Railway Restaurant** at the Fort, Railway Station, is indescribable. It appears that the soot from the coal engines has still not been cleaned out. Suffice it to say that we didn't have the heart to sit, leave alone sample any of the food. Meal packets cost Rs. 3/75; short eats from 65 to 90 cents; cakes at Re. 1/00; tea 60 cents and coffee Re. 1/00; buns at 60 cents and soft drinks at Re. 1/30. We observed that there were very few customers although there were a large number of passengers on the platform. The authorities should either improve this place or close it down altogether. We can't see why a State-run restaurant, which is the cause of spreading disease, should be kept open.

Coming out of the station we visited, on the opposite side of the road, **Rajeswari Hotel** which seems to be patronised by a large number of train travellers. Although the place was dirty, it was much cleaner than the railway restaurant. Tea can be had here for 60 cents, vadais at 50 cents; thosai at 30 cents and a cup of buriyani for Rs. 2/-. This is the first time we came across a hotel which served buriyani

by the cup. This hotel also has a variety of popular sweetmeats.

A few doors away is the *Hoja Restaurant* which is equally dirty. The food is more expensive than the average hotel, with buriyani at 6/50, tea at 75 cents and cool drinks around 2/50. The prices seem unreasonable for a hotel of this standard.

Down Hospital Street we went into two eating houses *Ratna Hotel* and *New Ceylonese Htel.* A rice and curry meal costs, Rs. 2/50 and tea 60 cents and stringhoppers at 10 cents each at both these places. Cleanliness seems to be something alien to this street.

Lord Nelson would have turned in his grave if he knew that a hotel in Chatham Street, Fort, has been named after him, for it certainly does not live up to his illustrious name. This hotel seems to be popular because of the bar which is attached to it. Although it is cleaner than the YMCA restaurant there is room for a great deal of improvement. Here again the walls don't seem to have seen a coat of paint for years. This hotel offers a variety of dishes ranging from rice and curry at 3/50, courses at Rs. 5/00, noodles at 3/50 and devilled dishes at about Rs. 3/-. The food, other than the devilled dishes, is not of a very good standard.

The *Peony* on the opposite side of the road is a welcome change from the dirtiness we had so far encountered. The place had a pleasant

atmosphere with the walls lined with bamboo strips and brightened with Chinese lamps and other decorations. The table clothes and floors were spotless, the food counter very clean and the waiters courteous. The quality of the food was good. Tea at 75 cents, soft drinks from Rs. 2/75 to 4/00; tid bits from 75 cents to Rs. 2/25; a variety of soups from 2/75 to 4/50; meat dishes from Rs. 3/00 to 8/-00; fish dishes from 3/25 to 22/-; lobsters at 75/00 and prawn dishes from 6/50 to 15/00; crabs from 9/00 to 15/00; chicken at Rs. 15/-, eggs 1/50 to 6.50 and omelettes from Rs. 3/00 to 5/-; chop suey Rs. 1/50 to 10/50; fried rice from Rs. 3/00 to 9/50; noodles 4.50 to 9/50; fung yung hai from 5/50 to 18/00; pork dishes 4/50 to 10/00 and desserts from 1/00 to 4/50.

On top of one of the tallest buildings in Colombo is the *Akasa Kade* with a breathtaking view of Colombo. It is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on week days and till midnight on week-ends. The atmosphere is comfortable and relaxing and the decor pleasant—antique lamps with shaded blue electric bulbs and one wall lined with a beautiful wood carving depicting a scene from the Kandy Perahera. We found that the prices were reasonable for a restaurant of this calibre and the service was good.

Hors d'ouvres—ranging from 4/25 to 28/50; *Soups*—

ranging from vegetable soup at 3/25 to *Minestrone* 6/75; *Fish dishes*—17/-; *Eggs*—2/75 to 19/00; *Grills*: 15/00-25/00; *Entrees*—such as spaghetti, chicken 22/- to 25/-; vegetables 8/50 to 20/00; *Cold meats salads*—6/50 to 18/00; *Rice and Curry*—6/50 to 15/00; *Egg Hoppers*—1/00 per hopper; *String Hoppers*—per portion 5/00; *Crabs*—5/00 to 10/00; *Desserts*—such as fruit, ice cream, watalappam etc., 2/00 to 23/50; *Rolls, bread*—1/25-2/75; *Tea*—2/75-3/25; *Sandwiches*—7/00 to 22/50.

THE WINE LIST

Cocktails Rs. 12-27/00;
Champagne per bot. 380/00;
Wines—Rs. 150/00- 460/00 (Red); Rs. 200/00 to 320/00 (white); *Sherry* per glass—Rs. 14/- to 15/50; *Vermouth* per glass—Rs. 13/- - 25/50; *Port*—Rs. 5/00 to 16/00; *Cider* per peg—Rs. 26/50; *Whisky*—Rs. 6/50 to 14/00 (per peg); *Brandy*—Rs. 7/50 to 20/00 (per peg); *Liquers* with a choice of curacao, *Drumburi*, *Benedicture* etc., are Rs. 9/00; *Gin*—Rs. 5/00—14/00 per peg; *Rum* Rs. 5/00 to 12/00 (per peg); *Vodka*—Rs. 12/- to 14/- per peg; *Beer*—(per pint) Rs. 9/00 to 26/00; *Stout* — per pint Rs. 10/ to 28/-; *Soft drinks*—Rs. 1/50 to Rs. 4/-.

For those who can afford to pay these prices, a good place to sit, eat and relax.

