

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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PRICE TAGGING OF LOCAL PRODUCTS NOT ENOUGH: PRICE CONTROL ESSENTIAL

It is reported that a Cabinet sub-committee has decided that all locally manufactured goods should be price-tagged by the producers: and that price control will be introduced *only* if the exploitation of the consumers is not ended by this measure. This decision is no doubt based on the assumption that the main culprits for the current dizzy price-hike are the retailers and that if the manufacturers price-tagged their products the consumers would get the goods at fair and reasonable prices. Whilst there cannot be any doubt that many retailers seek to make the best of the situation by charging unconscionable prices, especially in a market which is a monopoly, there are very good reasons for asserting that many local manufacturers fix their wholesale prices at double or even treble the cost of production. It is well known in business circles that the objective of most of the "new" industrialists is to recover the entire

capital within a short period of five years or so — and that for this purpose they fix wholesale prices which cast a heavy burden on the consumers.

The Cabinet sub-committee has probably gone into this aspect of this matter, but it is necessary that investigations in regard to costs should be carried out independently of the bureaucrats who have so far helped these industrialists to establish and service these "industries." Apart from every thing else, these bureaucrats have become conditioned to particular channels of thinking and logic and it would be difficult for them to look at matters in an objective manner. It is an open secret in the trade that the wholesale prices for certain synthetic textiles — sarees, suiting and shirting — yields the producer nearly 150 to 200 per cent profit at wholesale prices. With tax free and other concessions, the industrialist

is well away, and becomes a "tax free" multi-millionaire in a short time. It is not easy for bureaucrats to know *how* profits are hidden, *how* money is made in the *black* and *how* such money can thereafter be turned into *white* (this is one reason why all these industrialists eagerly go in for Special Leases agriculture). Nobody will grudge these industrialists a fair margin of profit, but the wholesale and retail prices now obtaining for many locally-manufactured goods are a scandal. The same is true of a number of other locally manufactured products. **The Government would do well to impose price control on some of the major products — at least as a deterrent to all those who are now getting the fullest benefit of import concessions, foreign exchange facilities, tax holidays and a whole host of other benefits.**

Headlines Of The Week

THURSDAY, February 27 — The President of the Ceylon National Chamber of Commerce, Senator D.L.F. Peiris, has advocated a compulsory national service scheme for the country's youth. Health Ministry officials have estimated the number of people affected by malaria between the range of two to three million last year. The Inspector-General of Police has reported to the Defence Ministry that police investigations has established no substance at all in the allegation of a plot against the life of the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Prime Minister Levi Eshkol of Isarel died of a heart attack at his home yesterday. President Nixon began his political talks in Bonn after publicly pledging American devotion to the principles of German Reunification, the freedom of the Rhineland and the Atlantic Alliance.

FRIDAY, February 28 — The CWE has decided to give an annual bonus of Rs. 405 to all its grade of employees. The Minister of Finance in a memorandum to the Cabinet has pointed out that nearly 38,000 vacancies in government departments and public corporations have not been filled for the last two years even though money had been voted for filling them. The Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, replying to Opposition members said that India had not any doubt about the ownership of Kachchativu island. Sixty four persons died in a violent earthquake which struck the Indonesian island of Celebes on Sunday.

SATURDAY, March 1 — Taxes totalling almost one million rupees were collected by the Department of Inland Revenue in a series of simultaneous raids conducted by the Investigation Branch of the Department. The Bank of Ceylon has asked the Central Bank to buy some of its investments in government securities which are maturing within the next few years. The Commander of the Warsaw Pact Powers and the Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister flew to East Berlin and went straight into a conference with East German leaders. General de Gaulle welcomed President Nixon to Paris and said "whatever has happened nothing could make our country stop feeling that it is the friend of yours." The Israeli Prime Minister was buried in Jerusalem after a state funeral.

SUNDAY, March 2 — The *Daily Mirror* reported that the United National Party had begun mapping out its campaign for the next Parliamentary election. Unemployed persons registered with the employment exchanges will receive land and financial assistance to start farming, if the Government accepts a proposal made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour. The Prime Minister has agreed to summon a meeting of the Cabinet Planning Sub-Committee to consider what steps should be immediately taken to check the serious drain into the blackmarket of the country's earnings from tourism. Soviet and East German

armour and infantry were on the move in strength outside Berlin yesterday. Clary L. Shaw has been found not guilty of conspiring to assassinate the late President John F. Kennedy.

MONDAY, March 3 — The *Times of Ceylon* reported that a section of Government MPs were campaigning for a Cabinet re-shuffle. Consumers will receive additional rations of essential commodities in view of the forthcoming Sinhala New Year.

TUESDAY, March 4 — Mr. H.M. Navaratne, an Opposition Member of Parliament, yesterday showered praise on the Prime Minister for the success of his food drive and the programme the country had made as a result of it when he spoke at a public meeting in Minipe. The *Sun* reported that the Government had decided on a major change in its language policy, granting in the process almost parity of status for Sinhala and Tamil in regard to correspondence between the Government and the public. The same paper also reported that a senior Minister had yesterday squashed speculation in political circles that the Prime Minister was facing the threat of an important Minister's resignation and possible defection to the Opposition. An armed clash on March 2 between Russian and Chinese frontier guardsmen in the region of the River Amur has been reported by the official Soviet News Agency *Tass* and its Chinese counterpart, *Hsinhua*. America sent three men into space on a ten-day flight and Space officials said that the Apollo-9 mission was the most complex, difficult and dangerous ever attempted by America. West German Foreign Minister Willy Brandt flew into West Berlin from Bonn today and immediately began talks about the current crisis surrounding Wednesday's Presidential elections in West Berlin.

WEDNESDAY, March 5 — Seventy five thousand workers in the private sector will be benefitted as a result of the decision of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon that member-firms should pay an increased festival advance to their workers for the Sinhala New Year. The *Sun* reported that Ceylon was expected to be granted an additional one hundred million rupees from the aid Consortium this year. A fraud to the tune of Rs. 800,000 involving life policies has been detected in the Insurance Corporation. The *Daily Mirror* quoted Treasury sources as saying that the Government had not deviated from its policy governing the Official Language Act, or the Tamil Language (Special Provisions) regulations now in force. At the same time the *Sun* reported that a wide segment of the Opposition had claimed that the Treasury's latest circular clarifying the language policy of the Government had conceded to the demands of the FP for complete autonomy, Tamil language-wise, in respect of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. China yesterday unleashed anti-Soviet demonstrations of unprecedented ferocity throughout the length and breadth of its territory. Viet Cong gunners from seven miles outside Saigon fired a salvo of rockets into the city killing twelve people.

Comment

On

Current Affairs

● **DANGER SIGNALS.** Last week *Tribune* drew attention to the deteriorating situation in the country which was causing anxiety to all thinking persons. We had warned that the writing on the wall was clear and unless there was a drastic change for the better the country and the people would slowly slip into a disastrous state of *psychosis* which has been defined "as severe mental derangement involving the whole personality." The unfortunate *furor* in Parliament last Wednesday over the question of the alleged plot to assassinate the Leader of the Opposition is only one of the many danger signals that has thrust itself forcibly on the nation. The fact that the Prime Minister — who has so far had an impeccable record for parliamentary restraint — had "lost his shirt" and had adopted aggressive postures whilst charging physically into the Opposition ready to use force on a leading member of the Opposition whose words he had *misheard*, is something which must cause anxiety to all these who are interested in the future of the country. It is bad enough if an ordinary person loses his temper under dire provocation, but the Prime Minister of a country cannot afford to lose his balance in the way Mr. Dudley Senanayake did last Wednesday. What is worse is that many of his Cabinet colleagues and parliamentary henchmen also were afflicted by the same *psychosis* and had rushed out to start a battle royal. Some members of the Opposition also had fallen victim to the same malady. The unforgettable fact that the Prime Minister had to apologise for having acted impulsively on a *misheard* statement only underlined the dangerous trends prevailing in the country. The "brawl" in Parliament was only an indication of the touch-and-go state in which the Ceylonese find themselves today. Incidents like this will continue to occur at more frequent intervals — unless saner counsel prevails, particularly among the so-called leaders of the nation.

● **THE PLOT AND THE POLICE.** The *Lake House* group of newspapers have published in full all the documents in connection with the alleged plot to assassinate the Leader of the Opposition. The manner in which the headlines have been devised and news stories published show that the big daily papers, actively behind the Government, want to convince the public that (a) the plot was a hoax which sprang from the imagination of a ganja addict and (b) that the Opposition was seeking to make political capital of the incident as a precursor to the election campaign. Though the ordinary man is still a little confused about the whole matter, it must be admitted that the distrust of the police and their methods of investigation are so universal that the weight of

public opinion is definitely not in favour of the Police (or the big dailies). Moreover, the Police have, in recent times, been often *proved* to have been guilty of fabricating evidence, destroying evidence and of other acts not consistent with being guardians of the law — that the ordinary man in the street cannot be blamed if he takes everything the Police claim with a pinch of salt. One thing which even supporters of the government find hard to swallow is that the "informant" should change his story, which he had repeated several times before, only after he went completely into the hands of the Police investigators. Dodampe Mudalali and others had liquidated themselves by jumping out of windows whilst being under police interrogation, but in this instance the informant went through a strange metamorphosis and had readily "confessed" that he was a drug addict and that his story of the alleged plot was only the outpourings of a ganja-soaked brain. This may well be truth and the Police may have only unearthed what had been hidden in the subconscious *a la Freud*. But the record of the Police is such that there is general suspicion about their investigations. Those who support the Government shrug their shoulders and keep silent, but those who are opposed to the Government are today waxing eloquent loqu every street corner that the Police had perpetrated another fabricated-fraud on the country. **Unless the Police Force is able to restore public confidence in its methods of investigation, the ordinary people will continue to treat police pronouncements with the utmost caution, if not suspicion. This is unfortunate because it is essential that the main security organ of the state should be respected by the people, but the sad fact is that the Police have earned for themselves a terrible notoriety for tampering with evidence to suit individual whims and fancies. Something drastic and something quick must be done to give a new image to the Police.**

● **CREDIT SQUEEZE AND MONETARY STABILITY.** The credit squeeze in Ceylon has already begun to play havoc in the economic life of the country — and the result is that the *really* rich have been given opportunities to grow richer whilst the not-so-rich are being slowly pushed into greater and greater poverty. As we have stressed often in the past the credit squeeze in Ceylon is only part of a universal phenomenon in the capitalist system today. There is credit squeeze in the USA as well as in Britain, in France and also West Germany. But a credit squeeze in a developed and advanced industrial country is one thing, but in an under-developed country it means something totally different. In the advanced countries deflationary credit squeezes are for the purpose of establishing indirect controls in the jungle of capitalist free enterprise, but in developing countries, like Ceylon, a credit squeeze will mean the extermination of the *small* national entrepreneur at the expense of the foreign financier and their *big* local collaborators. It is well for the Government in this country to realise that the credit crisis in Western countries is only a reflection of major crisis in the capitalist monetary system which stems from the ruthless and complex struggle for economic

hegemony being waged among leading Western nations behind glib talk of co-operation. Whilst there is no doubt that there is no immediate danger of a "collapse" of Western capitalism or its monetary system, it is daily becoming more and more clear that the sharp conflicts and pressures arising from a "new distribution" of the gold hoards have set in motion a chain of events that have the most disastrous repercussions on developing countries which, like Ceylon, have completely hitched their economy to the international capitalist chariot. The pound sterling continues to be under severe stress whilst the position of the dollar is being assailed on all sides. The USA and UK are resisting all efforts to have the price of gold re-valued. Such re-valuation will bring, according to US banking circles "world-wide inflation", as always happens with such phenomenon, and lead to further uneven distribution of the new wealth "helping not only speculators but also countries holding large gold reserves at the expense of those holding mostly dollars (or sterling) in their reserves." **It is true that the re-valuation of gold will only add to the troubles of many countries in the capitalist sector. What is needed for capitalism is a new Bretton Woods to work out a new and more stable monetary system which would not be subject to jitters because of the instability afflicting a few currencies. Until this happens credit in Ceylon will be squeezed more and more every six months—or until Ceylon's level of per capita productivity increases to such a high level that inflation consequent on development is kept within strict check.**

● BORDER CLASH — USSR AND CHINA.

