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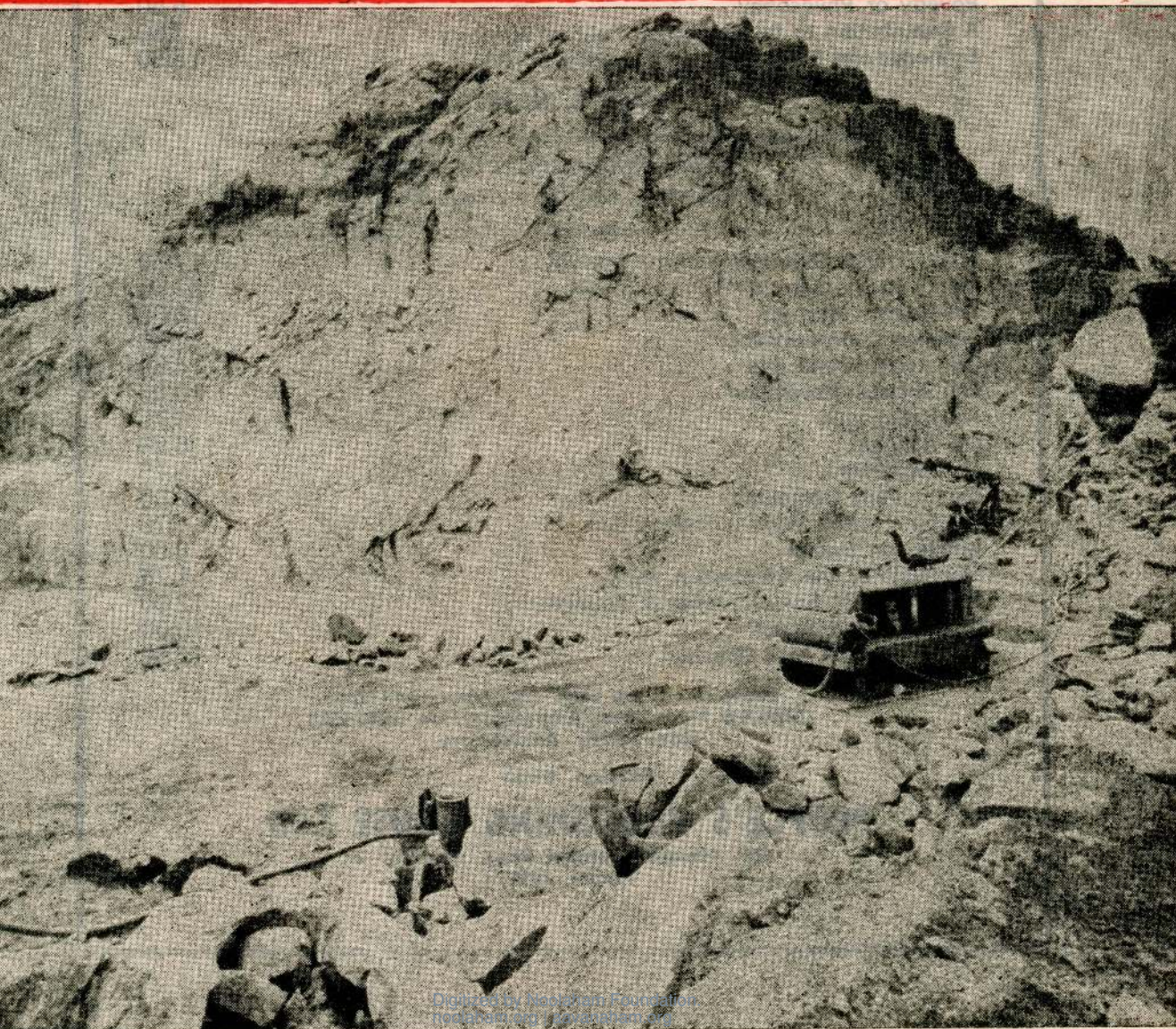
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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ON THE COVER we have a picture of a site in the Maduru Oya project during an early stage of its construction. In less than two months this scheme will become operational. Already the Ulhitiya Reservoir has been inaugurated. "The Ulhitiya reservoir in the Mahiyangana area will supplement the flow of water to the Maduru Oya reservoir. The Ulhitiya reservoir can only be called as a balancing reservoir along with the Ratkinda reservoir whereby the water is stored from the Minipe right bank canal. The Minipe right bank canal has as its main function to carry the surplus water from the Mahaweli ganga and on the way providing water to system C in the Mahiyangana area and also augmenting the Maduru Oya reservoir which cannot exist by itself as it does not have adequate water from his own catchment. Therefore without the Ulhitiya reservoir, one could clearly say, that there will be an inadequate flow of water to the Maduru Oya reservoir". It has also been pointed out that "The Ulhitiya reservoir, once it begins to function, will not only irrigate around 130,000 acres, but will also supplement the water for irrigating land in the Maduru Oya area which is about another 100,000 acres. The Ulhitiya reservoir can be considered vital for the down-stream development of the Mahaweli programme. The work on the Maduru-Oya reservoir under the accelerated Mahaweli programme has also now been completed. The Maduru-Oya dam is scheduled to be open in June this year. This is no doubt a proud achievement. The Ulhitiya dam was built by the River Valleys Development Board on the basis of the designs done by the Irrigation Department and the UK Consultants as that of the Victoria Dam. The Ulhitiya and the Randenigala dams apart from the designs has been entirely a Sri Lankan effort. The construction itself on the Ulhitiya dam was begun in March 1979 where the work was begun to construct a dam across the Ulhitiya Oya which would have a storage capacity of 110 million cubic metres of water. The maximum height of the dam is approximately 25 metres and the length is about 2.8 miles. The work on the dam itself was completed by the RVDB in June 1982, seven months ahead of schedule. The Ulhitiya Oya is a right bank tributary of the Mahaweli ganga. The Ulhitiya reservoir is an earth dam and has a catchment area of approximately 25 square kilometres. The Ulhitiya reservoir also gets water from the Minipe anicut. Thereby, water from the Ulhitiya dam flows to the adjoining Ratkinda reservoir which has been built on a tributary of the Ulhitiya Oya. Further a tunnel connects the Ratkinda reservoir to the newly constructed Maduru Oya dam. Therefore, one could undoubtedly say that the Ulhitiya reservoir becomes the 'heart' for the distribution of water to the lands on the right bank of the Mahaweli ganga which would be about 250,000 acres in the two areas known as system C or Mahiyangana or system B or Maduru-Oya. . . . . President J.R. Jayewardene on Saturday April 9 when he commissioned the Ulhitiya Reservoir said that all the projects under the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Program would be completed before 1989. "When we embarked on this program in 1978", he said, "our opponents said we would never be able to finish this project in the time we had set for it. They said we were foolish to undertake this program. Today we are completing the various projects under the Mahaweli Development Program one by one. Who are the foolish ones? If we were foolish they are the wise ones; if we are wise they are the fools." There is no doubt that the progress of work in the Accelerated Mahaweli Scheme has come as a surprise to many people.