The Gourmets



July 11 — July 18

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11:

Prime Minister R. Premadasa leaves for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Lusaka, Zambia and an official tour of five other countries Britain, China, Kenya, Sweden and Singapore on July 17. He is due to return on August 26. Latest official predictions say the Indian Ocean, parts of Australia and New Guinea could be in the line of fire when the derelict US space station Skylab plunges to earth within the next 48 hours. People sang and danced in a South Indian district today fearing the world would end with the crumbling US Skylab space-craft; elaborate feasts were laid out in Karimnagar district; in southern Andhra Pra-

desh by people believing it was their last chance to be merry. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party is in a dilemma; the party hierarchy gripped by internal division and factionalism is still undecided on the annual sessions the SLFP executive committee pledges to hold next month when it met last November and adopted a new constitution —CDN. Persons accused of crimes against the State will have to face a Trial-at-Bar; according to informed sources, crimes in this category will include terrorist activity in furtherance of an objective alien to the unitary concept of the State. Dr. Howard Wriggins, Ambassador to the United States of America in Sri Lanka called on the Ven. Palipane Sri Chandrananda Mahanayake Thero of the Asgiriya Chapter of the Siam Maha Nikaya and expressed regret over the resolution passed by the Massachusetts State Legislature regarding the demand of the TULF for the separation of Sri Lanka. While in London during the latter half of this month, the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa would address the international press at a press conference at the Sri Lanka High Commission in London where he would concentrate mainly on the "Tamil Eelam" movement in Sri Lanka; he is expected to give a correct picture of conditions prevailing in Sri Lanka in regard to the Tamils. Over Rs. 30,000 will be spent on each family settled on $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land in the Mahaveli area

and they would also be given title deeds to their lands. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development said —CDM. The Sansoni Commission has received an anonymous letter threatening to kill the Commissioner, retired Chief Justice M. C. Sansoni; the letter bearing the postmark Point Pedro and written in Tamil; said that Mr. Sansoni's name had been placed on the "list of traitors" next to Minister Chelliah Rajadurai's name; the letter was signed "Young Tigers". Police reinforcements were rushed to Medawachchiya yesterday for combing out operations to track down three youths who allegedly robbed the Poonava Rural Bank, at gun-point yesterday; reports received at Police headquarters last afternoon from Anuradhapura said that these youths had made off with Rs. 35,000 on push bicycles, around 11 a.m. yesterday. Members of the Tamil United Liberation Front who are boycotting Parliament have decided to extend their boycott to committees of the House—SU. The Government is coming closer to a decision on pruning consumer subsidies by way of a "food stamps" scheme similar to that obtaining in the USA so that only the indigent sector of the population will continue to be entitled to subsidised food. Nearly 3,000 landless families will receive free land on Grant Documents issued under the seal of President J. R. Jayewardene

on July 22, to coincide with the second anniversary of the Government; this is the first stage of the Government's Land Grant Scheme—CO. The Government is to import the two wheel and four wheel tractors from Rumania so that farmers can obtain cheaper tractors. The Minister of Rural Industrial Development, Mr. S. Thondaman is of the opinion that racialism is the cause of the fall in the economy of the country—DP. The Ministry of Industries has given permission to start 500 to 600 new industries. The 3rd Budget of the UNP Government is expected to be presented in Parliament on November 7. Mr. Rohana Wijeweera the leader of the JVP said at a propaganda meeting in Matara that the Tamil-speaking people of this country will never win their rights from the Eelam cry and that his party will never support the Eelam cry—DV. 200,000 push bicycles are to be imported by the Ministry of Transport and these bicycles will be sold at a price over Rs. 350 to Rs. 400—LD. The latest statistics of the Central Bank points out that monthly production in some main government Corporations and statutory bodies has dropped compared to 1977 figures; the National Milk Board, State Flour Milling Corporation, State Plywood Corporation, Paranthan Chemical Corporation, Petroleum Corporation and the Steel Corporation among those government corporations where production has dropped in 1978—

THURSDAY, JULY 12: Skylab crashed about 12.30 p.m. (Washington time) yesterday with its wreckage reaching up to several hundred miles West of Australia, US space officials announced; a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) spokesman said the biggest pieces of Skylab, one of them weighing more than 5000 pounds crashed in the ocean nearest to Australia. Government last night gazetted emergency regulations covering the Katunayake and Ratmalana airports and the Jaffna district effective from midnight. Kandawela Walawwa and the fifty acres of land around it which became State property with the signing of the deed of gift by President J. R. Jayewardene and Sir John Kotelawela at President's House, yesterday, will soon house Sri Lanka's first Defence Academy. The Vice President of the Republic of Cuba, Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Mrs. Mairta Rodriguez arrived last night on a four-day official visit by an Air Ceylon flight from Bombay two hours behind schedule—CDN. It can now be revealed that TULF leaders campaigned for Eelam in the United States on Leadership Grants issued them by the State Department of America; the grants were on an all-found basis; they carried the freedom for the TULF leaders to espouse their cause in the United States. The radical elements in the Tamil United Liberation Front are pressing their members of parlia-

ment to boycott Parliament and engage in political campaigns such as satyagraha, civil disobedience and boycott campaigns, according to sources close to TULF. The Ministers at their Cabinet meeting yesterday decided to introduce anti-terrorist laws in Parliament on July 19—CDM. The Cabinet yesterday decided to clamp down a state of emergency in the Jaffna District and to launch a massive offensive to crack down on terrorism; a Presidential proclamation invoking provisions of the Public Security Act in this connection was expected to be gazetted last night. An act to make temporary provision for the prevention of terrorism in Sri Lanka contains provision for life imprisonment for offences of death, kidnapping or abduction; it also provides for the forfeiture of property of persons so convicted—SU. Exploration work done by the State Mining and Commercial Resources Development Corporation has revealed that gold mines exist in Agalawatta. A statement issued by the LSSP (Vasu front) has said that the threat to ban the TULF was not only a threat to the civil rights of the Tamil people but also a threat to the democratic rights of the people in the country—LD. All government development work including PM's project to build 50,000 houses are on the verge of coming to a stand still because of shortage of cement; the reason for this is that the cement fac-

tories in the island are not producing up to the capacity—ATH. The Sinhala Mahajana Peramuna has requested the President to set up Army camps in the North and East to combat terrorism—DK.