On March 2, there erupted a border clash on the Far Eastern border between the USSR and China. Moscow has claimed that it was the Chinese frontier guards who had violated the boundary and had made a clash inevitable by refusing to withdraw. Peking, on the other hand, has asserted with the vituperative vehemence which now characterises all its pronouncements that "Soviet revisionists and social imperialists" had crossed into "sacred Chinese soil". Such claims are customary whenever border clashes occur, but political observers have noted that some of the recent declarations of Lin Piao, Mao's heir apparent, were such that Chinese frontiersmen would have been incited to attack Russian "revisionists." On the other hand, Russian propaganda, whilst sharply critical of Peking's ideological standpoint and Mao's nationalist megalomania (under the idiom and terminology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism), had not called for any physical attack on Chinese Maoists. On the other hand, it is unfortunate that propaganda from Peking has been highly provocative and intensely aggressive, and neutral observers cannot be precluded from inferring that Chinese border guards had been stirred by the current slogans of the "cultural revolution" to demonstrate their bravery and "willingness to die for Mao's thoughts" by picking a totally unnecessary

quarrel with the Russian "revisionists." However, apart from inferences, it will not be possible for neutral observers to be sure of what had exactly happened on March 2, but those who still hope for world peace will be distressed that one more "hot spot" has been opened in the current world scene which is already overburdened by a whole series of "hot spots" on every continent. The Sino-Soviet clash and the publicity given to it both by Moscow and Peking indicate that the parting of the ways has come for China and Soviet Russia which only a decade ago had been a unified force under the banner of communism. China is the most populous nation in the world and now possesses the atomic and the hydrogen bomb. But her policies are most enigmatic and completely puzzle everybody except those who accept Mao's Thoughts with fanatic and blind devotion. China, it will be recalled, recently cancelled the scheduled talks with the USA in Warsaw on February 20 at the very last minute stating that the US-Dutch "abduction" of diplomat Liao Ho-shu had made the long-awaited talks useless. It is also apparent that Peking had thought it necessary to toss the ball into Washington's court after Nixon had plugged the old Rusk line that China "must show its willingness to change" before the new US administration could consider a change in its own policy. Americans had expected the Nixon Administration to have a new policy towards China and seem to be disappointed that the old Rusk line was trotted out. Whilst Washington has now to ponder over a new line to bring Peking back to the negotiating table at Warsaw, can it be that Peking itself has unmistakably indicated that it was willing to fight Moscow with arms as an earnest of its "willingness to change?" Washington cannot afford to hand over defector Lia Ho-shu to Peking. What is it that the US can now do to persuade the Chinese to reopen negotiations at Warsaw especially after the Chinese had clashed with Soviet armed forces? There is also another pressing problem for the Nixon administration. At present six American yachtsmen are in detention in China as hostages. They were captured near Macao shortly after Liao Ho-shu had defected. Washington has to offer some compromise to secure the release of these three adult hostages and three children before long. The cancellation of the Warsaw talks had come as a surprise to Washington — as also the capture of the American yachtsmen near Macao. **Where does the border clash fit into this pattern of complex relationships? It must not be forgotten that the clash occurred on March 2 when the USSR and the Warsaw Pact powers were engaged in military manoeuvres near the West German border in the background of the highly controversial election of the new President for West Germany in the allied-occupied part of Berlin. Modern diplomacy is like an iceberg with most of reality submerged, and defections, abductions and border clashes are only open manifestations of much more deep-seated under-currents about which the world is generally ignorant.**

In Retrospect

★ **Daily Mirror**

★ **PM Dictatorship & Opposition**

★ **Assassination**

★ **Treasury Language Circular**

IT WOULD indeed be the height of folly for the top leaders of a party in power, particularly during a crucial pre-election year, to think of defecting, no matter how serious the differences or misunderstandings they might have with their leader on any given issue. Although there was not the slightest hint of any leader defecting from the United National Party, though it was reported in the daily press that there was sullenness that the Dudley - Iriyagolle - Premadasa triumvirate had dominated the UNP sessions to the exclusion of all else, the *Daily Mirror*, which is one of the foremost champions of the National Government, speculated editorially on March 4 that Mr. Dudley Senanayake's charge of "dictatorship attempts" at the session was threatening to blow up its edifice.

The paper took cudgels that Mr. Senanayake had not named those who were trying to forge a dictatorship on the country and said that the veiled anonymity was unworthy of a leader of a nation. It asked that those people should be named, hauled up in the dock and indicted on whatever charges they were accused of and ended its editorial by saying "...It would be a tragedy if a man of such distinction as Mr. J. R. Jayawardena, a giant among politicians in the country is lost to the very party he steered back from slump to boom, from woe to weal due to petty suspicions and intrigues." In any case, there has been no crack in the edifice of the UNP. All speculations have been written off as idle talk of gossip mongers.

HOWEVER, Mr. Senanayake's charge of dictatorship at the Kuli-

yapitiya sessions has been taken seriously by the Opposition, as was evidenced from a frontpage article in one of the Coalition newspapers, *The Nation*. In its issue of March 2 *The Nation* has this to say about Mr. Senanayake's charge which we quote without comment "...Special significance is attached to the fact that Mr. Dudley Senanayake made this announcement, not in course of debate at the conerence of his party, but to people generally at a public meeting. He was taking the fight against his internal party opponents outside the limits of his party to the people at large. There can be only one of two reasons for the Prime Minister's decisions to do this. Either the group that seeks to establish a dictatorship in the country is winning the battle against him inside the UNP and the only way in which to fight back is to take the issue to the public, so as to influence the party from outside. Or, as seems more likely the dictatorial group has itself begun to attack the Prime Minister from outside the party and Mr. Senanayake finds himself compelled to defend himself publicly. Either way the matter is too serious to permit the Prime Minister to treat the conspiracy to set up a dictatorship in Ceylon as his own private affair, or as an internal factional squabble of the UNP...."

The Nation went on to ask, "Firstly, who precisely are the people who sought to push him aside and set up a dictatorship? Secondly, how were these people seeking to achieve their illegal aims? Thirdly, do these people continue to plot against him, the elected Prime Minister of this country, and against the existing Constitution?"

UGLY SCENES broke out in the House of Representatives when the Prime Minister was on his feet replying to a statement on the alleged plot made by the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike. The immediate cause for the rumpus was due to the mishearing of a question put to the Prime Minister by Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, who asked "Who was responsible which was heard by the Prime Minister as "You were responsible."

Mrs. Bandaranaike's and the Prime Minister's statements were summed up by the *Daily Mirror* as follows: "Mrs. Bandaranaike said that a person who had declared himself to be the intended assassin had confessed to her that there had been a plot to assassinate her. Thereupon she had informed the Inspector-General of Police who came to her residence personally and questioned the informant. The informant had repeated to the police precisely what he had told her in the presence of Mr. Felix R. D. Bandaranaike, Mr. T.B. Ilangaratne, and Mr. Maithripala Senanayake. But when the informant was taken to the CID office, she said, that he had disappeared from the place and had been subsequently traced by Inspector Bennet Perera after four hours or so. According to her, the informant had gone back on his statement only after he marked his re-appearance in the CID office.

The Prime Minister in his reply confessed that he had nothing to hide and would be tabling in the House all relevant documents. The police investigations, he said, had only revealed that the information of a plot to kill Mrs. Bandaranaike was a "hoax". The Premier also told the House that the police had volunteered to afford every protection to Mrs. Bandaranaike. He said that the police had also requested her to select any officers she wanted to act as security men."

COMMENTING on the assassination plot the Communist weekly *Forward* in a frontpage report said, "The decision of the monopoly newspapers and the CID to

dismiss as a 'hoax' the information given to the police about a plot to assassinate Mrs. Bandaranaike is obviously Government inspired. It only serves to emphasise that both the present government and the police are more concerned with partisan political manoeuvres than with the life and safety of one of the country's leading citizens. The monopoly newspapers of the Lake House group — have suggested that the whole story was concocted by the Opposition to win sympathy for Mrs. Bandaranaike and "to distract attention from the UNP sessions." Yet in the very same breadth the *Daily News* (25/2) boasts that it as the first to break this news in its issue of February 23. In point of fact, the story of the plot to kill Mrs. Bandaranaike was first retailed to the public by such anti-*Opposition stalwarts* as Lake House and the new daily newspaper of Mr. Edmond Wickremasinghe. Not a single one of the *Opposition newspapers* published anything about the matter even though they were aware that the CID was investigating the information laid before it. In fact, the conduct of Mrs. Bandaranaike and the *Opposition leaders* in this matter had been such that no sensible person could accuse them of a political stunt...."

In conclusion the *Forward* exhorted the people to be vigilant and not allow the reactionaries to use despicable means to disrupt the United Front that they had built up with such love and care and hope.

The *Sun* which published the full text of a Treasury Circular setting out the language policy of the Government, reported that a wide segment of the *Opposition* claimed that the Government had conceded to the demands of the Federal Party for complete autonomy, Tamil language — wise in respect of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. It also reported that several Members of Parliamentary Group had decided to request the Prime Minister to withdraw the circular.

The *Daily Mirror*, however, reported that the Government had not deviated from its policy governing

the Official Language Act or the Tamil Language (Special Provisions) regulations. The report quoted Treasury sources as saying that the circular merely clarified the position of the public servants in relation

to the regulation which were already in force and how they should be set about implementing them lest the public servants misinterpreted them.

KAUTILIYA

Algeria

Signs Contract With The Soviet Union To Build Dams

Algiers,

A general contract on the setting up of a Soviet organisation to handle the construction of dams and irrigation systems in Algiers has been signed in Algiers recently. In this connection a *Novosti Press Agency* correspondent asked Serfim Ivanov, head of general department for water management building abroad and member of collegium of the USSR Ministry of amelioration and water Economy, to answer a few questions. "What technical assistance in irrigational development did the Soviet Union render to the Algerian Republic before the signing of the contract?"

OVER 60 bore holes were drilled to depths varying from 100 to 1,700 metres in the southern regions of the country and the Sahara with the aid of Soviet experts. All of these wells, with few exceptions, have produced water and this enabled them to supply water to many villages and to irrigate large fig growing plantation areas. Very valuable recommendations in the agrotechnics of irrigation farming for the various regions of the Republic have been worked out by Soviet scientists and experts following many years' investigations. During the same period the Soviet experts have completed and handed over to the Algerian side 18 dam projects.

The design of another three such dams is on the way to completion. These dams will help irrigate up to 10,000 hectares of new fertile lands and plant cereals, olives and fruit orchards there. Of these dams, two

have been built by now. They will help irrigate more than 1,500 hectares of land. Why is a Soviet building organisation set up in Algeria? The Algerian government strives to develop the national economy and to raise the living standards of the people. The increase in agricultural production is a vital problem. Its solution depends on irrigation farming which is of tremendous importance in Algerian climate.

IT is well known that the Soviet Union has a great experience in irrigation construction and possesses up-to-date equipment and skilled personal. The USSR has built hundreds of irrigation projects. The Aswan High Dam, one of the biggest in the world, is being built with the aid of Soviet experts and machinery in the United Arab Republic. The Soviet expert help and machinery was used in the construction of the Jelalabad irrigation system in Afghanistan and water conservancy projects in other countries. Taking this into account the Algerian side approached the Soviet government with a request to set up a specialised agency in Algeria to further the construction of the dams projected by Soviet experts.

The contract also provides for the training and probation of Algerian engineers and technicians at the projects being built by the Soviet building organisation. "What else does the contract provide for?" The Soviet organisation will launch the construction of a dam on the Beni-Zeed river in the Constantine department. The dam will help irrigate

about 2,000 hectares of land. Some more projects will be built afterwards. A group of Soviet surveyors will shortly leave for Algeria. The delivery of equipment such as drilling rigs, geodetical and hydrological

instruments for this work has just begun. Earth-digging machines such as excavators, scrapers, bulldozers and other machinery will be sent to the Algerian Republic in a short while."

lation, the lot of the refugees still remains poverty and hopelessness.

On The Arab Side

Tragedy On The Banks Of The Jordan

by J. Dziedzic

J. Dziedzic, Correspondent of the Polish Tribuna Ludu who has recently returned from a visit to a number of countries of the Middle East, has written about the tragic consequences of Israel's aggression and the position of Arab refugees in an article an abridged version of which the APN herewith offers to its readers.