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## On Taxation

The Sixth Budget of Mr. Ronnie de Mel now sits heavily on the people. We have so far not made any comment on it because this Budget called for examination and study. Researchers who help *Tribune* by making indepth studies about different aspects of our developing economy have now begun to send in their reports and what we say below is the result of such investigation.

Overburdened with the task of balancing heavy Budget deficits, the Minister of Finance and Planning very often resorts to foreign aid, grants and other leading institutions elsewhere. So much so our Budgets in the recent past have become outward" looking rather than "inward" looking. The liberalisation of the economy and the development projects of the government have helped the emergency of thousands of big and small businessmen. But it is a sad story when it comes to the question of trade. *The burden of tax continues to fall heavily on the shoulders of "traditional" tax payers and the mass of people. The Business Turnover Tax (BTT) which is its origin was supposed to be an indirect tax has become more direct than the Income Tax. Businessmen no longer absorb the Turnover Tax but pass it on to the consumer. As a result the BTT in certain cases has become a double tax.*

The recent Budget proposals saddled the businessman and consumer with fresh taxes. The reason behind the proposals was supposed to be administrative convenience. Could not the government have achieved the same objective by eliminating wasteful expenditure and tightening the loose ends in fiscal control? **Is the government unaware of the number of businessmen who do not pay tax? Has a census been taken of the number of businessmen in Sri Lanka? Is there any coordination between the Inland Revenue and Business Registration Department and Motor Traffic Department? Is there any proper coordination between the lending institutions and Inland Revenue? A trickle may fall into the shallow ponds of the Inland Revenue but rivers and oceans of taxable income escape without any tax. Does the Inland Revenue keep a tab on the Foreign Employment Agencies?**