FRIDAY, JULY 13: The Government is contemplating holding an all-island referendum on the TULF's call for a separate State, sources close to the government said yesterday. Attempts to overthrow the government by illegal means have been made offences punishable by death under the Emergency Regulations promulgated last night; another offence for which death penalty can be given is arson. The Cabinet has decided to introduce legislation in Parliament as urgent legislation in the national interest when Parliament sits on Thursday 19th July dealing with the prevention of terrorism in Sri Lanka it was officially announced yesterday; the draft bill affirms that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for the rule of law and that grievances should be redressed by constitutional methods; the Cabinet also decided to request the President to take suitable steps to decentralise the administration of government by developing governmental authority at district and electoral levels for the purpose of co-ordinating and directing development programmes. Sri Lanka's gems brought the country Rs. 37 million worth of foreign exchange last

month; private sector exports, which amounted for Rs. 36,138,940, the State Gem Corporation's share was Rs. 913,916—CDN. Non-alignment was not merely a political philosophy for the Sri Lankans stemming out of the need to steer clear of all power blocs but was also a way of life deeply rooted in our religious and cultural traditions; so said Mr. R. Premadasa, Prime Minister when he addressed the gathering at the banquet held in honour of the visiting Cuban Vice-President, Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, last night. The Greater Colombo Economic Commission has approved another half a dozen new industrial ventures involving over Rs. 150 million to be set up in the Free Trade Zone—CDM. Opposition political parties have been invited by President J. R. Jayewardene to meet him and discuss the principles of the devolution of power—SU. It has been estimated that Rs. 5,000 million worth of new equipment is needed for the Mahaweli project; the amount of new equipment needed is estimated at around 2000 but at present only 200 are available for Mahaweli work. The chief incumbent of the Asgiriya Chapter has strongly opposed relaxing abortion laws pointing out it was in a way committing murder, and would change the present ratio of the communities in the country—DV. The Insurance Corporation is to invest some of its profits in two large

tourist hotels, one hotel will be the 688 roomed Taj Hotel and the other the 300 roomed hotel; all these hotels will be collaborations—DV. A survey has revealed that 2,300 new industries were commissioned in the last two years and investing Rs. 1,274 million—DM. The government has decided to introduce a stamp system instead of the present ration cards; this is seen as another step by

The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964

Notice Under Section 7

Ref. 3/68/41

J. 73 L 203 (VE)

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette No. 47 (Part III) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 27-07-1979.

Schedule

Name of village etc.:

Molaeliya village in Kiniyama Korale, Bingiriya D.R.O.'s Division, Kurunegala District, North Western Province.

Name of Land:

Ruwan Eliya Watta

Plan and Lot No.:

Lot No. 34 in Supplement No. 1 in F.V.P. 1395.

K. A. Gunasekera

District Land Officer
Kurunegala District.

The Kachcheri,
Kurunegala. 28-06-1979

the government to cut back subsidies by Rs. 1000 million—JD. The Sri Lanka Sugar Board has given a contract to the private sector to transport their produce to Colombo at higher prices when 6 lorry of the board in working condition are garaged without any reason—ATH.

SATURDAY, JULY 14:

Two former SLFP parliamentarians, who were big noises in the hill country districts when the SLFP was in power, are likely to fall into the bribery net soon informed sources said yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday appointed Mr. Ukkubanda Wijekoon, MP for Dambadeniya as the new District Minister for Jaffna, Mr. Abdul Razak Munsoor, MP for Kalmunai who was the District Minister for Jaffna was appointed District Minister for Mullaitivu. The influential All Ceylon Muslim League has welcomed the introduction of anti-terrorist laws; "It is at least one year too late," the League said in a letter to President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday—CDM. The Cuban Vice-President, Dr. Carlos R. Rodriguez yesterday assured that the non-aligned summit in Havana in September this year would not deviate from the principles of the non-aligned movement; it is reliably understood that the Cuban Vice-President submitted to President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, the draft declaration of the Havana Summit. Police Chief Ana Seneviratne yesterday flew to Jaffna to make an

on-the-spot assessment of the security situation in the peninsula. With the imposition of a state of emergency in Jaffna the government has also clamped down a press censorship on all matters relating to developments in the district. Persons who attempt to bring the President or Government into hatred or contempt or attempt to create discontent or disaffection among any section class or group of inhabitants of Sri Lanka are liable to rigorous imprisonment for a minimum period of three months and a maximum of twenty years under the state of emergency now declared in the Jaffna district—SU. The Minister of Finance said that before the end of the year there will be a pay rise for all government and corporation employees to enable them to contend with the rising cost of living. About 200 police officers were suspended during the past three years for disobeying rules and regulations of the police service—VK. The Federation of the Catholic Cardinals Association in a statement has strongly opposed any relaxing of abortion laws. The Highway Department has decided to hand over the construction of some major roads under the road expanding scheme to foreign firms because of the shortage of equipment and to construct these roads quickly. The Government has decided to train teachers in Private Schools and give a percentage of local and foreign scholarships to the

staff at these schools—DV. An unscheduled inspection by the District Minister of Colombo has revealed that over Rs. 4 million worth of equipment has not been used by the electricity board; this equipments is lying idle at the warehouse in Kolonnawa; it includes 11 Benz lorry chassis, Transformers etc—DM. The government has decided to bring local and imported rice under a new controlled price; the new prices range from Rs. 3.20 to Rs. 3.60 a measure—LD.

SUNDAY, JULY 15:

Brigadier T. I. Weeratunga, Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army, has been appointed overall Commander of the Security Forces in the administrative district of Jaffna the President's office announced yesterday. A Rs. 50-55 wage increase for all sectors of the population drawing under Rs. 1,000 a month was under active consideration by government, Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel revealed in the course of an interview last week; Mr. de Mel said that a bigger pay packed was intended to insulate the less affluent sector of the population from the effect of subsidy cuts that will apply together with a food stamp scheme that had been under study by Government for several months. Cuban Vice President Carols Rafael Rodriguez yesterday asserted that there had never been any official objections to Havana hosting next September's non-aligned Summit. The government has decided to

continue the scheme guaranteeing the small holders a minimum price of 85 cents a pound of green leaf, Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation Industries said yesterday—SO. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has directed Brigadier T. I. Weeratunga, commander, Security Forces in the Jaffna District to eliminate the menace of terrorism especially in the north. In an unprecedented Presidential decree, Mr. Jayewardene has asked Brigadier Weeratunga to complete the task assigned to him before the end of the year. President J. R. Jayewardene was very keen and determined to solve the administrative problems affecting the Tamil-speaking public servants; this was said by Mr. C. Rajadurai, Minister of Regional Development and Tamil Affairs when he met representatives of Tamil-speaking trade union officials from all over the island—ST. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party will fully co-operate with the Government to settle the Tamil or minority issues at a round table conference, party leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike said in an interview—WK. The police have discovered a large number of unlicensed fire arms in the course of their island-wide search—DP. The President has decided to stop issuing new permits for the import of textiles as local textiles were hard hit by imports; the tax is expected to be revised by 35% on imported textiles—SLDP.