"The fate of the refugees in our country is tragic, indeed," is what Ahmed Toukan, Vice Premier of the government of Jordan said regarding the position of the Palestinians. A confirmation there of may be found in Amman itself. Formally, there are no refugee camps in the city, but all you have to do is to descend from Jebel Amman, a district where diplomatic representations and government institutions are located, down to the market places to grow convinced that the capital of Jordan is simply flooded with refugees — people who were driven away from the western bank of the Jordan river or even from the Ghaza sector. In the streets of Amman you can often see men, women and children dressed in clothes worn by the inhabitants of the environs of Jerusalem, Hebron, Nablus, and other Arab territories seized by Tel-Aviv. Those who keep scurrying along the crowded streets of Amman are either "fortunate people" who have found some sort of shelter with relatives or acquaintances or the inhabitants of camps whom the hope of finding some sort of an earning keeps chasing to the squares and market places of the large city.

IN NO other city of the Arab East will you find such a mass of street vendors as in Amman who offer their unpretentious goods — some second-hand clothes, home-made sweets, chewing gum, matches or cigarettes. The despair and hopelessness of this form of struggle for subsistence are frightening, for there simply is nobody to buy all these goods — there is not even any occasional work to be found anywhere in the city. Refugee camps enclose Amman in a dense circle, covering entire hectares crowded with tents. One of the largest camps, BEKA is located several kilometres from the capital of Jordan along the Damascus highway. The rest of the camps are either to the south of the city or in the northern mountain regions.

More than 150,000 people who fled from the horrors of war and occupation after Israel's June 1967 war, are dragging out a miserable existence today. Many of them were driven out of their native places by the Israelis already some twenty years ago and are wandering from place to place still.

The UNRWA — UN relief and works agency for Palestine refugees in the near east — distributes foodstuffs and organizes classes for children and youths, who make up almost half the population of these camps. Although the situation has improved compared with last year, when water was brought in special tanks and distributed in meagre portions among the popu-

A partisan movement emerged in Palestine as a sign of the people's protest against Israel's aggression, against the stand adopted by Tel-Aviv's allies, against the sufferings and poverty of hundreds of thousands of refugees. I had the chance of meeting them in Cairo, Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad and Amman. The Palestinian resistance movement is not united. The first attempts are now being made to coordinate the military and political activities of the different groups, a leading place among which is held by the Al - Fatah, whose members are the most active participants in the military operations and are organizers of armed resistance on occupied territories. The Palestinians, who are Arab people with a highly developed feeling of national consciousness, do not have their own state. They are struggling against the aftermath of Israel's aggression, as for their own motherland and their own state.

Letter To The Editor

Ceylon's Earnings From Tourism

Sir,

Are a few unscrupulous travel agents holding the country to ransom in regard to Ceylon's foreign exchange earnings from tourism?

This question must be immediately investigated, together with the gem smuggling racket to which it is closely allied. As one newspaper had it in large headlines — the Big Swindle in Tourism goes on unchecked while the nation is in dire need of foreign exchange.

Our reported earnings last year were only Rs. 10 million, which is very little after the heavy expenditure cumulatively of Rs. 17 million on the Ceylon Tourist Board — I give the grants allocated — on an investment

of Rs. 7.5 million for improving resthouses etc. on the Hotels Corporation. This sum of Rs. 10 million was earned twice before on less than one-twentieth the investment, and in fact more was earned — Rs. 11 million. Ceylon's actual earnings should have been about Rs. 36 million last year plus Rs. 200 million or more, (one newspaper estimate was Rs. 350 to 400 million) on gems smuggled out of the island. The fact remains that Ceylon is still not getting the foreign exchange benefits due from tourism although this matter has been thrashed out time and again for the past seven years.

Many thousands of charter flight tourists arrive in Ceylon with empty pockets, or nearly empty pockets, to spend two weeks in Ceylon. They are whisked off to private bungalows, and nobody seems to care what happens after that. Occasionally, the Press headlines cases of tourists caught with gems at the Customs which they have paid for by personal cheques or arranged to pay forward to foreign bank accounts in Switzerland. There was one glaring case where even the Swiss Bank account numbers were revealed when the local travel operator had arranged for the deposit of fifty percent of the sale price of the tours to his Swiss bank on a numbered account. All this makes nonsense of Ceylon's tourist drive.

In this climate for tourism, no genuine travel agent has much of a chance of competing on prices since the racketeer travel agent undercuts them by quoting very low prices, which amount almost to free tours, by using the gem smuggling business and the currency black-market as the cover and the cushion for ridiculous prices. The racketeers cover up by showing sale prices in printed folders, but collect abroad while paying for hotel and tour services from local funds. A small percentage is allowed to pass through the normal channels; but the bulk is stored abroad. Never has tourism sunk to such a low level as now by the unfettered activities of these travel racketeers who are holding the country to ransom.

Even the foreign travel trade Press is doctored by these racketeers. A small group meet them, give them a good time and some gems — or send the gems to their foreign addresses — and this means that no probe is made into earnings. It is this group which feigned great interest in tourism at the change of the government through coached operatives placed in key positions to win the ear of politicians. Now they have brought tourism back to base — more tourists come, but earnings are only Rs. 10 million. They are now nursing the big wigs of both large political parties with their theories of tourism etc to keep on the good side.

The Rs. 10 million earned represents less foreign exchange than when Rs. 10 million was earned before. That is the main point. Last year's earnings were less because of purchases of foreign exchange at higher prices after the devaluation and the Fees scheme came into operation. They are encouraging people to talk of the rupee earnings but are silent about the foreign exchange equivalent. They have made the tourist drive a real farce. And they pay no taxes on sums salted away abroad.

Remember the terrific campaign run in the foreign and local Press about the virgin purity of travel agents in Ceylon some years back? It is the same thing going on now, in another guise. Ceylon and the genuine travel agent are the losers. Well established travel agents who have done genuine business for about 20 years are helpless to act as the racketeers are well organised in almost every body connected with tourism.

The king pins of those travel rackets live in a Colombo suburb where their activities do not come under much notice. They are aided by another pair with close connexions on a personal basis with the authorities; this pair deals in the migration racket and collects their gains in Australia.

Minor officials are well in with them. No wonder their real activities do not come to light. If any one

is found to be probing this business, he is seen campaigned against, and soon brought into line with their activities. Is this what the Ceylon travel trade has been brought down to by low and mean activities?

In the old days, it was difficult to become a travel agent without having a proper office and staff and conforming strictly to regulations framed for travel agents. Now anyone has only to print a visiting card, and get in with the boys. If you go to any hotel or large resthouse where there are tourists, you will see the large number of travel agents and their agents operating openly. They hang around the airport and offer free trips to Colombo. Before the tourist comes to Colombo arrangements for exchanging his dollars are completed. Who gave these people the right to hang around the airports and the port of Colombo? Travel agents should be allowed to meet these tourists who have written ahead for their services, not to canvass at airports and ports.

The profession of travel agent has been lowered by recent tactics. And Ceylon is the loser.

L. A. Perera

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POWDERED MICROBES

Bacteria which stimulate the growth and development of crops are being successfully put into a state of anobiosis by the staff of the Kirhenstein Institute of Microbiology attached to the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR. The temporary 'death' of microbe cells is achieved through dehydration. The cells are turned into dry powder, which is very convenient for storing and transporting. In a humid environment the cells immediately revive and the bacteria start functioning again.

THOUGHTS EVOKED BY CEYLONISATION OF TRADE

by Titus Handuna

“Ceylonisation of trade has so far been only in theory not in practice: more has to be done to reach full-fledged Ceylonisation” were the opening words of a news item on the front page of the Ceylon *Daily News* on Thursday, February 27, 1969. It went on to say that the author of the view expressed above “advocated the lawful transfer of all foreign agencies and distributorships to Ceylonese within two years, and that holders of temporary resident permits and stateless persons do not be permitted to engage in trade.”

THIS SORT OF ATTITUDE ignores the fact that much of the trade in this island depends on subsidiaries, established here, of foreign companies abroad, and that no government, of whatever hue or shade, has any intention of doing away with such famous trade names, or their products, such as Glaxo-Allenburys (Ceylon) Ltd., Bata Shoe Co. (Ceylon) Ltd., and the latest of them all, Lambretta (Ceylon) Ltd., the manufacturers of the famous motor-scooter. Even if these companies, and others like them, were to be staffed entirely by Ceylonese, the fact would remain that they are foreign subsidiaries, giants of the industrial world; and giving them a Sinhalese or a Tamil name, instead of their present one, would not change that fact.

These industrial companies are engaged in trade: they are making their products in order to sell them. If an entirely Communist government were to be established here, it would change the present set-up to this extent, that the word Chinese might, *de facto*, have to be substituted for the word West, when presenting an existential picture of the industrial set-up, because Ceylon is very far from being able to stand on her own feet in the matter of pro-

duction, as yet. If Ceylonese possess the skill to do all these wonderful things, they do not possess the know-how; and they lack that sense of co-operation which is necessary to get all these plans moving, without that foreign capital which seems to act as a binding force in these ventures. It is foreign capital alone, it seems, which ever draws a sufficient number of them together to start up something new. It is money which acts as a magnet.

The fact is that the giant combines have established their subsidiaries in Ceylon in order to corner their share of the trade, and to keep their rivals out. No government in Ceylon will ever touch these combines so long as they are on the make. They will be nationalized only when they cease to make a profit. If it were otherwise Ceylon would not be able to attract that foreign capital which seems to be the *sine qua non* for the industrial improvement of any developing country.

If we accept this fact, let us turn next to the older established pattern of trade — the agency houses and the traditional exports. These make a good whipping-boy. It may well be that tea, for many years to come, will be the chief earner of foreign exchange for this island, however much the price of tea may drop, and however much the tea trade itself may contract. Its share of the export market at present, a lion's share, will not let tea be easily displaced as the chief foreign exchange earner, short such a catastrophe as hit the coffee trade many, many years back. None the less, all the facts, such as the growth of instant coffee, seem to point to the truth that tea as a growing trade, so far as Ceylon is concerned, is dead. This seems to be made doubly certain by East Africa blossoming out as an ideal tea garden

with its easy access route to Europe, down the Nile. Furthermore, the East African tea plucker can be paid as little in 1969 as the Indian tea plucker was paid when tea was first started in Ceylon, for the basic wage of an African servant eight years ago was a mere Rs. 20 a month, or Rs. 25 without food; it may have risen little since then. From all this it would appear obvious that the complete Ceylonisation of the older traditional patterns of trade is going to accomplish little more than provide “more jobs for the boys.”

THERE IS ANOTHER FRONT on which such a policy would be wrong, and that is by playing into the hands of the big industrial combines, with their net-work of worldwide subsidiaries, bearing tags such as “Ceylon”, “India”, and so on, whose biggest enemy is their fellow-countrymen, the non-entrepreneur or little man, with his determination and guts to oust them from their trade (or industry) by breaking their monopoly. It is precisely these men, who could break the present price rings, and boost up the inferior quality of the presently-manufactured articles, who would be forbidden to lift their little finger to help Ceylonese in a more constructive way by providing better - quality hand-manufactured (until machinery takes over) goods at a price consonant with the real durability of the article. They would be forbidden to try by this policy of forbidding holders of TRPs and non-citizens to engage in anything constructive shorn of the apron-strings of the present suppliers of credit, and their minions, the large industrial combines.

It would seem to be more to the point if, instead of such a policy of so-called Ceylonisation and “conscription” of youth, which was another point mooted, there was rather a general doing-away-with all restrictive practices, whether on the diplomatic front (which includes immigration and the right to work anywhere one chooses), or the industrial front (with its new colonialism of industrial enterprises).

There is yet another front, that of education. What youth requires

today is not really the skill to do this or that. It would seem that what we all have to learn is a willingness and a will to co-operate with others in building a better world, based on rearing new families, enslaved to no one, enslaved still less to the modern idols of a productive or consumer society (machine minded and machine ruled, slaves to time), but rather with a will to work and work always, always in co-operation, a lateral co-operation respecting hierarchical values, on tasks, self-im-

posed, which will lead to our achieving our full vision as men and women having a healthy mind in a healthy body, and with a healthy soul. We have to cultivate all three parts of ourselves in order to reach a wholeness, and it is only by doing this that all economic and cultural difficulties will disappear. Political difficulties we shall always have, for, at their best, these are just the interplay of one man's ideas upon another and finding accommodation for all that is good.

of Britain's hostility, the Indian delegation felt that in the event of the Protocol being not accepted speedily by the developing countries, India should reconsider continuance of its membership of the Berne Convention.