A mere glance at the Administration Report of the Commissioner-General of Inland Revenue for the year 1981 will demonstrate the poor state of taxation structure in Sri Lanka. According to this report the number of tax payers for whom files have been maintained in the department were as follows: Income tax 95,265; Wealth Tax 21,030; Business Turnover-

Tax 39,129. Besides, there were about 40,000 employees paying tax under PAYE. *Of the above quoted 95,265 files only 19,959 have paid their Income Tax in 1981. This shows only one fifth have paid the taxes. The others have either been exempted or do not pay any tax at all.*

There were of course the benefit of hundred percent capital allowance in operation during the said period. But how much of it was really beneficial to the trade or industries concerned? Are there only a lakh of people earning more than twelve thousand rupees out of a population of 14.8 million. Are there only about 40,000 traders in Sri Lanka liable to pay Turnover Tax Rs. 25,000 per quarter? Is it not a fact that an ordinary hawker at the World Market would be liable for this amount? Are all the transport operators paying Turn Over Tax, if not the Income tax?

It is therefore high time the Government decided on a properly planned tax system for the country. It must have a proper Turnover Tax or Income tax or Property Tax. As observed in Parliament during the current budget discussions, the Department of Inland Revenue should be made to function in new fields, instead of going after the traditional tax payers. *The Government should make a political will or determination to compel people to pay taxes in return for the tax bounties they have been granted.*

It is stupid to think or imagine that development in a mixed economy like ours can take place without a proper control of finances and taxes. Whether we follow or imitate Singapore, Japan or the United States it should be observed that taxation plays a prominent and dominant role in those countries. The burden of the tax should fall squarely and fairly on all those who are liable to pay tax. *The report of the Inland Revenue Department shows that in practice this is not so.* It is also necessary that the Government should be more circumspect in granting the concessions indiscriminately. *First*, The high interest rates offered by state institutions act as a disincentive against risk ventures. A placid and easy going individual should be made to make use of his capital in ventures that may help the economy instead of drawing him to safe money lending havens. Besides it would also aggravate inflation at the receiving state of government's bounty. *Second*, the rent laws should be made flexible, especially that of business premises. The rent control nonresidential premises should be relaxed to help the owners of such premises and government. The "black money" that passes between the landlord and the business tenant fall outside the tax net. *Third*, the rent collected by new residential property owners have been exempted from tax. But over and above they have been given a liberal concession of getting off the interest and qualifying payment from other sources of income.

This is a double relief and the sources that are liable to pay tax should be brought into the scheme. The experience of granting indiscriminate tax reliefs in the past should be a source of guidance. One should not forget the fact that under the pretext of agricultural development big time businessmen destroyed the flora and fauna of the country to gain tax concessions but this contributed little to the development of that sector. Likewise, if one were to consider the concessions allowed and claimed in sectors like dairy farming, poultry, orchid gardening etc., the country should now be flooded with milk eggs, goats etc. But there is still a shortage of these items and prices are high. Why?

If it is the view of the central government that its machinery cannot be stretched out any further, then the alternative is to handover it to decentralised local authority. Under the preset set up this could be easily implemented through the District Development Councils. If the District Development Councils should be made meaningful then they should be granted limited financial authority.

*They could be made to collect taxes from the transport operators, small but "big" businessmen in villages, pawnbrokers in the rural and town council areas, brokers, both land and business etc. These sectors have always escaped the attention of the central government but could be easily made to shoulder and share the development of their respective regions. This type of decentralised financial authority would lessen the burden of the central government and would make the people and local leaders more responsible for the development of their respective regions. All these calls for a political and administrative will at the centre to share power with the local authorities.*

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DELHI SUMMIT —4

## The Nonaligned Movement

By S. P. Amarasingam.

Many readers have asked me ( by letter telephone and in person ) about the membership and other details of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM). Some of them want it for the record. Before going into a further clinical analysis and postmortem of the imperatives dynamics and politics of the Seventh Summit I will set out the basic information essential for an understanding of the activities and potentialities of the NAM.

The Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries was held in New Delhi India from 7th to 11th March 1983.

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The Conference was preceded by a Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Nonaligned Countries from 3 to 5 March 1983.