MONDAY, JULY 16:

Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai resigned tonight following a government and party revolt against his leadership; the 83-year old Premier, who had succeeded Mrs. Indira Gandhi, announced his resignation after a 25-minute meeting with President Sanjiva Reddy. Brigadier Tissa Indraka Weeratunga, Army Chief of Staff who has been appointed Commander of the Security forces in the Jaffna district pledged last night to give the people of Jaffna full security. "I have to get to grips with the problem and map out my strategy" he said, adding, "there will be full security for the people of Jaffna." The Government has decided to "regularise" the occupation of State land by squatters and encroachers in several parts of the country, a Land Ministry spokesman said yesterday. Family Courts would start functioning from September, Mr. K. W. Devanayagam, Minister of Justice said yesterday; eight judges and 30 family counsellors had been recruited for this purpose—CDN. Rabble rousers and inciters should be arrested and dealt with severely, the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Ana Seneviratne has instructed all Superintendents in charge of police divisions. All birds held in captivity have to be released and given their freedom immediately; Policemen from today will go out and prosecute owners who hold birds captive in cages; President J. R. Jayewardene in response to the

wishes of wild life lovers who met him recently, asked the inspector General of Police Mr. Ana Seneviratne to take action under the Fauna and Flora Act and prosecute those having birds in cages. Beginning this week all co-operative

The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, No. 28 of 1964

Notice Under Section 7

Ref. No. 3/64/331
J 72 L 252 (VE)

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette No. 47 (Part III) of The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 27-07-1979

Schedule

Name of Village etc.:

Pallekekulawala village in Udukaha Korale South, Dambadeni Hatpattuwa (West) D.R.O.'s Division, Kurunegala District, North Western Province.

Name of Land:

Habaralagashinna Mukalana Kandehena Mukalana, Kadawathkele Mukalana.

Plan and Lot No.:

Lot No. 64, 65, 66, 67, 68 & 69 in—Supplement No. 4 to F.V.P. 484.

K. A. Gunasekera

District Land Officer
Kurunegala District.

The Kachcheri,
Kurunegala. 28.06.1979

societies throughout the country will carry adequate stocks of off-ration rice—local raw rice, imported rice and parboiled rice—CDM. Notwithstanding the recent petrol price hike, the abuse of official transport in the country's state sector goes on unabated; using official vehicles to drop children at schools, for marketing purposes, travel to the bigger known hotels to theatres and clubs, are some of the abuses. The tea trade has appealed to the Government to take steps to prevent the loss of between Rs. 80 to Rs. 150 million in foreign exchange to the country as a result of the revision in the export duty on tea—SU. The SLCTB will import 350 complete buses from Japan and India within the next three months—CO. The Navy has decided to send some of the latest gun boats to the North as smuggling has increased in this area. The PM has decided to construct two housing complexes in Colpetty and Bambalapitiya at a cost of Rs. 280 million. The Education Ministry is to find out why 288,000 students fail in examinations every year; whether this is because of the teachers or whether because the students are indifferent to studies—DM. Textiles sent to the name of the 2nd MP for Beruwela, Mr. R. G. Samaranyake which were confiscated by the customs have disappeared while they were transported to the Social Services Department; the textiles were lost from

the lorries; the MP came with a group to help transport these goods—JD.

TUESDAY, JULY 17:

The Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa and the Leader of the Opposition Mr. A. Amirthalingam yesterday appealed to the people to maintain calm and refrain from being influenced by rumours and activities of mischief mongers; in a joint statement they emphasised that problems affecting the people can be solved in a peaceful and amicable manner; this appeal followed discussions held yesterday by Mr. Amirthalingam and other leaders of the TULF with President J. R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister Premadasa. Local musicians and pop artistes are angry that their recorded music is being pirated abroad; they have decided to make representation to government. Justice Minister, K. W. Devanayagam said yesterday the proposed Family Courts and Family Counsellors System marked a revolution in the process of resolving family disputes in Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa leaves Katunayake Airport at 9.25 p.m. tonight by Swissair SR 315 on his first official visit abroad during which he will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Lusaka and make official visits to five countries—CDN. The Government has decided to import fish to overcome the shortage of this much-

wanted protein; the authorities have been spurred to this decision following complaints from the public that owing to the shortage the price of fish had gone up. The Ministry of Trade will import 1,200 tons of Maldivian fish from the Maldivian Republic in exchange for our rice, cement, salt, petroleum products and other commodities, under the Sri Lanka-Maldivian Island trade agreement—CDM. Brigadier Tissa Weeraratne, Supreme Commander of Security Forces in Jaffna, flies this morning to Kankesanthurai to establish his headquarters there. Eleven youths believed to be active in terrorist activities in the northern areas, were rounded up from the jungles off Sivan Koviladi in Trincomalee, during a massive combing out operation by the Police on Sunday—SU. Recruitment of women to the Sri Lanka army will be done through job banks. Due to a severe drought about 13,000 acres of paddy land under the Kantalai tank is in danger of being destroyed—DP. The IGP yesterday warned all SPs that a certain group is trying to create trouble in the country to stop tourists coming to the island and to sabotage development work—LD. A group of representatives from the British Overseas Development Ministry has expressed their surprise that the railway is even working the present conditions with the old equipment; they have pointed out that the communication system must be upgraded for

a more efficient railway system—DM. The GCEC has found out that factories in the FTZ have recruited from outside when the Commission has recommended people for employment in these factories—DV.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18:

Local bodies will tax rate-payers only on the basis of the amenities they provide them; "This is the principle they will follow when rates are levied", a Local Government Ministry spokesman said yesterday. The People's Republic of China has agreed to carry out major overhauls free of charge to three of the five fast gun boats gifted to the Sri Lanka Navy in 1972. The Transport Minister, Mr. M. H. Mohamed yesterday pledged to provide a better bus service to the public by December; he also said there would be no increase in bus fares. Tamil Liberation Front's General Secretary, A. Amirthalingam has sent an urgent directive to TULF parliamentarians to take immediate action to protect all Sinhala people living in the northern and eastern provinces, a TULF spokesman said yesterday. Security forces in the Jaffna District where an emergency is now on have arrested eight "wanted men" police said yesterday; they are suspected of complicity in three murders including a double murder and eleven robberies, including four co-operative stores, an arrack tavern and three boutiques, police said. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party old guard is taking action

to rescue the party from the control of certain individuals at the top rungs of the leadership who they allege have thrown the party into disarray—CDN. The World Bank has agreed to grant Rs. 150 million to the CGR and the Sri Lanka Central Transport Board; this aid would be utilised for the import of buses for the SLCTB and locomotives for the railways. The United National Party cannot be shaken for another ten years; dogs may bark but the caravan will move on; this confident statement was made yesterday by the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, presiding over the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya, at Sri Kotha—CDM. There will be no exceptions to the six-hour driving ban on private cars on Sundays, Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed announced yesterday. Attempts to divide the country, strikes, bloodshed, communal strife and attempts to cash in on problems afflicting the country can only bring misery to the people, President J. R. Jayewardene warned yesterday. Government doctors will soon be brought within the stringent provisions of the bribery law. Legislation is now being prepared to prevent government doctors from overcoming a charge of bribery under the cover of the Medical Practitioners Ordinance; this Ordinance entitles a medical practitioner to charge a fee for services rendered—SU. The Prime Minister Mr. R.

Premadasa, has proposed a state agency to control massive frauds now going on in the land sales and real estate business—CO. The Government is to find out whether there are people who have to be given free rice in the future; after this survey 50% of the present rice ration card owners can be expected to lose their cards as

The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964.

Notice Under Section 7

Ref. No. 3/64/298
J 71L 1057 (VE)

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 47 (Part III) of 27-07-1979.

Schedule

Name of village etc.:

Pambahera and Medelopla villages in Meddeketiya Korale, Kuliypitiya D.R.O.'s Division, Kurunegala District, North Western Province.

Name of Land:

Vicharankotuwa Watta

Plan and Lot No.:

Lot No. 19 in Supplement No. 2 of F.V.P. 2570
Lot No. 185 and 186 in Supplement No. 4 of F.V.P. 2564.

H. M. W. Chandraratne

District Land Officer
Kurunegala District.

The Kachcheri,
Kurunegala. 28.06.1979

their income is more than the Rs. 300/- limit—DV. The World Bank is to send a representative named Mr. Hawk to ask the Minister of Finance why the government has not done away with subsidies as promised—JD. The bus fares will be increased shortly and season tickets for adults will be abolished—DK. The Communist Party has said in a statement issued recently that the Bill the UNP Government is to implement under the disguise of terrorism is in reality a bill against the democratic rights of the people specially against the working people of this country—ATH. The Ministry of Rural Industrial Development is to start a scheme to grow fodder grass on 5000 acres—DP.

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FROM THE TRIBUNE

25 Years Ago

July 17, 1954

IS CEYLON NEUTRAL?

Tribune, July 1, 1954

The resignation of Mr. R. G. Senanayake brings to the forefront the question of the foreign policy of the Ceylon Government. Mr. Senanayake has declared that he is not happy about the policy that is being followed by Sir John Kotelawela in regard to our relations with other countries. He drew special attention to relations with China, the USA and India.

Not Neutrality Mr. R. G. Senanayake reflected the sense of uneasiness prevalent in the country today when he stated that Sir John's policies run contrary to the policy of neutrality laid down by Mr. D. S. Senanayake and the spirit of the decisions arrived at the Colombo Conference. Though Mr. D. S. Senayake and later Mr. Dudley Senanayake were both opposed to Communism as an ideology, they did not make rude and unfriendly statements about the Governments of Communist countries. Sir John has, unfortunately, made a series of statements ever since he became Premier which showed that he was not merely opposed to communism as an ideology, but that he was not neutral in so far as the cold war between the two blocs were concerned. Even his close participation in the Colombo Conference does not seem to have improved matters. At this Conference Sir John sided with Pakistan on too many occasions and too many matters; and it must be remembered that Pakistan is the one country in South-East Asia which is not neutral. It is now a satellite and a colony of the USA.

American Aid. Shortly after the Colombo Conference, an attempt to scrap the China Pact is taking new shape in the form of a manoeuvre to repudiate the contract by stating that Ceylon does not need China rice, or at least not as much as provi-

ded for in the contract. Mr. R. G. Senanayake has declared that this attempt to repudiate the China Pact is linked with efforts to align with the USA. There can be nothing more disastrous for Ceylon than to align herself with the USA in the present context of Asian and world politics.

India. For one thing, Ceylon will thereby immediately put herself in a camp opposed to not merely communist China but also countries like India, Burma and Indonesia. Mr. R. G. Senanayake has also drawn attention to the worsening relations with India. The agreement Sir John signed in New Delhi was undoubtedly an endeavour to strengthen the Kotelawela wing of the UNP but this Agreement has not helped to solve the "Indian" problem in Ceylon nor has it in any way promoted better relations between India and Ceylon.

On the contrary, the Indian problem in Ceylon is in a bigger mess than ever before, and relations with India more strained than ever before in the history of the two countries. The Indo-Ceylon Agreement must be scrapped and an agreement which meets the realities of the situation must be negotiated and concluded without delay. Furthermore, our foreign policy, remembering that we are the smallest unit in the Colombo Powers, must not be based on bluster and bombast. Even if Ike and John Foster secretly promises the hea-

vens itself, it would not do for Ceylon to antagonise Asian countries like India, China, Burma and Indonesia. Unless Ceylon's present foreign policy trends are reversed, she is in the danger of making herself an isolated outpost of uncle Sam.

X X X

AT THE U.N.

Indian Ocean Peace Zone—2

by B. J. Fernando

The concluding part of the Opening Statement of the President of the UN Meeting of the littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean—Ambassador B. J. Fernando of Sri Lanka—at the UN on 2nd July 1979.

OVER THE YEARS, the proposal for establishment of an Indian Ocean Peace Zone has gained increasing support from Member States of the United Nations. For instance, the first resolution of 1971 on this subject was adopted by a vote of 61 to none, with 55 abstentions. In succeeding years, however, many States have shifted their positions and have cast favourable votes on the relevant resolutions on the subject. Concerning the pattern of voting, the most perceptible difference with respect to previous years has been the support, since 1977, of several countries

who had earlier abstained. By December 1978, the vote, at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, was, I am happy to say, 130 countries in favour, none against and 14 abstentions, which was a substantial increase in favour of the resolution. In this context it is my duty to state that the success or failure to implement this resolution regarding the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace would be an instance which would decide the effectiveness of the United Nations and the sincerity of the desire for peace by the international community.