The British Government now opposes the ratification of the Protocol on the ground that it abrogates the rights of authors and that in the long run the provisions of the Protocol will not be in the interests of the developing countries themselves. But curiously, the clause proposing royalty to foreign copyright owners on par with that paid to local authors was included in the Protocol at the specific instance of the British delegates. But all this sanctimonious talk about authors' rights is really a smokescreen to cover the real shop-keeper interests which the British Government is vehemently trying to protect.

UK's Bullying Tactics

Indo - British Clash Over Translation Rights Of Text Books

by Gopinathan Nair

A BITTER BATTLE for books has erupted between India and Britain. India's stake in this conflict is vital because on its outcome hangs the fate of its plans for an early switch-over to the medium of regional languages in the universities.

The issue in dispute is the right of translation. The crucial problem that faces India as well as other developing countries is the production of text - books and other educational literature at a cheap rate and in their own languages. Before switch-over from English to the regional languages can be effected it is necessary to translate foreign books on professional subjects especially in science and technology. But the stringent and the restrictive rules provided in the protocols of various international copyright conventions are formidable obstacles to the implementation of a programme of translation.

At the Stockholm meeting in July 1967 on the Berne Convention, India along with other Afro-Asian and the socialist countries fought and wrested certain special facilities for the developing countries for the reproduction and translation of protected works. These were embodied in the 'Protocol Regarding

Developing Countries" adopted at the meeting. According to this protocol, a foreign work could be translated in a developing country after providing the copyright owner royalty comparable to that given to authors in that country and the transmittal of that royalty subject to national currency regulations. This went a considerable way to meet the needs of the developing countries. But there was a snag. The Stockholm Protocol could only come into effect after member countries signified their accession.

THE BIG THREE of the Berne Convention — Britain France and West Germany have not ratified the Protocol even after 18 months. On the other hand, Britain is actively opposed to the Protocol and is doing everything in its power to scuttle it. It is on this question that India and have clashed.

Even at the Stockholm meeting, Britain fought a rearguard action to prevent the adoption of the Protocol. It raised all sorts of objections. Most of the time at Stockholm was spent on long discussions to soften Britain's opposition. When the meeting adopted its amendments, Britain had no other way but to fall in line with the other countries, in the face

VERY FEW AUTHORS have any copyright rights in Britain and in some of the other developed countries of the West. The actual copyright owners are the publishers and it is in their interest that Britain is now trying to prevent the easy translation of books in India and other countries. In 1967 Britain exported 10 million pounds sterling worth of books — a record for any country. Its biggest market was India, which bought books worth six million pounds. No wonder that Britain wants to retain this huge Indian market as long as possible.

A look into the two global copyright organizations, the Berne Convention, and the Universal Copyright Convention (UCC) which the US dominates, will show, how in the name of protecting authors, some of the leading publishing countries in the capitalist world are extending their commercial gains. Under the Berne Convention, no country could translate or publish foreign works published in member countries, without first getting clearance from the copy-right owner. The term of copyright is a post-mortem period of 50 years. According to the UCC, the copyright period is 25 years and

automatic translations can be made after seven years of publication of any work. But this translation right does not cover UCC Union books published in a Berne Union country. There the Berne restrictions will prevail. This in effect prevents translation of US books, since most of them are published at the same time in Canada also, a Berne Convention member. The UCC has a device to protect Berne Union interests; any country which left the membership of the Berne Convention will not get protection for its works under the UCC in the Berne countries. So if India decides to leave the Berne Union, its relations with the UCC will also automatically end.

India is heavily dependent on professional books published in UK and the US. In its plans for translation these books naturally occupy an important place. But Britain's calculated attempt to sabotage the Stockholm Protocol has pushed India into a tight corner. The Government wants to finalize translation arrangements by the end of February and start work immediately. Any delay in this schedule is to affect the plans for an bound early switch-over to regional languages in the universities.

INDIA FACES ANOTHER PROBLEM — the drain of scarce foreign exchange for buying text-books from abroad. Nobody denies the need to buy important foreign books in various subjects. But the present drain of foreign exchange on text books could be considerably slashed, if translations and cheap reproductions are possible. When India pressed the question of the adoption of the Stockholm Protocol some months back, Britain countered it with a new proposal. The UK Government expressed its willingness to consider an informal scheme mooted by the Book Development Council of UK for the setting up of a Joint Indo - UK. Text-book Board which will function in India and will select books for being reproduced in India in original or in translation, subject to royalties being

paid in Indian rupees. But the UK Government is now cool about this scheme.

This leaves two alternatives to India: one, to submit to Britain's blackmail tactics and shelve its programme of translations and two to quit the Berne Convention and go ahead boldly with its plans for book development. Which course will the Government of India choose?

The Union Minister of State for Education, Prof. Sher Singh, who led the Indian delegation to the Stockholm conference, recently told newsmen that there was considerable pressure in India, to stand firm to Britain's bullying tactics and say good-bye to the Berne Convention. India has to take a quick decision. But since quitting the Berne Union should have to be considered in the overall context of India's relations with Britain, the USA and other

countries, the issue has assumed political implications.

WILL WALKING OUT of the Berne Union affect India's plans for book production? The Minister was sure it would not. There are countries in the world to whom India could turn for good professional books. The Soviet Union, which is not a member of either copyright union, could be a source of great help. So also the other socialist countries, including East Germany and the Nordic countries who have promptly adopted the Stockholm Protocol. India can and should draw on these sources. Prof. Sher Singh said: "India cannot give up its interests for the sake of some British shopkeepers."

A bold statement, but will the Government act according to it or knuckle under British pressure?

From Europe's Hot Spot

Repercussions Of Bonn - Made Berlin Crisis Boomerangs On FRG

by Kunhanandan Nair

Make no mistake, Western Powers are being led by the nose into a manufactured Berlin crisis. During a symbolic five hour West Berlin visit by US President (27 February). Nixon boosted Kiesinger and pledged full US support to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG).

The Bonn-made West Berlin crisis has hardened further. Chancellor Kiesinger, Foreign Minister Willy Brandt, West Berlin's "Socialist" Mayor Schutz and Hitler's replica Adolf Von Thadden of the National Democratic Party have all in one voice re-iterated that West German Parliament elections will go ahead outside that State in West Berlin, on 5 March. Bonn leaders have rejected every proposal from the GDR not to disturb peace in the Berlin area and have ignored every warning from the Soviet Union and other socialist States.

IN East Berlin, Soviet Union and and GDR leaders in high level meetings discussed steps to deal with the crisis short of a war. The GDR authorities announced that its security organs were in possession of proof that West Berlin's economy was increasingly misused by West Germany for the production and supply of armaments. The Soviet Government in a note has requested the GDR Government to control the transport of such weapons and military goods from West Berlin to West Germany over the GDR communication routes and put an end to illegal military activities in West Berlin that endangers the security of the socialist States.

Illegal military activities in West Berlin, according to the Soviet and GDR sources, include recruitment of young West Berliners for military services in West Germany and the

production of weapons and strategic material in factories owned by big monopoly houses in West Berlin. The radio and telephone equipment, optical direction finders, devices for aerial photography, agreements on disarmament and demilitarisation of Germany after the war.

THE GDR since Feb. 28 (soon after Nixon's visit to West Berlin) ordered the frontier guards to block the transport of objectionable military goods to West Germany. If this blockade against military goods continue, half the West Berlin industries will be paralysed. The dangerous military activities in West Berlin have created immense hardship for the West Berliners who cannot exist long without the friendly relations with the GDR that surround this isolated western outpost. On the GDR autobahns (super highways) used for communication between West Berlin and West Germany I saw giant convoys of goods carriers (stopped for inspection) and the consequent blocking of passage of civilian motorcars.

Kiesinger will not be satisfied until he shifts his capital to West Berlin. Fully integrating the isolated outpost into the West Germany Federal Republic, the Federal Chancellory has prepared a secret plan for stage-by-stage annexation of West Berlin.

A Department called "the Federal Institute for All German Affairs" is now busy setting up centres of subversion and espionage outside West Germany. This Institute is also used to systematically escalate the crisis in West Berlin and organise it for their subversion against the GDR. This Institute is specially charged with the task of manipulating "public opinion" against East European leaders.

Politically, this new creation is an organ of Bonn's sole representation claim. The new centre of subversion is headed by Kiesinger's favourite State Secretary Herr Wetzel. Many high ranking Nazis who were Hitler's master spies and administrators of occupied East Europe are working in this camouflaged Federal

Institute for all German Affairs. Bonn's all German Affairs include the territories of Hitler's aggression in Poland, USSR up to Kaliningrad, parts of Czechoslovakia and of course the present GDR and the special territory of West Berlin.

In Bengal

Stable United Front Ministry In Spite Of Teething Trouble

Calcutta,

Terror-struck, Atulya Ghosh fled West Bengal and resigned from the Congress Working Committee. Panicky, the Calcutta Share Market crashed.

These things happened when the results of the State's mid-term poll were announced — a massive debacle for the Congress Party, a resounding victory for the United Front and complete elimination of all reactionary cliques.

IN A HOUSE OF 280, the United Front has 214 members against the Congress Party's total of only 55. Reactionary forces represented by the Jan Sangh and the Swatantra Party have not returned a single member. Most of their candidates have forfeited their deposits.

A break-up of the United Front's strength shows Marxist Communists 83; Bangala Congress — 33, and the Communist Party of India — 30. Although the Congress Party polled three lakhs more votes it lost 72 more seats than last time. This is what happens when Left democratic forces unite.

There is nothing spectacular, however, in the West Bengal poll results as the State's people have rejected the Congress Party as dirt from the very first General Election. In 1952 the Congress polled only 39 per cent of the votes but secured 149 seats in a total of 238. It has been almost like this until 1967 when it got only 127 seats in a House of 280 by polling 41 per cent of the votes.

This time the Congress polled about the same percentage of votes but the seats came down to less than

20 per cent of the total.

An analysis of the poll results shows that the Congress Party has almost been wiped out from the State's industrial areas which have a total of 69 seats. The Party's strongholds in the rural areas, Birbh and Bankura Districts, did not return a single Congress candidate. For the first time the rural poor came out of their feudal clutches to vote massively for the united democratic Left.

THE PEOPLE relied on themselves and were not removed by the propaganda that a United Front Government will mean chaos for the State and Communist totalitarianism. The two Communist Parties together had put up 136 candidates of whom 113 were elected. They are the major force, perhaps the ideological leaders of the Front.

The poll results have completely unnerved the Americans who have invested considerably in building up the so-called third force led by Humayun Kabir and some Praja Socialist elements, Kabir is politically finished and if the Praja Socialists could return five members it was because a PSP unit in Midnapur District defied the party and came to a seat adjustment with the United Front.

Immediately, the poll results were announced American State Department's India Desk Chief, Mr. Mouser, flew to Calcutta from Washington to revise the sabotage strategy in West Bengal.

He held a series of meetings with American agents and his advice was that Communists could not be destroyed by open opposition. They should be fought with their own weapons and so the call to American agents now is to infiltrate the United Front and sabotage it from within.

Well-known American agents started saying that the United Front's victory is the victory of the people. From the beginning the Front is set on a thorough administrative overhauling.

In spite of initial irritations and frustrations the UF will offer Bengal a strong and stable ministry which will restore confidence in industry and trade circles and ensure production in peace and steady returns.

Britain

Crisis In London School Of Economics : Labour's Double Standards

London,

STUDENTS defying authority in Prague are heroes. Even students occupying Sorbonne and sparking off a general strike in France, as happened last May, qualify to have their names written in letters of gold in the roll of honour, not to mention the BBC offering them luxury trips to Lond on to tell the British public of their revolutionary exploits. They can expect indulgence, too, when they are demonstrating outside the Soviet Embassy under Mr. Tariq Ali's leadership.