The representatives of the following countries and organisations which are members of the Movement participated in the Conference: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Durundi, Cape-Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia. Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine Liberation Organisation, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South West Africa People's Organisation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Vanaut, Viet Nam, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen People's Democratic Republic Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The representatives of the following countries and organisations as well as National Liberation Movements attended the Conference as Observers: Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominica, El Salvador, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Phillippines, Uruguay, Venezuela, African National Congress, Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation, League of Arab States, Organisation of African Unity, Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Socialist Party of Puerto Rico, United Nations.

Guest delegations were present at the Conference from the following countries and organisations: Austria, Dominican Republic, Finland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Holy See, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Food and Agriculture Organisation, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Conference on the Question of Palestine, United Nations *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean, United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, United Nations Council for Namibia, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

United Nations Special Committee against *Apartheid*, United Nations Special Committee on Decolonisation, World Food Council, World Health Organisation.

The Heads of State or Government welcomed the admission of Bahamas, Barbados, Colombia and Vanuatu to membership of the Movement and of Antigua and Barbuda as observer, and the attendance of the Dominican Republic as a guest.

The official declaration had this to say about the inaugural session: "At its inaugural session, the Conference was privileged to hear an inspiring keynote address delivered by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India. Her thoughtful and perceptive address was widely acclaimed as a significant contribution to the deliberations and the successful outcome of the Conference. The Prime Minister stressed the continuing relevance of the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement in the contemporary international situation, and emphasised the inter-relationship between peace, independence, disarmament and development. The Prime Minister of India also made a strong plea for unity, harmony and collective self-reliance amongst Nonaligned countries. The text of the address was included by acclamation as a document of the Conference. President Fidel Castro Ruz of the Republic of Cuba, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Nonaligned countries, delivered a lucid and comprehensive report on the activities of the Nonaligned Movement since the Havana Summit of 1979."

In the declaration the Role of Nonalignment is defined as follows: "Conceived in the context of the struggle against colonialism and the growing polarisation of international relations resulting from military blocs, military alliances and the cold war, the Movement has consistently struggled for the all-round emancipation of the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and other parts of the world. Through the years, despite many obstacles, the Movement and policy of Nonalignment have achieved significant successes and have continued to play a decisive role in effort to promote a new world order based on equality, justice and peace. The recent evolution of the international situation fully justifies the policy of Nonalignment, its principles and objectives, as a positive, non-bloc, independent, global factor in international relations. This policy continues to contribute the efforts to promote peace, disarmament, the relaxation of international tensions, the just and peaceful solution of international problems and economic development. The Nonaligned Movement was the inevitable result of the felt need of newly independent countries in all parts of the world to protect and strengthen their national independence. These countries saw in nonalignment a decisive instrument of exercising their full sovereignty in political and economic matters.

"The strengthening of Nonalignment as a broad international movement constitutes an integral part of the profound changes in the structure of contemporary international relations. The Nonaligned countries today represent an overwhelming majority of mankind linked together by a shared world vision and perspective that transcends the differences in their social and economic systems. Their common commitment to world peace justice and cooperation, the elimination of imperialism colonialism and neo-colonialism; the eradication of *apartheid* racism including zionism and all forms of foreign domination aggressive intervention occupation and pressures the acceleration of the process of self determination of peoples under colonial and alien domination and the consolidation of the national independence sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and to the social and economic development of their peoples constitutes an irreversible factor in world history.

Nonaligned countries over the years have given expression to the legitimate rights and aspirations of their peoples to be free from relations of subordination and dependence and to shape their own destinies in accordance with their national aims and objectives. In expressing their international concerns they have also striven for the elimination of all forms of domination discrimination exploitation and inequality and for the establishment of a new world order based on respect for independence equality and cooperation and the fulfilment of the aspirations of all peoples for justice security development and prosperity in place of the present order in which wealth continues to be concentrated in the hands of a few powers to the detriment of the peoples of Africa Asia Latin America and other regions of the world. They have launched many positive initiatives such as the establishment of the New International Economic Order and the promotion of universal adherence to the policy of active and peaceful co-existence."