Since its establishment in 1972, one of the principal concerns of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean has been to secure the co-operation and support of the great Powers the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, and with this in mind, the *Ad Hoc* Committee has repeatedly invited such States to co-operate with it in the discharge of its functions. From the outset, the Committee has received the co-operation and active participation of one permanent member of the Security Council, China, and one major maritime user of the Indian Ocean, Japan. Both these States are members of the Committee. Of the other major maritime users concerned—Greece and Panama accepted the Committee's invitation in positive and affirmative terms and the

former is now a member of the Committee while the latter participates in the work of the Committee in an observer capacity. Most of the other countries with which the Committee has held consultations have expressed support for the goals embodied in the Declaration, but for varying reasons have been unable to co-operate effectively with the *Ad Hoc* Committee in its work. I wish to take this opportunity to strongly urge that all concerned should effectively co-operate to achieve the cherished objectives of the peace zone proposal. However, one can justifiably claim that some progress, however slight and sporadic, has been registered since the adoption of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. Nevertheless, by 1977, it had become increasingly evident to many members of the *Ad Hoc* Committee that the path towards implementation of the Declaration was beset with vast complexities and problems which emanated not only from the escalating military presence of outside powers in the region, but also from the dynamics deriving from regional political factors. Thus, the various levels of interaction involved and the different dimensions inherent in the effort to implement the Declaration, led to the understanding that a different approach to the problem was necessary. Such an assessment of the situa-

tion resulted in the awareness on the part of the Members of the Committee that a meeting, at a high level, of the littoral and hinterland States would be a positive and constructive next step towards the holding of a conference on the Indian Ocean. It was felt that such a meeting would afford the opportunity for the States involved to try and harmonize their positions on various issues before major negotiations with outside Powers were undertaken at a larger international conference. Accordingly, as I mentioned earlier, upon the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, the General Assembly, at its thirty-third session in 1978, decided to convene this Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean. The main objectives of this meeting are to harmonize the common position of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean taking into account the views of the great Powers and the major maritime users and to evolve a programme of work up to the eventual Indian Ocean Conference.

Distinguished delegates, over eight years have elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, and yet, as we are all acutely aware, the implementation of the goals embodied therein must await further constructive and co-operative efforts on the part of all

parties concerned. However, the importance of these vital objectives have in no way diminished in the eyes of the Members of the *Ad Hoc* Committee. If anything, developments in the region during the past year have once again underlined the crucial significance of this subject matter, not only for the regional countries involved, but for the international community as a whole. The task we have assumed is of great potential benefit. It can help resolve the complexities which have hampered progress towards the realization of the central objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. It requires making meaningful contributions towards the solution of the manifold problems involved. It signals the opening up of new areas of mutual understanding and the possibility of suitable agreements which would be conducive to the achievement of our ultimate objective.

THE QUESTION to which we must now address ourselves is the essential one of how we should proceed to chart our future course towards that ultimate goal. Not for one instant does any one of us here misjudge the magnitude of the complexity of the task ahead. And yet, neither do we shirk from the responsibilities that must need be assumed to translate our objective into reality. We are as determined today, as we were at the beginning, to traverse the road, however difficult, to an international confere-

rence of all States concerned, where a suitable treaty on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace can be finally consummated. Let not succeeding generations say we who had the opportunity did not try sufficiently or lacked the necessary will. Posterity would naturally pass judgement on results achieved.

In the interim period, we must endeavour to delineate a realistic and practical approach which will, gradually, but definitively prepare the way for the negotiation of a treaty at a conference on the Indian Ocean. Accordingly, I wish to propose to this Meeting that it gives serious consideration to the initiation of a process involving the drafting of a Treaty on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. The specific modalities involved in such an undertaking could be the subject of subsequent discussions and consultations. However, I do wish to point out that in the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean we already have a United Nations body, which given its experience in this field, affords us a ready and useful instrumentality for assuming such a function. While the idea may seem bold and innovative to some, it is decidedly not a utopian one. The time has come for the *Ad Hoc* Committee to go beyond its present functions and to embark on this very practical and necessary measure. In this connexion, I would like to suggest that in order to have as

wide an input as possible in the work of drafting a suitable treaty, the Ad Hoc Committee should maintain appropriate consultations with all parties concerned and, as necessary, make provision for their participation as observers in that endeavour. Another useful measure in enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee's work in this area would be to recommend that the General Assembly expand the present membership of the Committee.

IN MAKING THIS PROPOSAL I would like to point out that a somewhat similar procedure was followed in the case of the Treaty of Taltelolco, albeit outside the auspices of the United Nations, where a Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America was established with a view to concluding a universally respected treaty to ensure the denuclearization of that region.

Of course, in putting forth this proposal before this Meeting, I do not, in any way, underestimate that the preparation of such a major and path-breaking treaty will involve a long, arduous and sometimes painful process. Among other things, it will require the setting up of an expert group to study the question delineating the territorial and geographical limits which such a treaty would cover. Nevertheless, the time is ripe for us to take this initial but important step. That first step will, however, constitute a con-

crete advance, indeed an indispensable one, if we are to realize our ultimate objective.

The task facing us at this Meeting is a vast and complex one but one which we, for the sake of peace, must endeavour to meet. Guided by the mandate of the General Assembly, we should strive to harmonize our views and positions on various related issues so as to facilitate further progress towards the convening of an international conference aimed at putting into effect the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. And we must endeavour, furthermore, to take the necessary decisions, and make the commensurate recommendations to the General Assembly at its next session. If we succeed in doing so, as I sincerely hope we will, would then be one step closer towards the ultimate goal and our consultations and negotiations with the great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean would be based on a sound and united foundation.

This Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean can, indeed, prove to be the next logical step in our quest to draw closer to that final day when the Indian Ocean has been established as a zone from which all kinds of power rivalries and relations of strife are eliminated and where peace and tranquility prevail instead. Those of us who are intimately involved in this exercise are

fully aware of the challenge that lies ahead of us. But it is a challenge that is entailed in any bold and innovative endeavour. And it is a challenge that we cannot escape if we are to strive steadfastly towards the goal of general and complete disarmament. It is to be hoped that as we move resolutely ahead, the major powers, whose support we so earnestly welcome, will realize that in co-operating with us in our task they will be contributing to the peace and security of the world as a whole.