BUT WHEN they take it into their heads to march to Grosvenor Square to protest against America's dirty war in Vietnam, or even try to express their feelings outside Rhodesia House or South Africa House, then it is quite a different proposition. Not only are strong contingents of police mobilized to deal with them, but all the spokesmen for the Establishment combine to declare their abhorrence of "these Sunday revolutionaries" (to quote Mr. Callaghan, who has never been a revolutionary either on Sunday or on week days).

And when the students take it upon themselves, as they did at the London School of Economics on 24 January, not to tolerate police intervention inside academic institutions, then the Establishment really begins to see red.

We have proof of this in the choice epithets used by Minister of Education, Mr. Edward Short, normally a mild-mannered man, to describe the "trouble-makers" at the London School of Economics which the late Harold Laski had tried to model into a finishing school for radical Social Democrats, British style. "This small group," he said in the House of Commons, "are thugs of the an academic world. They have

already succeeded in closing the LSE whose former free and easy and delightful relationships are known to so many MPs.... They are not to destroy and disrupt, and I hope nobody will underestimate the long-term effects in this country, in an institution like the LSE, in the slow rotting of institutions.... These people are not socialists — not even respectable Marxists — but a new brand of anarchists. Some are Maoists or a new "Brand X" of revolutionaries for which there is as yet no name. They are wreckers who are concerned only to disrupt society. The time has come for anybody who has any influence in this situation to exert it and to stop this squalid nonsense.... I, for my part, will do all I can to support the Vice-Chancellors and the college heads.... and I express my confidence in Dr. Walter Adams." There was much else in this muscular style and even a threat to stop the grants and throw "one or two of these thugs out on their necks at once." By contrast, Sir Edward Boyle, the 'Shadow Education Minister', was a model of moderation.

THE STUDENTS' REPLY was a procession with the chant "We are the academic thugs." As they marched past the Department of Science, they waved their fist at the building and shouted, 'Short we want you dead' and Short out, thugs in." Of course the mounted police was there throughout; when they returned to the school, the students found their way barred by the police.

Dr. Adams and the Establishment replied to student demands by closing down the school and ruling out its reopening till their "conditions" are meekly accepted by the student community. At their rally on 3 February the students adopted resolutions calling for assurance that there

would be no victimisation, no gates at the school and no spying by academic staff. Dr. Adams promptly declared that none of the resolutions satisfied the conditions he had laid down. It was rumored that a group in the Board of Governors was bent upon a long closure of the institution.

What had the LSE militants done so to get under Mr. Short's hypersensitive skin and invite Dr. Adams' wrath? The answer is that they had removed the security iron gates put up by the school authorities and, in return, Dr. Adams had closed down the LSE indefinitely and called in the police. This led to further trouble in the form of sit-ins and protest marches, the biggest of them on 30 January night when some 2,000 students went in a torchlight procession to the LSE to be confronted with a massive cordon of police on horse and foot.

THE TROUBLE, of course, goes further back to the appointment of Dr. Walter Adams who was brought from Salisbury (Rhodesia) to take over the leadership of an institution known the world over for its radical tradition.

The appointment had led to mass protests at the time and there is nothing to suggest that the students have become reconciled to his authoritarian concept of academic discipline which may have been all right in White minority dominated Rhodesia or apartheid South Africa, but will not work in an institution with the history that the LSE has. Incidentally, Dr. Adams had not forgiven the LSE militants the initiative they took during the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in organizing demonstrations in favour of one man-one vote in Rhodesia and their demand that the LSE publish the list of its investments in Rhodesia and South Africa and that its governors resign their directorships in companies with interests in Rhodesia or resign their membership of the Board of Governors.

The National Union of Students which had kept aloof at the start

later offered to mediate. The students are demanding that they be given representation at any meeting to find a way out of the stalemate. This neither Dr. Adams nor Mr. Short appeared willing to accept at the close of the week. Their "toughness" and use of harsh language has only helped to strengthen the militant section further. It is clear that unless the students secure a basis of equality in the administration of the institution, tension will continue to prevail for a long time.

That a Labour Minister of Education should defend Dr. Adams and stigmatize the students who have been carrying out a principled struggle against him and his methods as "thugs" provides eloquent commentary on the double standard of Labour Leadership today. But the idea that the LSE can be transformed into an institution for breeding conformists in 1969 is pure moonshine. Nor is the threat of financial sanctions against the militants likely to serve its purpose. If anything, it may spark off a much wider movement of protest throughout British universities.



FACTORY PRODUCED GINSENG

The annual consumption of ginseng in the Soviet Union is in the region of 200-300 tons. This figure was revealed at a conference which discussed the problem of cultivating this valuable medicinal plant. "In the future, ginseng will be grown at factories," said I. Dardymov, M.Sc.(Medicine). The method has been successfully worked out and tested. Wild ginseng in the Ussuri taiga increases its weight by not more than one gramme annually whereas on special plantations the growth can be eight grammes. It is possible to obtain 13,200 grammes of the root in a year from one litre of nutrient medium in a vessel."

Point Of View

An Answer To Dr. N. D. W. Lionel's Comments On Cardinal's Press Conference On Birth Control

by Fr. D. J. Phillipupillai

I AM NOT a subscriber to *Tribune* nor am I a reader of *Outlook*. Recently an anonymous person kindly posted to my address a copy of *Tribune* of 9th Feb. 69 with a note to see the Comments by Dr. N.D.W. Lionel on the Press Conference given by Cardinal Cooray on Birth Control, which article is a reprint from *Outlook* of an earlier date. I shall be much obliged if my answer to these comments by Dr. Lionel could be included in *Tribune* at your convenience and discretion.

I was sad to note the tone and content of his criticism of the Cardinal. We all know His Eminence as a learned and sincere Prelate. The Catholic Church in Ceylon is fortunate to have him as its head and his orthodoxy is beyond question. It is puerile on the part of Dr. Lionel to accuse him of repeating parrot-like what the Bishop of Cardiff had said or what the Cardinal of Westminster might have written or said, in defence of the Papal Encyclical on Birth Control. Nor does the quoting of Fr. Karl Rahner's words about the public reaction to the said Encyclical make any argument against the Church's teaching on this moral issue. The only qualification Karl Rahner holds is that of being a theologian. Theologians have been defined by an eminent Doctor of Divinity as people who lecture about theology. For a person to be accepted as a Catholic theologian he should base his lectures on Catholic theology and this theology is found only in the Catholic Deposit of Faith. The Pope as the successor of St. Peter and Head of the Catholic Church is the custodian and teacher of this Faith, and the Bishops who are in communion with the Pope share in this prerogative as successors of the Apostolic College.

The Cardinal had recently made a round the world tour to see for himself and study the changing phases in the churches around the globe after the last epoch-making Second Vatican Council. So that at the press conference he addressed he was fortified with first hand knowledge on the subject he spoke about. If the Doctor thinks that the Cardinal's information was prejudiced it could with greater reason be said that Karl Rahner too was prejudiced because his views and his polemics in support of artificial birth control had been rejected by the Encyclical much to his chagrin.

There is a quotation in the Doctor's article from an American writer which accuses the Church of being tolerant with offenders against Divine Law but intolerant of those who reject the Papal teaching authority and of asking them to leave the Church. This is a preposterous statement and a perversion of the truth. Far from telling the dissentors to leave the Church the Pope advises them to remain in the Church and have recourse to the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion and to pray for light and help to accept this teaching. Even in the case of Dr. Lionel who is an open adversary of the Encyclical, none has asked him to leave the Church and in fact he had been given active participation in the National Convention in preference to those who have readily accepted the Encyclical many of whom had to be satisfied with being passive observers only.

In an attempt to minimise the Supreme teaching authority of the Pope the Dr. has recourse to the long

debunked objection based on that one sentence in the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. The dispute referred to in this context was not on any matter of Doctrine or Morals. It was regarding rules of procedure in admitting converts. St. Peter was labouring in the conversion of the Jews and St. Paul set about converting the gentiles and because St. Peter kept some of the Jewish practices St. Paul felt that he was being as it were let down because the Jewish converts did not accept the ways of the gentile converts. But for this sentence, the whole life of St. Paul shows that he in union with the other Apostles admitted St. Peter's position as the Head of the Church and the Chief Shepherd appointed by Christ. As they say "one swallow does not make a summer."

The Doctor seems a little scandalised at the Cardinal's reference to the Church as a Club. Will the Doctor be also surprised if he is called an animal? Surely not because he knows that man is a reasonable animal. So that if the Cardinal had likened the Church to a club it was for the purpose of emphasising some of the Church's characteristics as a duly constituted society. The Catholic Church is entitled to all the privileges of a club and is far superior to any society because it is a Theocratic Community established on this earth to lead mankind to the Heavenly Kingdom.

I wish to be excused for my mentioning what has struck me about Dr. Lionel. He being a Doctor of western medicine has no love for the oriental cultures or beliefs or ethics. I say so because he relies solely on western writers, speakers and periodicals to support his ideas and theories which are also in accord with the ways of the modernists and the neopaganism of the West. The easterners like the Buddhists and the Hindus who obey a code of natural ethics are in complete agreement with the Encyclical in respect of the immorality of artificial contraception. But the western pundits consider these beliefs to be pagan superstition which must be eradicated from civilised society by

means of the western pharmacopoeia.

My humble prediction about Dr. Lionel is that he will be a very successful propagandist if he like Saul of Tarsus turns into Paul and instead

of attacking the Papal teaching authority he set about spreading the teaching of the Church which has been guaranteed to Her by Her Divine Founder. For 'it is hard for thee to kick against the goad.'

West Germany

Neo - Nazi NDP Is Expanding Its Activities Rapidly

IF reports from the FRG are anything to go by, the neo-nazi National Democratic Party of West Germany, far from curtailing its activities, is rapidly expanding them. The party's head, Von Thaden, and his colleagues clearly do not take seriously talks about the Kiesinger government's intention to raise with the FRG constitutional court the question of banning the NDP. And they have reason.

Although formally the Minister of the Interior Ernest Benda has not withdrawn his recommendation to the cabinet on opening legal persecution of the NDP and his Ministry still continues to collect the necessary materials, actually the entire idea has long become a farce.

In fact, the FRG government is scarcely giving serious thought to going to court. Two weeks ago the Bonn *Reuter* correspondent wrote about a statement made by "one top-ranking official spokesman of the FRG." The man, according to the *Reuter* correspondent, made it clear that the government would hardly apply to court, since the general trend in West German political parties now is to fight against the National Democrats by political means."

Why did Bonn, in the face of the entire world, begin to talk about the NDP in so softened-up a tone although only recently the FRG government characterised it as a nazi party?

The reason is simple. Von Thaden is known to have stated recently that if the Bonn authorities ask the constitutional court to ban the NDP, he will at once publish a book exposing the fascist past of many who are now at the helm of the Bonn Republic. The ruling Rhine politicians seem too have seen fit not to take the risks and to play down the whole affair.

This made Von Thaden and his followers more impudent. Now the head of the NDP is talking that even if a proposal to ban is lodged with the court, it "would not mean anything." "In such a case", he told in an interview to the magazine *Der Spiegel*, "we would immediately demand that the trial should open not before the elections, but with our friendly consent immediately after the elections." After the elections... "we shall be discussing this question, having taken seats in the Bundestag."

Thus, the strategic line of the West German neo-nazis has been formulated as clearly as it could first a rush to power, then talk with opponents from oppositions of strength.

Well, does the NDP have real chances of such a breakthrough? All observers, West German and foreign alike, say in unison that it has and very big ones. This is not doubted also by Minister of the Interior Ernest Benda. "The NDP", he wrote in the information bulletin of his Ministry, "has chances to win seats in the Bundestag of the next convocation. This alone will do

irreparable harm to the Federal Republic and to its foreign relations."

Von Thaden once boasted that the National Democratic Party will win no fewer than a hundred Deputy mandates in Bundestag elections. This figure does not seem to be quite real. But forty or fifty mandates can be quite secured by the NDP, as many observers believe. This will indeed give it a serious position in strength. Especially since it has already more than sixty deputy seats in seven of the ten Landtags of the FRG.

Leaders of the neo-nazis hope that for the coming election campaign the National Democratic Party will get lavish financial assistance from many West German monopolies. These hopes, seemingly, are not groundless. There are serious grounds for believing that some of the FRG monopolists would be glad to see Hitler's heirs in the Bundestag.