*To be continued*

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CITRUS PROJECT —2

## Hide & Seek

By A Special Correspondent

Last week, the *Tribune* report on the Field Day/ Seminar on Citrus Cultivation held in Bible on March 26, 1983, by the JEDB - III (Badulla Region) covered not merely the way the different items on the agenda were worked out but also something of the projects' background and history. The report had concluded thus: "... in the concluding part next week we will set out what the Departmental officials had stated

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stated and also something of the highlights of the discussion in which the District Minister had played an important part. Three officials of the Department of Agriculture had spoken on (1) *The History of Citrus in Sri Lanka* by Mr. Tennekoon; (2) *The Cultivation Practices in Citrus* by Mr. A. O. C. de Zoysa and (3) *Pests and Diseases in Citrus* by Mr. Rufus Pinto, Regional Officer, CARI, Gannoruwa. The panel discussion that followed these talks by departmental officials turned out to be not only interesting and lively but also heated and revealing. The first official who spoke was Mr. Tennekoon, Deputy Director (Farms). He had been substituted for Dr. Eddie Herath, Deputy Director of Agriculture who, it was said, was suddenly called to go abroad. He spoke on *The History of the Citrus in Sri Lanka*. Mr. Tennekoon said that as he had to step into the breach at the last minute, he had only time to dip into a few old files on citrus cultivation. He also said that he had endeavoured to see if the Mahawamsa had any references to citrus and had found none. Having thus dealt with ancient history, he referred to the fact that in some rituals of Sinhala and Tamil people the lime and citrus played a part. This was not anything new to his audience although (foreign) western "experts" who are now an affliction in this country would have been thrilled by such "exotic" information. However, Mr. Tennekoon gave some useful information about various experimental plots and farms the Department had set up and what was most interesting was the data about growth and output. Citrus growers will find this information most useful and the facts collected by Mr. Tennekoon should be made available to all those who are interested in citrus growing. He referred to the onetime successful *Bibile orange* and lime groves and said that it was not clear whether they disappeared because of the dreaded virus or because of bad agricultural practices and neglect that stemmed from insufficient care, fertiliser and sanitation. The other two officials also offered a similar explanation for the disappearance of *Bibile oranges* but none of them ventured to tell the audience why the government experimental plots and even the small state-owned citrus farms have disappeared into nothingness.

Mr. A. O. C. de Zoysa, Research Officer, Horticulture, Regional Agricultural Station, Bandarawela, gave an informative talk on *Cultivation Practices in Citrus*. His was a down-to-earth practical dissertation of great value to the citrus grower. This extempore off-the-cuff talk should be made available to all citrus-growers. Unfortunately, the organisers of the Seminar had not made any arrangements to tape-record these lectures so that transcript could be made. Mr. de Zoysa should make his notes with practical hints and guidelines available to the citrus growing farmers. Is it too much to expect the Department of Agriculture to do it? If the Department, for whatever reason, is unable to do it, then

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the manuscript should be offered to private organisations or individuals who are known to be willing to propagate such information. *Tribune* will be happy to publish the same and organisations or individuals to fund reprints in large numbers (in the three languages can easily be found).

Whilst Mr. A. O. C. de Zoysa confined his talk to practical realities, Mr. Rufus Pinto, Regional Officer, CARI (Central Agricultural Research Institute), Gannoruwa, Peradeniya, sermonised (in the most patronising bureaucratic manner softened by an uneasy attempt at light humour of a special variety) the planter audience whom he presumably thought were "ignorant" super-kanganies and also the few outsiders present obviously regarded as illiterate louts. Mr. Pinto soared into the lofty heights of an academism (paranetically reducing his technological flights of fancy into simple "basic" English jargon). He jumbled a few after-dinner jokes (mixing his metaphors) to convey what he thought was an agriculturally untutored audience a few simple facts about *Pests and Diseases*. He waved a few Yankee leaflets wildly in the air and said that those who had the fortune or misfortune to read any book, leaflet or literature on citrus pests and diseases would not venture to grow citrus (or any other crops). *With departmental officials flaunting this kind of frightening philosophy, it is no wonder that horticulture in Sri Lanka instead of going forward has actually gone backwards in the last forty years.*

Some of the JEDB officials who had spoken had referred to the difficulties of obtaining planting materials: that local ones of good quality were not available and that permits were not granted to import them especially budwood. Against these mild protests from JEDB officials (who, unfortunately, kept flattering the officials no doubt in the hope that such an outflow of humility oozing with subservient gratitude for their lordly presence might bring some relaxations in the unnecessarily tight controls in regard to imports of planting material), Mr. Rufus Pinto came down heavily. He cited the *Plant Protection Ordinance* 19 of 1924, as amended by 6 of 1950 and 22 of 1955. He echoed the oft-repeated and hackneyed arguments of the Peradeniya agricultural pachydroms about the need for controls in the import of planting materials. *What these gentlemen from Peradeniya do not realise is that with the Plant Protection Ordinance in force for nearly 60 years, there has been virtual stagnation in many sectors in agriculture, one of the more obvious being Horticulture.*