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INDIA

Background To Morarji Debacle

WHY DESAI MUST QUIT?

New Delhi, July 14,

IN THE LIGHT of fresh developments and disclosures pertaining to the income tax raid case involving P. N. Balasubramaniam, the position of Morarji Desai as Prime Minister has become untenable. A few weeks earlier, this column had asked the Prime Minister to explain his position regarding the disclosures made in this particular case. Desai remained silent. Now no explanation is sought by this columnist from the Prime Minister, because the time for explanation is long past. En-

ough has surfaced in connection with the cash, and the manner in which it is being handled, to indict the Prime Minister. Morarji should now resign. If he refuses to resign, his party colleagues should force his resignation. It is not the capability of the Janata Government and party which is now being questioned. It is the basic integrity of the Government and the ruling party which is on trial. It is not necessary to await the outcome of the investigations and the court case to discover the extent of Kanti Desai's involvements in the financial dealings of Balasubramaniam. The importance of that aspect has for the moment receded in the background

What transpired subsequent to the raid on Balasubramaniam's premises on June 4 is sufficient to bring the Prime Minister himself and his Secretariat staff under a cloud so heavy and ominous as to render Desai's continuance in office incompatible with accepted norms of democratic functioning. There are two aspects of the case which damn Morarji's credentials. First, on June 4, while the raid was under way V. Y. Tonpe, the Prime Minister's Special Assistant, reportedly telephoned a senior official in the Finance Ministry, advising that the raid be called off. Not only was that advice ignored, but also, it is reliably learnt, the official who received the phone call from Tonpe made a noting on the file based on his telephonic conversation with him. In

the light of the subsequent discovery, revealed by Balasubramaniam's affidavit, that he had close links with the Prime Minister's son, Tonpe's intervention on behalf of Balasubramaniam even before the affidavit had been sworn, becomes self-revealing. It gives credence to Balasubramaniam's plea that he was closely tied up with Kanti Desai. It may be recalled that subsequently the raid was stayed by a High Court stay order which is considered unique in the annals of judicial history. It might also be recalled that documents incriminating VIP'S, seen by the official search party, later disappeared; however, it is understood that the officials recorded in the files what they saw.

THE SECOND ASPECT relates to Balasubramaniam's meeting with the Prime Minister. It had been reported in the press earlier, that Balasubramaniam had met the Prime Minister to apprise him of development regarding the raid before the latter departed for Moscow. Subsequently, on the basis of his anticipatory bail, Balasubramaniam had been prevented from leaving the country by the authorities at Palam airport: however, Balasubramaniam, due to official negligence or connivance succeeded in getting away and reached Europe. He contacted the Prime Minister's party and allegedly met Tonpe and Kanti Desai in West Germany on June 21. Tonpe and Kanti, who are both on the Prime Minister's personal

staff, knew very well that Balasubramaniam had become a highly controversial figure who had evaded the authorities to get away from India. Yet they met him discussed matters with him, and did not report him to the appropriate authorities. This makes the Prime Minister's personal staff members almost accomplices of Balasubramaniam in his effort to evade or delay appearance in Court....

Rajinder Puri, Blitz

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EIGHTEEN CRORE SCANDAL

New Delhi, July 14,

THE BALA-KANTI BUSINESS CONNECTION started with Bala's fight with T. T. Krishnamachari in the early sixties over Barium Chemicals of which he was the Managing Director. A memorandum to the President finally got TTK out of the Government in 1966, in the presentation of which Kantilal Desai reportedly played an important part. Thereafter, the Industrial and Chemical Company of Bombay, owned by Kanti and his family in which Morarji Desai himself had invested his small savings, was appointed the sole distributor of its products in Western India. Out of the huge commission the Kanti firm earned within no effort put in, Bala used to get kickbacks. This went on for years till Barium Chemicals was sold to Sahu-Jains sometimes in 1974 and Bala went out of business. But

Bala with his adventurous spirit is never the type who bows out for good. He has always had a lively political interest, had known many political heavyweights personally, and had contested for Parliament twice from Andhra on an anti-Congress ticket and lost narrowly.

He was a pauper with princely habits when the Emergency was imposed in June 1975. With his high-level connections, he got to know of its proclamations in advance and tipped off his friend Kanti, who promptly took a Lufthansa flight to Geneva on the 25th night. After tipping the son, Bala drove the father to Ramlila ground for a public meeting. Early next morning his telephone rang, the caller saying that "Bapu" had been whisked away. He promptly rang up Padma Desai in Bombay to inform her husband about the sad tidings and ask him not to return to India. Three months after the declaration of the Emergency, Kanti got to know directly from Mrs. Gandhi's quarters that there was nothing against him. So Kanti returned. Many business friends shunned him but not Bala.

The wheel of fortune turned with the 1977 Parliamentary elections. There were two contenders for the prize post of Prime Ministership; Morarji Desai and Jagjivan Ram. Bala, who was determined to see Morarji on the throne, says that on the eve of the crucial choice he discovered

a particular business firm distributing money to the newly elected MPs for their votes in favour of Ram. The firm was supposed to be handing out Rs. 2 lakhs for a vote. He also says that he collected some of the MPs who received the dollops and drove them to Jaya Prakash Narayan and Acharya Kripalani as live witnesses to the greatest fraud in India's Parliamentary history. Bala thinks that it was this that changed the minds of JP and the Acharya. They, it may be recalled, were the umpires. At first, they had decided on a vote among the newly elected MPs for choosing the Leader. Later, they gave in to a consensus and declared Morarji the Leader, somewhat fraudulently, he says. The tortuous course of events on the night of March 24, 1977, somewhat conforms to what Bala says on the selection of the Janata Prime Minister.

After Morarji was sworn in, which ceremony Jagjivan Ram had boycotted, Kanti Desai saw to it that the Prime Minister's Secretariat, both at the South Block and at the residence, was filled with his confidants. So was brought V. Shankar, who had been serving Coaching Shipping and B. M. Birla, as the Principal Secretary despite his age. Tonpe, Hasmuth Shah and the rest of the personal staff down to the last PA were all selected personally by Kanti. South Indians, he says, were scrupulously kept out by Kanti; and so V. Kalyanam was out. Kalyanam was with JP and

later with Morarji before he became the Prime Minister. When he was thrown out, Bala took him over and made him his confidant and house-keeper. Something went wrong in the Bala-Kalyanam relations with the result that the latter allegedly gave information to Charan Singh about the Bala-Kanti business deals, which finally led to the raids and Bala's flight from India.