NOW on the threshold of elections Von Thaden and his supporters are taking all steps to strengthen their party. A big role is to be played by the emergency congress of the NDP which is due to meet one of these days in Bayreuth. In March, the bureau of the National Democratic Party is to be opened in Bonn. And in May the election congress of the NDP will be held.

The neo-nazis are known to have used for bolstering up their positions also the provocative decision of the Bonn authorities to hold in West Berlin elections of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany. It was reported that its Feuhrer Von Thaden plans to arrive in West Berlin at the head of 22 electors from the NDP.

The provocative idea of presidential elections in West Berlin testifies not only to the fact that the militarist, revanchist and neo-nazi forces in the FRG are waxing increasingly impudent and active, but also to the fact that they are in effect acting in a united front. It looks as though we shall soon witness an official union

between the NDP and the CDU/CSU. Such a clerical, and neo-fascist alliance is not ruled out. And this possibility must prompt all genuine democrats and peace champions in West Germany to redouble their vigilance and to rally their ranks.

Australia

Seeks to Establish A Military Arsenal To Meet Asia's Needs

Canberra,

On the threshold of the next session of the Australian Parliament which is to resume sittings on February 29 following summer recess, passions are again running high on the Australian political arena. The subject of the discussion is Australia's "new role" in the world meaning above all its policy in Asia. It has already been announced that at one of the first sittings Premier Gorton will make a foreign policy statement.

Yet even without an authoritative statement by the Premier it is not difficult to see where the masters of the country are drawing Australia into. This is sufficiently well illustrated, for example, by such steps of Canberra as its initiative in setting up a new military grouping in Southeast Asia designed to ensure west's interests in this region of the world. For this purpose negotiations between Australia, Britain, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore will soon be held in Canberra with the blessings of Washington.

PARALLEL with similar efforts' the Australian ruling circles are seeking to establish on the fifth continent a military arsenal capable of meeting "Asian needs in arms", that is, capable of supplying military equipment to all sorts of blocs that exist or may come into being in the future. The existence of such plans which

Australia is going to carry out with the help of Britain was disclosed by the newspaper *Australian Financial Review*, "On the one hand", writes this newspaper, "London is actively encouraging British arms manufacturers to build in Australia, independently or in partnership with Australian companies, plants for the manufacture or assembly of weapons and military equipment. On the other, the British authorities are closely co-operated with the Australian government in developing such kinds of arms which would have good sale prospects outside the British or Australian army."

Such "promising" kinds of weapons include, among others, a multi-purpose fighter, guided missiles, etc. Work on them is being conducted jointly by Britain and Australia.

Judging by these revelations of the mouthpiece of the Australian monopolies which hope to reap profits from the arms race, they would like to see Canberra authorities to discard diplomacy and to act in the open.

DRY BORZHOMI

The dried salts of the Vichy and Karlovy Vary mineral springs are widely popular. Last century experiments were made to produce dry tablets of Essentuki and Borzhomi water but without success. Engineer-technologist Sh Kalulashvili and D. Eristavi, a Corresponding Member of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, have now found a way of converting Borzhomi into powder, without it losing any of its properties. The method is comparatively cheap, and the powder and tablets are easy to transport to any part of the country. The construction of the first Soviet Factory for turning out dry Borzhomi will begin this year in Georgia.

In The Once Mighty United Kingdom

Nationalist Cum Separatist Trends Gather Momentum In Scotland, Ireland And Wales

by: William J. Pomeroy

Great Britain, forced to liquidate its old system of empire in the face of national liberation movements, now finds itself confronted by nationalist upsurges in its home isles. In Scotland and Wales strong separatist rule are growing rapidly, and sparks from their heat are setting regional feeling alight throughout the United Kingdom.

Both Scotland and Wales have long militant histories of working class struggles and have been bulwarks of the Labour Party (and to some degree of the British Communist Party). The increase in Nationalist votes today is part of a general disillusionment with Labor's social-democratic record in office. In England, Labor voters tend to stay at home to register discontent with their party during elections: in Scotland and Wales they have nationalist parties to turn to as an alternative.

Leading the trend are the Scots, who still revere ancient leaders like Robert Bruce who fought the English in the long series of border wars for independence that culminated in their humiliating defeat at Culloden in 1746. Today's Scottish National Party has other reasons for its rise, and other issues, but the proud sense of nationality still motivates its leaders and followers.

THE SCOTTISH NATIONALISTS became an integrated party in the 1930s, formed out of several social, political and literary movements, and succeeded in electing one member to the British parliament in the nation-wide postwar swing against Churchill's Conservatives in 1945. Their remarkable growth, however, has been a recent phenomenon, associated with the failure of the present Labor Government to

solve Scotland's pressing problems of underdevelopment.

Last November the first shock came when the Scottish Nationalists captured a parliamentary seat from a by-election at Hamilton. The winner: a Scotswoman, Mrs. Winifred Ewing, who campaigned on some left-wing issues, including opposition to the Wilson Government's support to the US in Vietnam. The jubilant National Party promptly announced that it would contest seats in Scotland at the next general election.

Since then, the Party has concentrated on its grass-roots organization. Holding only 14 local (city and town) council seats early in 1967, it increased these to 90 in the local elections of May 1967 and more than doubled these, to over 200, in the May 1968 elections. Party membership has grown with parallel rapidity. With only 2,000 members in 1962, it had jumped to 60,000 by the time of Mrs. Ewing's victory, and has now doubled this in a year's time to 120,000. *It is now heading for a membership of 20,000, the fees from which will go a long way toward giving the Party financial stability.*

The Scottish National Party has had a radical tinge to it, which it must maintain in order to capture Labor votes, which are in the majority in Scotland. In the Scottish literary revival that helped spur its rise have been Compton Mackenzie, the progressive novelist, and Hugh MacDiarmid, Scotland's leading poet who is a Communist. The Party stands to the left of the Labor Party in its land program, advocating the taking over of those parts of great landed estates not put to productive use. Certain industries, it says, will

have to be disentangled from Britain's nationalization measures, but it also takes an anti-monopoly position.

HOME RULE has long been a demand in the once-conquered part of the British Isles. It was the demand by the Irish, that led to the rebellion of that island. The Scottish Nationalists frankly call for independence, and have already started to draft a constitution for free Scotland.

Scot successes have emboldened regional groupings all over Britain to raise their banners. The Isle of Man is demanding autonomy, and regions like Yorkshire and Cornwall in England have proposed the creation of regional assemblies.

The British Communist Party has always supported Scottish, Welsh and Irish national aspirations. However, *The British Road to Socialism*, (program of the Communist Party 1958) has stated its position in this way.

"Scotland and Wales need to have their own Parliaments, with powers to ensure the balanced development of their economies within the general plan for Britain, as well as to satisfy the wider national aspirations of their peoples. The withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland is necessary to end the enforced partition of Ireland, and leave the Irish people free to establish their own united Republic."

(The Irish Republican Army or IRA, it should be mentioned, is still an active organization, with the unity of Ireland as its goal.)

At the annual Assembly of the British Liberal Party in September a resolution was adopted endorsing separate parliaments for Scotland and Wales. The Liberal Party, which has 5 MPs from Scotland, fears that it will lose these seats to the nationalists. Neither the Labor nor Tory parties, however, have yet shown any signs in their programs of yielding to Nationalist demands.

IN WALES the Welsh nationalist movement has also taken a new lease on life. Wales has an even longer history of subjection to the English crown, having been conquered by Edward I in the 13th century. The Welsh people, however, have clung even more tenaciously to both their culture and their language. Between 25 and 30 percent of the people speak Welsh, and the trend for this is upward. The annual Eistedford is a festival event preserving Welsh literature and music and one needs to be in Wales while it is he to appreciate the intense interest it arouses. There are TV and radio channels in Welsh.

The rising Welsh nationalist movement exhibited its strength in a by-election last July 18, Labor barely managed to hold onto a parliamentary seat at Caerphilly, which had been one of its safest strongholds. The Labor vote dropped from 26,330 (in 1966) to 16,148, or from a majority over the opposition of 21,148 to one of 1,874. This swing of over 10,000 votes in a two-year interval went to the candidate of *Plaid Cymru* (the Welsh Nationalist Party), the vote for which rose from 3,687 to 14,274.

Welsh nationalism has even more fiery offshoots than its Scottish counterpart. An extremist underground Free Wales liberation "army" has for the past two years conducted a sporadic "war" against links with England. This has been limited mainly to propaganda threats, but there have been cases of pipe lines and bridges between the two regions being damaged by explosives. and in August a bomb damaged an RAF installation, wounding a soldier.

Plaid Cymru officially condemns the bombing tactics and dissociates itself from the Free Wales army, but points to it as a symptom of the tensions created by refusal of the British Government to heed Welsh demands for autonomy.

NATIONALIST FEELINGS in Wales has been particularly aroused by plans for the investiture (formal inauguration) next year of Prince

Charles as the Prince of Wales (Wales is officially known as a "principality", but the last investiture was that of Edward VIII in 1911, a fantastically lavish rite). It is to be held with all the costly frippery of a royal ceremony. Indignation in Wales, undergoing serious unemployment now, has already boiled over in demonstrations, in the damaging of statues of former Princes, and in threatened armed disruption of the occasion. Buckingham Palace has been compelled to back away from ornate plans, to cut intended expenditures, and to hint that Prince Charles would be wearing civilian clothes instead of ermine robes.

The Welsh nationalists, also take a radical stance to attract Labor votes. Their foreign policy outlook parallels that of the Scottish National Party. Temper of members was exhibited in a resolution at the September conference opposing the setting up of a US Army arms dump at Caerwent, which has recently provoked protest demonstrations and marches in South Wales. A paragraph in the motion condemned the war in Vietnam, and one of its backers said that "apart from the horror of the war itself, Vietnam is fighting essentially the same struggle as Wales — to be freed from an alien government."

Both Scotland and Wales, however, are coal mining areas where employment has fallen off sharply due to the Government's National Coal Board's policy of closing mine pits, stemming partly from technological innovations in mining, partly from a great emphasis on new fuels—gas, oil and atomic energy. This has occurred while there has been a general slide in the British economy with which Labor has wrestled ineffectively.

The great "excess" of very low incomes (£650 to £1600) is in Northern Ireland, where 53.2 percent are in this category with some of its countries reaching over 62 percent, in Northern Scotland (45 percent) and in Wales (some countries 51 percent) The British national average is 36 percent. Glasgow, in Scotland, has the notoriety of the worst slums in

Britain, and the fastest growing crime rate.

Unemployment in Northern Ireland stood at 7.2 percent of the working population in September, three times the average for Britain as a whole. In the mining areas of Wales 7 to 8 percent of workers are unemployed. In Scotland unemployment since Labor took office has run far above the national average.

The result has been a general exodus of population from these regions: 250,000 have left Scotland since 1945, and 12,000 are now migrating from Wales annually. Frequently these are skilled workers, whose leaving further diminishes the chances for economic development. There seems little chance that the Labor Government can reverse these trends in time for the next election.

IS CANADA BECOMING OFFICIALLY BILINGUAL?

Premier Pierre Elliott Trudeau, faced with firm opposition to his plan to make Canada officially bilingual, proposed the formation of a special committee to consider the problem at a meeting with heads of the 10 Canadian provinces. The Federal Parliament has already given a First Reading to a Draft Bill proposing the insertion of a clause into the Constitution making Canada bilingual. But at the meeting between Mr. Trudeau and the Provincial Premiers, the four English speaking Western Provinces, while expressing readiness to encourage the teaching of French said the Bill was unconstitutional. In face of this Mr. Trudeau proposed the setting up of a Special Committee of Justice Ministers but declined to withdraw the Bill from Parliament.

Revealing

US Plans Naval Build Up In The Mediterranean

Recently a well-known American journalist, Kingsbury Smith, met with Admiral David Richardson, C-in-C of the US Mediterranean Fleet, abroad the aircraft carrier *Little Rock*. The text of the interview published in the US and West European press cannot but evoke interest: for it is about how the US Sixth Fleet mission is understood by its leader. Richardson is a professional military man. During World

War 2 he served as a fighter pilot in the US naval aviation which operated in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

I find two thoughts of the Admiral particularly worthy of attention. The first: suppose, said the Sixth Fleet commander, Soviet warships suddenly disappear from the Mediterranean. Even in this case US naval presence will be necessary. A commendable frankness! there has been so much speculation about a "Soviet threat" in the Mediterranean which allegedly justifies the presence of US ships in these waters! Now it turns out that the Soviet ships have nothing to do with it: that is, the Sixth Fleet intends to stay in the Mediterranean under any circumstances — for another decade.