Whether Mr. Rufus Pinto terrified his audience into total inactivity by raising the frightening bogey of Pests and Diseases, is hard to say, but his talk provoked a serious discussion on a number of topics. A member of the audience set the ball rolling. He made a few points which no doubt got under the skin of the

officials much to the good-honoured merriment of the officials. The points made can be summarised as follows:

1. The JEDB should be thanked for persuading or inveigling the officials of the Department of Agriculture to come out of their ivory towers to attend a Seminar of ordinary mortals interested in citrus growing. Such officials normally only believed in home-and home seminars and "workshops" where officials scratched each other's backs in order to impress visiting experts from the FAO, World Bank, UNDP, IRRI, ISCRAT etc. etc. with a view to getting invitations for foreign trips, scholarships, study courses and finally jobs in foreign climes.

2. That these officials should realise that the farming community had a very poor view of the disappointing way the Department and its minions discharged their functions and their obligations to the nation.

3. That the Department followed a dog-in-the-manger policy in regard to the implementation of the *Plant Protection Ordinance*: that they neither produced planting materials nor allowed imports from internationally recognized sources: that even vegetable seeds were in short supply although imports were allowed: that some officials tried to draw a populist red herring across that trail by talking about another "grave threat to agriculture in this country comes from an aggressive group of plant introducers who seems to wield considerable influence in the name of export promotion strengthened by the magic of foreign collaboration".

*Tribune* will deal in due course with this argument and other aspects of the moribund *Plant Protection Ordinance* in a series of articles. At the Seminar, an interesting discussion ensued with many examples cited about how the Department had failed to do what was expected of them. **The officials defended themselves in a spirited manner, but they had no answers or explanations for most of the complaints—only excuses and allegations of unfair, mala fide and motivated criticism. From what they said it was clear that neither Citrus growing in particular nor horticulture in general will get off the ground in Sri Lanka for a long long time.**

This discussion had cut into the scheduled lunch time, and the alert District Minister Abeykoon thereupon gently applied the guillotine. He poured the proverbial oil over the troubled waters by saying that the Department of Agriculture, with all its shortcomings (some of which he said had been pointed out that morning), had done yeoman service for agriculture in the country. But he had added that it was time for the Department to realise that the farming communities

had many legitimate grievances and also a growing volume of valid criticisms—and to do something about them. He also drew attention to the sad state of agricultural marketing and asserted that unless this was remedied agriculture could not go beyond subsistence. Paddy alone was not enough. It was also not enough to aim at domestic self-sufficiency. An exportable surplus had to be produced to make it worthwhile for the farmer. The best incentive for increased production was an efficient and streamlined marketing system. He paid a handsome tribute to the planters and the JEDB in the Badulla region. He formulated a new classification — *planters* (scientific agriculturists), *goviyas* (paddy cultivators) and *baiyas* (subsidiary food crop farmers). For a long time, he said, the *goviyas* (paddy cultivators) and *baiyas* (subsidiary planters) had led a separate and isolated existence from the rest of the farming community. It was a happy thing now to see them integrate their activities with the *goviyas* and *baiyas*. Once the planters take agricultural technology and modern discipline to the village, then the Green Revolution would become a reality.

Mr. Abeykoon was the only parliamentarian present at the Seminar. Many others from the region who had been invited had failed to show up. Mr. Abeykoon impressed everyone at the Seminar as one who knew the problem of the farming community and that he also had the native commonsense how to cope with the problems of the rural villagers.

#### *Postscript:*

Though there had been much talk at the Seminar about the quarantine on the grafted plants at the JEDB Citrus Project, none of the Departmental officials had said one word about the duration of the quarantine.

But in an article in a daily paper a free-lancer (who had accompanied the officials) after laying it thick about the need for controls and the quarantine had said that the Department of Agriculture was hoping to give the greenlight after testing the plants after an initial growing for four years. Why was this information not publicly stated at the Seminar when the quarantine question was mentioned? Is every batch of grafts to be tested after four years of growing? Could these plants be transplanted after the plants had taken root for four years?