After "Bapu" was enthroned, Bala wanted to enter politics, became a Minister of State or something. But Kanti would not countenance any such idea. He wanted Bala on his side for advice on other matters. For instance, C. B. Gupta, Janata Party Treasurer had been pestering Kanti for funds to run the party. And it so happened that one day a top official of the Enforcement Branch of the Finance Ministry walked into his house, apologised for the past harassment caused to Bala and requested his help for self rehabilitation. Bala straightaway took the official to Kanti. Later, when Bala asked the official if he could suggest some way to collect funds for the Janata Party, which was facing an expensive election to many State assemblies in June 1977, the bureaucrat gave him an excellent tip. He revealed that as many as 140 persons had fled this country to evade warrants of arrest under COFEPOSA for smuggling and like racketeering. The official also told him that those war-

rants were based on flimsy grounds, and now that the Emergency was ended, there was no possibility of pressing them. And for that reason, the authorities had withdrawn the warrants, but the concerned fugitives were blissfully unaware of it, because cancellations had not been notified.

Here was an ideal opportunity to mint millions. A compilation of the absconders and their addresses in London, the Gulf region, Hongkong and other hideouts was made and contacts established with many of them. The operation started with Commonwealth Conference in London in May 1977. Kanti had accompanied the father and Bala had accompanied the son, so to say.

During their stay in London, Bala rounded up four brothers from Rajasthan, who had been cooling their heels in London. They were introduced to Kanti. They also met the

Prime Minister, though he might not have been aware of their profession. The four brothers paid Rs. one crore, obtained their freedom and returned to India, and the rest of the 140 absconders followed suit. It is for the sleuths of Charan Singh's Finance Ministry to find out how much was collected from the absconders. The allegation is that Rs. 18 crores were collected. A mere Rs. 94 lakhs were given to C. B. Gupta, to which Madhu Limaye later took serious objection, leading to his resignation as the Janata Party Secretary. What all this and more calls for is a Parliamentary enquiry, because COFEPOSA is an Act of Parliament and its gross misuse for filling the private coffers is a crime beyond description.

—A. Raghavan Blitz.

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Letter

University Admission

Sir,

Today the Ministry of Higher Education decides whether a student is to be admitted to a University or not, but no details or explanations of how they are selected are given to the schools, the students, the parents or the general public. Why?

Haven't the students and teachers the right to know? Is it not possible that when no details are given, there is likely to be fiddling and corruption? That the bureaucrats can manoeuvre admissions according to their whims, fancies and favourites? That this problem is bringing considerable discredit to the Government?

Over to you Mr. Secretary.

A Student

Colombo.
17th June 1979



NEXT WEEK

- o PRICE HIKE & FOOD PRODUCTION
—R. Kahawita.
- o THAT MILLION-RUPEE CHEQUE
—Sherlock Holmes
- o WHAT AILS TEA ?
—Disputes.

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

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

CURRENCY	PER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. DOLLAR	Rs. 1556.00	Rs. 1559.00
STERLING POUND	Rs. 3616.50	Rs. 3622.50
DEUTSCHE MARK	Rs. 860.20	Rs. 861.80
FRENCH FRANC	Rs. 369.05	Rs. 369.75
JAPANESE YEN	Rs. 7.2480	Rs. 7.2630
INDIAN RUPEES	Rs. 195.05	Rs. 195.45

Confidentially

President And The Bureaucracy—3

IS IT NOT A FACT that last week, this column had dealt with punctuality and discipline in Government offices as set out in a Presidential letter addressed to all Secretaries of Ministers? That the President had in his letter drawn pointed attention to "discipline" that was at a "low ebb", to "indifference and callousness of officers to their duties, lethargy, slackness, corruption, late attendance and consumption of liquor during office hours..."? That he wanted stern disciplinary action taken by supervisory officers against the guilty for any of the lapses mentioned above? That we had pointed out that supervisory officers had been rendered ineffective by the interference of parliamentary VIPs, promoted to intervene on "complaints" initiated by political favourites, masquerading under cover of trade unionism and party interests? That we had also stressed that unless such favourites were eliminated, dismissed or ignored, discipline" could never be instilled into the ranks of the public service? That if the President really wanted punctuality, discipline and regular work from members of the public service, the first thing to be done was to see that the class of

"special" employees are totally eliminated? That unless persons now variously described as "catchers", "contact men", "ministers' men," "MP's mafiamen" and "party thugs" are totally eliminated from Government Departments, Corporations and public (and some private) Undertakings, work will not begin punctually, work will not be done during the full work-time and discipline cannot be maintained or enforced? That every ruling party since Independence had pushed in such men (and now even women) into the public service? That such vermin have not only destroyed the morale of the public service but also undermined its integrity?

That in paras four and five of the Circular Letter, the President had underlined certain matters of crucial importance? That para four had stated: "In most Government institutions there is an unequal distribution of work resulting in some officers being over-burdened with work, others being left to idle most of the time. But, all of them enjoy the same rights, benefits and privileges. This has a demoralising effect on the diligent and honest officer. There is, therefore, an urgent need for norms and targets to be fixed for every employee. Apart from the overall benefits that would accrue to the country, this would enable a fair and equal distribution of work among employees in an institution and thus provide a motivational climate for efficient

and hard work"? That para five stated: "There is another matter to which Secretaries should give their attention to and that is the question of improving work consciousness among employees at all levels so that a suitable environment for motivating employees in the interests of production and productivity and sound administration is created. This can be achieved by involving the employees in the whole process of production and administration. Employees should not be made to feel that they are only a cog in the wheel of the government machinery but a vital part, a link in a chain the strength of which, as you know, lies in the weakest link. There must be constant dialogue with them and the purpose of Government activity should be explained to them and their active co-operation and participation sought in the implementation of Government policy and directives." *That if the President's directions are implemented, there will be a marked change for the better in the Public Service?* That we have not yet been able to detect any special efforts on the part of anybody to eliminate "catchers", "con-man" and similar parasites in the Public Service—a pre condition for any improvement?

Concluded



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