The military background of David Richardson in some measure excuses the historical and political mistakes he made during the *Little Rock* interview. Thus, he stresses that the Sixth Fleet marked his 20th anniversary in the Mediterranean in June 1968 and that it had been sent there to strengthen NATO. Alas, NATO has not yet marked its 20th anniversary and the fleet can hardly have been sent to strengthen the then non-existent military bloc.

The Admiral, perhaps, had not yet a high flying rank when US ships—the base for today's Mediterranean fleet — appeared in this basin. Then their presence was justified, as the United States was taking part in the war against Hitler's Germany. The other interesting thought of Admiral Richardson lies in his view of the future of the Sixth Fleet. He would want to have it expanded and strengthened, but understands that the main forces have been sent to the Far East and South-east Asia. "The war is there, not here", the Admiral said thoughtfully. But the comman-

der of the Sixth Fleet does not doubt that his unit will, in case military operations end in Vietnam, get the sophisticated equipment which is being used there.

WHAT conclusions could be made from the Admiral's interview? The United States intends to perpetuate this occupation, as it were, of the Mediterranean sea by using her Sixth Fleet mainly as a means for pressure on the coastal states (including also NATO allies. The same Richardson is unambiguously intimidating them: if the US Fleet goes, they will remain "defenceless..." So, the United States is planning a naval build up in the Mediterranean in any circumstances, even under detente. Sometimes admirals blabber out what is deep in diplomats' mind.

LEBANON ADOPTS THE FRENCH SECAM T. V. COLOUR SYSTEM

The decision was taken after study of a report from a Technical Committee, but it also followed a recommendation by a recent meeting of Arab Ministers in Cairo that Arab States should co-operate as much as possible with France in their information media. Such co-operation would be in return for French backing for Lebanon after the recent Israel raid on Beirut Airport. The Lebanese Television Service has been experimenting with SECAM colour broadcasts for over a year, and French Embassy officials have been active in support of the system. In the last few days, a special mission headed by Armand du Chalya, a former French Ambassador to Beirut and Cairo, has visited Beirut and Damascus to press the case for SECAM, as a result of which the Syrian Government also has indicated its preference for the system. Egypt has also shown an interest in SECAM, following a visit to Cairo by French Radio and TV president Pierre de Leusse.

AFRICAN FRANCOPHONE CONFERENCE

Mr. Andre Malraux, the French Minister for Cultural Affairs, arrived recently at Niwmeiy for the first African Francophone Conference as the head of the French Delegation. 31 countries were represented at the opening session. Addressing the delegates, he said: "Dead empires have been replaced by a vast Republic of ideas with French culture playing the role once held by that of ancient Greece. African ideals are expressed by Africans above all through French culture, which does not mean that Africans are subservient to Western ideas, but that French culture allows Africa to integrate herself within our modern world, at the same time bringing the precious contribution of her own traditional values".

Film Focus

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

The Art Forum in association with the French Embassy in Ceylon is holding a festival of French Films from the 13th to 19th March. The films which are to be screened seem to have been chosen so that they represent the various trends in the French Cinema at present.

The film **LA BELLE AMERICAINE** (*The American Beauty*) is a straight comedy, the gut form of which is unvarying be it a French film, an English film or one from Hollywood. What I mean by that is that the basic theme is a much used one about a man who suddenly comes by some good fortune and the amusing situations that crop up due to this unexpected turn of events. In this film Marcel (Robert Dhery) who sets out to buy an old motorcycle with his meagre savings suddenly finds himself in possession of a streamlined American Coupe which comes to be christened as the 'American Beauty.' Things start moving from there on in fairly predictable patterns. Yet though the theme be a much used one the film is different in that it is French in a way that no English film in French settings or about the French can be French (although this is spoilt a little by the film being dubbed in English so that the characters speak with an American accent). This film is a lighthearted one from start to finish showing an aspect of the French cinema rarely seen in Ceylon. It will be appreciated by any one who does not take his entertainment too seriously.

LA VIE DE CHATEAU (*The Country House Life*) too is a light film but of a different type. It is set in war time Normandy. The Striking thing about this film is it's seeming simplicity. Here the camera is used as a story telling medium (say like reading a light book) and yet telling the story in a way no book can. In a film of this sort one can sit back in a detached way and watch the story un-

folding on the screen, enjoying it without being involved in the happenings on the screen. The camera never intrudes in the story telling no startling fade ins, fade outs, no shock effects or sudden flashbacks. Jean Paul Rappenburg directing his first feature film controls it with a light touch. There is the chateau with its falling plaster, the iron gates, the fields, the farm houses, and the apple orchards. There is Jerome the lord of the chateau and his young wife Marie (Catherine Deneuve) who is slightly bored with her husband and wants to see gay Paree, also there is the war and the big gun emplacements on the beach not far away. Does that bother Jerome? Oh no! he is worried about the apples that are missing from his cellar (It is not the amount really but the principle of the thing he tells Marie). But life does not placidly go on in the chateau. There comes to the chateau, Julien (a spy with a penchant for apples) to organise a parachute landing on the fields of the Chateau in order to blow up the big guns on the beach from behind. There also comes to the chateau a short time later Major Siegfried (call me Sigi) who is billeted at the chateau with his troops. Julien is handsome dashing hero so it is but natural that Marie is attracted to Julien. Marie is pretty and blonde and so it is but natural that the Major is attracted to Marie. Comes D Day Marie conks the major with a poker and runs off with Julien. The Major pausing only to lock up Jerome and his mother in the cellar leaving behind only four guards rushes off with the rest of his troops chasing Marie. Now what does Jerome do, he files his way out of the cellar, disarms and locks up the guards, meets the landing paratroopers, leads them to the guns, storms the guns and is ready bandaged head and all to take Marie who turns at the right moment into his loving arms. Man and wife reunited. There are minor holes in the script and the film I think loses a little of its atmosphere

in the sub-titling, but with its pleasant viewing nevertheless.

Orpheus in Greek mythology is represented as a musician so marvellous that wild beasts and even trees and rivers came to listen to him. The best known episode of his life is of his marriage. His wife Eurydice was bitten by a serpent. Orpheus inconsolable at her death went to the Hades to get her back and the infernal deities softened by his music allowed her to return on condition that she would walk behind Orpheus and that he should not look back. **ORPHEU NEGRO** (*Orpheus In Black*) is an attempt to tell that story in modern settings. From ancient Greece to the Carribean islands in carnival time. From the fires of the Hades to a seance at a medicine man's house. Orpheus who calls rivers to listen to his music to Orpheus who makes the brilliant Carribean sun rise to the strains of his guitar. The film somehow gives an overall feeling of warmth. The people are warm and lively dancing, dancing all the time (perhaps a little too much). The photography is warm, warm hues of red, gold, orange and pink flit across the screen. This sort of theme challenges the director to give a bold and meaningful interpretation to it. Director Marcel Camus' effort is certainly interesting and exciting.

Jean-Luc Godard is at present in the forefront of the so called 'New Wave' of the French cinema, with many prize winning films to his credit. **PIERROT LE FOU** (*Crazy Peterkin*) is not generally considered to be one of his bigger films, but cannot nevertheless be dismissed lightly because of that. Godard is supposed to have said of this film (it is) "life filling the screen as a tap fills a bathtub that is simultaneously emptying at the same rate." The film loosely revolves around Ferdinand (Jean Paul Belmondo) an ex T.V. director who runs off with an old flame Marianne (Anna Karina), and their adventures in a criminal career thereafter. The film has certain excellent moments but as a whole it is somehow less than satis-

fyng. The story moves from Paris all the way down to the Riviera and then on and off to an island off the the Riviera. Belmondo as Ferdinand is good. An intellectual one to seed at one moment he is reading out freely passages from a book that is ever present in his pocket (Robert Louis Stevenson, William Faulkner) and at the next, cool faking an accident to throw the police off his track.

Anna Karina (the former Mrs. Godard) as Marianne (she likes flowers, the noise of music) gives her best at most times. Godard takes some hefty digs at American institutions like Coca Cola and chewing gum. There is a party in Paris where everybody is spouting commercials Odo-ro-no deodrant cigarette ads and others. At one point Ferdinand who isholding a rifle tells Marianne "Do you know that this was the make of the rifle that killed Kennedy". There is also an amusing story about a man on the moon. The filming is at all times excellent, the camera being handled by Raoul Coutard who is one of France's leading cinematographers. Godard here seems to be experimenting with form and colour word and thought. Pierrot Le Fou will I am sure be liked very much by Godard afficianados, but for others on the outside looking in, the work lacks in essence a certain unity, which are certain cohesiveness would have made this film very good indeed.

From Godard to Francois Truffaut another of the, New Wave, giants **LA PEAU DOUCE** (*Smooth Skin*) is a winner of the Danish Bodil Oscar for the best European picture for the year. The film is about marital infidelity but be the theme be it ever so familiar, films of this sort are rarely seen in Ceylon. Pierre Lachenay is a literary critic in his early forties with a wife and child. He falls in love with an Air Hostess, on a trip to Lisbon. One fine day he finds himself separated from his wife and with no Air hostess either. Left out in the cold as it were. The story moves from there on in an interesting manner to a fairly suspenseful conclusion. Lachenay unable to tell a

convincing lie, and somehow uncomfortable about his mistress and yet loath to leave her, at once a respectable gentleman and a furtive lover gives an interesting portrayal. The distinctive thing about this film is the way in which Truffaut employs the cinematique medium to tell his story. His attention to little details, his ability to catch fleeting moods and moments and thereby communicate his ideas visually in a meaningful manner is evident in this film.

UN HOMME ET UNE FEMME (*A Man and A Woman*) — directed by Claude Lelouch starring Anouk Aimee and Jean Louis Trintignant is just that, a story about a man and a woman. The man a racing car driver, with a son in the boarding school and no wife. The woman, a script girl with a daughter in the boarding school and no husband. They meet and fall in love. There are problem s . . . The film is appealing, exciting and beautiful in turn making for an interesting whole. Lelouch who follows in the traditions of Truffaut and Godard uses in this film the technique of the flashback effectively. Lelouch who has always been interested in filming cars, shows in this picture some exciting sequences of the Monte Carlo rally. This film has won five prizes at various festivals including the Golden Palm at the Cannes film festival. One does not have to look far to see why

LA GUERRE ESTFINIE (*The War Is Over*). But not for Diego Moras (Yves Montand) and others of his ilk. They are expatriates from Spain living in Paris. They live in the hope that they can one day release Spain from fascists and build for themselves a Spain of their dreams. Alain RESNAIS shows in his film three days in the life of Diego Moras, professional revolutionary whose fire eating bolshevism has been watered down by the passage of time. He has been too ong in the game to get out and yet he knows that his comrades are dominated more by their dreams than the realities that face them. Fond dreams of a proletarian revolution in Spain nursed for over twenty years, against the reality of a Spain fast becoming prosperous in the touris;

boom. Montand who tries to reconcile reality with the dream and make others see it, turns in a compelling performance. Director Alain Resnais brings to this film a direct approach which is pleasing.

In the selection of films to be shown in the festival one notices a certain similarity which is a reflection of the approach of the French to the cinematique medium and as many differences as there are diretors and directors. The French directors bring to the screen an approach which is at once both entertaining and thought provoking and these films as entertainment or serious fare are well worth seeing.

D. R. A



LABOURERS SOLD

DELO HORIZONTE,

Poverty stricken labourers were sold to farmers for about six sterling (Rs. 108) a head by a slave traffic ring operating in the Brazillian state of Minas Gerais, according to police. Lorry drivers lured victims into the ring with promises of a better life, said the police, investigating the affair in Montes Claros, about 200 miles north of here. The police first stumbled across the ring when they stopped a lorry carrying 58 people, mostly women and children, to Montes Claros. The case was turned over to Federal Police after 11 labourers claimed they were sold to work off their lorry passage and the price paid for them by the farmers. The 11 men said they were whipped out of bed at three in the morning, forced to work under guard in fields and then dismissed when they had paid their price in labour.

FILM PAGE

● **THE HEROES OF TELEMAR** at the *REGAL* reconstructs on the screen one of the most daring and decisive raids of World War II. Without the destruction of the "heavy water" installations in Norway so vital in the race for completion of the world's first atomic bomb, the tide of battlemight have been turned irrevocably in Hitler's favour. The heroic Norwegian saboteurs who completed this mission which saved Western civilisation are portrayed by two of screen's greatest stars, Hollywood's Kirk Douglas as Dr. Rolf Pederson, and Irish born Richard Harris as Knut Straud. An international cast of equal magnitude was assembled to portray the supporting roles, led by Sir Michael Redgrave as Uncle, and the brilliant Swedish actress, Ulla Jacobsson as Arna.

Almost all the Norwegian involved in this true story, remain alive today and contributed to the filming of the

movie. The actual skipper of the exploded ferry, Capt. Erling Sorensen, now in charge of a fleet of ships maintained by Norsk hydro, recreates his real-life role for the film. The factory manager, Alf Larsen, now chief engineer for Norsk Hydro, was frequently consulted, and Knut Haukelid, now a Lt. Col. in the Norwegian Army and participant in both raids was signed on as the technical adviser to the film unit throughout production of this £2,000,000 English epic

● **THE YOUNG WARRIORS**, now at the *NEW OLYMPIA* features James Drury, and he makes his starring debut in the movie. Incidentally Drury has had one of the most harrowing experiences during the filming, and the scene such an intense dramatic reaction has turned out to be the most exciting sequence in the picture. It all happened during shooting on location at Ventura County's Albertson's Ranch in a battle scene. Drury had to dive into a foxhole just as an enemy mortar explodes. The explosion went off before Drury reached the foxhole and was forced to make a longer dive than scheduled in the script. He ended up tumbling awkwardly into the crevice. The movie, an action packed World War II story is based on the novel by Richard Matheson, who writes the screenplay for the film. The Universal Picture in Technicolor and Panavision is produced by Cordon Kay and directed by John Peyser.

During 1944 at a ravaged area in war-torn Europe, a group of American replacements arrive in charge of Sgt. Cooley (James Drury). The newcomers are young, almost untrained recruits, dropped in the midst of a battle. Included are Pvt. Hacker (Steve Carlson), Pvt. Foley (Robert Pine) and Pvt. Guthrie (Jonathan Daly). When they go into battle, Hacker kills an aggressive German and goes to the extent of shooting an enemy who is in the midst of surrender. Called on this violation by Sgt. Cooley, he turns sullen and remains in the state through some fierce combat, snapping out of it just in time to save the

life of the injured Sergeant at great personal risk and injury. After a brief hospital stay, Sgt. Cooley is sent home and Hacker, promoted Sergeant for his heroism, is back in the lines ushering his own group of young replacements into battle.

Now Showing at
**GAMINI
SAPPHIRE**

2, 6 & 9.30 p.m.

Oswald Jayasinghe
Clarice de Silva
in

Jasmin Films'

**KOHOMADA
WEDAY**

5th Week

**KINGSLEY
PLAZA**

2, 6 & 9.30 p.m.

Sivaji — K. R. Vijaya

in

**OOTYVARAI
URAVU**

(Eastman Colour)

Last Week

LIDO

2.30, 6 & 9.30 p.m.

President's Gold Medal
Winner

CHEMMEEN

(Eastmancolor)

CAPITOL

2, 6 & 9.30 P.M.

Manoj Nanda Pran
Helen in

GUMNAAM

Eastman Color

Air Conditioned
LIBERTY

Hayley Mills
John Mills

**"The Family
Way"**

84

Technicolor

CENTRAL

SAVITRI
NAGESWARA RAO

in

DEVADAS

● **THE FAMILY WAY**, the Warner Bros. Seven Arts presentation in Technicolor of the Boulting Brothers' new production, now showing at the *LIBERTY CINEMA*, is the story of newlyweds whose marriage, has not taken on. It is a bittersweet comedy that explores a subject which has never before reached the screen. The approach is straight-forward, there is a sense of dignity in the production that presents the theme with grace, humour and honesty. No pompous social tract, the film shows characters who work out their own problems so that children and parents alike come to a better understanding of each other. Featured roles are played by Avril Angers, Liz Frazer, Wilfred Pickles, John Comer, Barry Foster and Murray Head. Hayley Mills, now grown up and displaying marvellous new talents, stars in her first married role. Cast with her is a 23 year-old Welshman named Hywel Bennet, who makes his motion picture debut in the movie. John Mills and Marjorie Rhodes are cast as the parents. Many other parents are enacted by what the screen credits list as "The People of Bolton", the town in Northern England where the picture was filmed. Adventurous Paul McCartney, one of the world acclaimed Beatles, emerges as a full-fledged motion picture composer with the musical score, his first, for the film. Included in McCartney's vibrant, emotion-piquing score is a hit song, a romantic melody entitled "Love In The Open Air", that sets the pace for the screen romance between Hayley Mills and Hywel Bennet. The screenplay for the movie was written by Bill Naughton. Originally he wrote as a stage play entitled "All In Good Time", later adapted it for the screen with Roy Boulting and Jeffrey Dell. The movie is produced and directed by John and Roy Boulting.

The wedding of Arthur Fitten help of his father, who in his own way (Hywel Bennet) and Jenny Piper (Hayley Mills) is a typical Northern England working class affair. Their first night spent in Arthur's parents' house before departing on the honeymoon trip to Majorca, is a disaster. While the celebration is in

progress, Ezra Fitten (John Mills) challenges his son Arthur to a test of strength, which results in a demonstration of superiority by the father and humiliation for the boy. When the newlyweds finally retire, the marriage bed, made rickety as a joke by Arthur's boss, Joe Thompson (Barry Foster) collapses under their weight. Unfortunate as the wedding night was, the honeymoon proves even more disastrous. The travel agent, Hutton (Colin Gordon) who booked their tour has absconded with the money, stranding them and many other couples. The enforced second night at the Fifteen house is no better than the first, merely more disruptive. The strain between Arthur and Jenny increases. Days pass into weeks and still the marriage is not consummated. Arthur goes to seek advice from a marriage guidance counsellor (Ruth Trouncer). The interview is overheard by a neighbour who works in the building. Soon Arthur's private difficulty is substance for public gossip. Jenny's parents call on the Fittens, and demand that Arthur be forced to do his marital duty. With Arthur at work as a projectionist in a cinema until late night and Jenny during day, the couple see little of each other. Jenny goes out with her young brother-in-law, Geoffrey (Murray Head) for casual amusement. This serves to stimulate the growing gossip about Arthur and Jenny. Her parents send Jenny for advice to an uncle Fred (Wilfred Pickles), who gives the girls some tender sensible advice while she resolves to try to carry out. Arthur's boss Joe Thompson taunts him with coarse remarks and suggests that Jenny visit him for resolution of the problem. This angers Arthur, and a vicious fight ensues. Beating Joe, he then storms home to attack Jenny for disclosing their secret. Next day, Arthur and Jenny learn of a chance to acquire a house of their own. The boy finds the courage to ask financial help. The family bond is cemented, and the newlyweds depart on a belated honeymoon and a happily married life freed of one imposing problem.

<p>★ ★ ★</p> <p>EMPIRE Air-Conditioned</p> <p>Deborah Kerr — David Niven in <i>MGM's</i></p> <p>EYE OF THE DEVIL Children with Adults admitted</p>
<p>MAJESTIC Air-Conditioned</p> <p>Doris Day — Robert Morse</p> <p>WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT ? in Panavision & Colour</p>
<p>REGAL Air-Conditioned</p> <p>Kirk Douglas — Richard Harris in</p> <p>The Heroes Of Telemark in Technicolor & Technirama</p> <p>2nd Week</p> <p>ELPHINSTONE—ROXY</p> <p>Gamini - Anula - Vijitha in <i>Venus Films'</i></p> <p>Oba Nathi Nam</p> <p>7th Week</p> <p>SELLAMAHAL M. G. Ramachandran in Kudiyiruntha Koil in <i>Eastman Colour</i></p> <p>3rd Week</p> <p>GAIETY Mutturaman — Nagesh in</p> <p>ANUBAVI RAJA ANUBAVI</p>
<p>CROWN Rajshree — Biswajeet in</p> <p>SAGAAI in Colour</p> <p>2nd week</p> <p>SAVOY Air-Conditioned</p> <p>THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING in Panavision & Colour</p>

Exploration

Japanese Expedition Reaches South Pole For The First Time

AN 11-MEMBER Japanese Antarctic traverse team, led by Masayoshi Murayama, reached the geographical South Pole at 2 p.m. on December 19th (localtime) last year after a more than 2,500-kilometre, 83-day overland trip. It was the eighth expedition in the world — and the first of Japan — to complete an overland trek to the South Pole.

The expedition left Japan's Syowa Base on Ongul Island on September 28th aboard four snowcars and 14 sleighs, which altogether carried 25.8 tons of fuel, foodstuffs and observation instruments. The vehicle and all other equipment were Japanese-made. The team proceeded southward. Forty days after departure it passed 76 degree South Latitude. From there on, the group was plagued by softer-than-expected snow and the uneven surface of the snow cover, whipped around by strong winds.

On the 46th day, the Japanese team reached the Plateau Station of the United States at 79 degrees 15 minutes South Latitude and received about a 10-ton supply of fuel. Then, on the 83rd day out from the Syowa Base, the Japanese team finally reached the US Amundsen-Scott Station at the geographic South Pole and received a warm welcome from the base personnel.

The route taken by the Murayama team was the longest ever followed by an antarctic expedition and covered a vast region of virgin territory. On its way to the South Pole the team conducted scientific observations and measurements on nine particular subjects: location, altitude, weather, topography and geology, snow and ice, ice thickness, terrestrial

magnetism, natural electric waves and polar medicine. The results of this survey are being eagerly awaited as this was the first scientific probe into radioactive penetration while other radiation-proof materials such as asbestos and tiles give protection from radioactive reflection. The product is thus the first of its kind in the world. The company is filing patent applications in the US, West Germany, France and Britain.

"Paratomic" is usable for walls of hospitals and research institutes using radioactive materials. Demand at present for such materials is established at 1 million square metres in terms of paratomic of Yen 1,500 million in value. Demand for paratomic is expected to increase with the development of the atomic energy industry.

Giken Kogyo intends to produce Yen 10 million worth of paratomic per month for the time being and to double the output next year. In using paratomic, the cost will be Yen 2,500 per square metre, Yen 500 to Yen 1,000 higher than lead.

Open This Month

USSR's Energomashexport To Exhibit Electrical Goods

Moscow,

In 1969 the Soviet foreign trade association Energomashexport will participate in numerous fairs and exhibitions. The association will be extensively represented at the Leipzig Fair which opens this month and which features mostly electrical engineering products. Energomash-

export will show about 100 exhibits there. The association exports its products to more than 50 countries and its export list is big and varied. It includes big hydraulic turbines, high-voltage equipment, electro-thermal and welding machinery, Soviet welding and electro-thermal machinery is much in demand in many industrial countries such as Japan, Italy, Britain, France, Poland, the GDR, Belgium and the FRG. Compactness, small weight and high efficiency explain their popularity in international markets. Energomashexport exports diesel and electric locomotives to many European countries. Soviet locomotives meet with recognition and favourable attitude of the foreign business circles. This is not accidental, as the USSR ranks first in electrified track mileage and Soviet specialists have important achievements in developing high-speed locomotives. The possibilities of the association are big enough: about 500 fully modern enterprises are working under the Energomashexport programme.

Last year the association increased its exports of power generating and other electrical engineering equipment by more than one-third as compared with 1967. This is an important increase if one remembers that Energomashexport business runs into millions of roubles. In 1968 Energomashexport signed big contracts with the GDR, Poland, Morocco, Columbia, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Iran and other countries. The association took part in numerous fairs and exhibitions in five countries. Each of them brought dozens of contracts and new clients to Energomashexport. This year the association has already delivered big amounts of equipment to other countries. Its representatives conducted talks with foreign firms with which they hope to sign advantageous contracts. Besides the Leipzig Fair, Energomashexport will participate in exhibitions in Japan, France, Britain, Belgium and Bulgaria.