*No official undefendably, would like to make a categorical declaration that the quarantine period for imported citrus plants grown at the Bibile Estate Project was four years or five years or even ten years because in that time the official or officials concerned would have either gone into retirement or obtained a job in the FAO or in a foreign country? Such are the vagaries under which agriculture suffers in this country. To many it seemed to be a game of hide and seek.*

TRIBUNE, APRIL 23' 1983





**Notice Under Section 9 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964.**

*Reference No: ATH 4/638*

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see Gazette Extraordinary of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No: 239/4 of 04. 04. 1983

*D.R.O's Division* : Hanwella.

*Situation* : Udugahapattu

*Village* : Welikanna

*Name of Land* : lhalawatta

*Lot Nos.* : 1 - 3

*Plan No. P. P. Co.* : 5617

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### DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS- PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO

*CDN*—Ceylon Daily News; *CDM*—Ceylon Daily Mirror; *CO*—Ceylon Observer; *ST*—Sunday Times; *SO*—Sunday Observer; *DM*—Dinamina; *LD*—Lankadipa; *VK*—Virakesari; *ATH*—Aththa; *SM*—Silumina; *SLDP*;; Sri Lankadipa; *JD*—Janadina; *SU*—Sun; *DV*—Davasa; *DP*—Dinapathi; *CM*—Chinthamani; *WK*—Weekend; *RR*—Riviresa; *DK*—Dinakara; *EN*—Eelanadu; *IS*—Island; *DI*—Divaina; *IDPR*—Information Dept. Press Release.

**MONDAY, MARCH 28:** President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday announced that the new Japanese-Sri Lanka combination, the Tokyo Cement Company (Lanka) Ltd., has decided to donate about half a million rupees a year for a scholarship Trust Fund to train young Lankans in advanced science and technology abroad. Prime Minister R. Premadasa left on an official tour of six countries on Saturday morning accompanied by Mrs. Hema Premadasa—*CDN*. The government's efforts to combat inflation the worst economic malady to hit national economies is paying off and right now it has been placed in a single digit figure although unofficial sources claimed that it is between 9 and 11 percent—*CDM*. Security forces who arrested four youths in Muttur and Seruvila recently have bared the emergence of a fourth terrorist force in the violent politics of north Sri Lanka; they have uncovered evidence to confirm that members of this group, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) have been responsible for the ambush of an army truck at Umayalpuram. A proclamation that will make nearly a quarter of Sri Lankan voters to go to the polls again will be issued by President J. R. Jayewardene this week—*SU*. Special army units stationed in the North to combat terrorism swooped on residences in the Trincomalee district during the weekend and arrested twenty five persons; informed sources said that information had been received that there was a possibility of some police stations in the Trincomalee area being attacked by terrorists. The government is exploring the possibilities of establishing a commodities futures market in Sri Lanka dealing with domestic produce like tea, rubber coconut etc. The leader of the SLFP Mrs. Srimala Bandaranaike, referring to the report in yesterday's issue of *The Island* headlined SLFP Row Over By-election Nominations said there was no such row within the party—*IS*. The government is planning to give computer training to Art graduates in order to give employment to unemplyed Arts Graduates—*DP*.

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**TUESDAY, MARCH 29:** Commissioner of Elections Mr. Chandrananda de Silva yesterday informed President J. R. Jayewardene (as required by the 6th Amendment to the Constitution) that 18 seats in Parliament have become vacant. Popular examinations held by the Cambridge University Syndicate which students here sat many years ago, are likely to reintroduced, if the proposals submitted by the Syndicate to education authorities here are accepted—*CDN*. A new transfer scheme to alleviate the difficulties of teachers will be devised by the Ministry of Education shortly. Bogus foreign employment agencies operating under the grab of recruiting personnel for West Asian countries continue to fleece thousands of rupees from unsuspecting locals keen on striking the pot of gold on Arab soil—*CDM*. A large number of local industries will receive further protection when the Government introduces new prohibitive tariffs shortly. The counterfeit notes racket took a new turn on Sunday when a man posing as a police officer got away with 8,500 rupees from the Jaffna cooperative petrol shed on the pretext of cheking on the validity of the notes—*SU*. The University Grants Commission had decided to appoint a panel of examiners from the established medical faculties of Colombo and Peradeniya to examine final year students of the Jaffna and Ruhuna universities to ensure that procedures are standardized and some measure of uniformity is maintained—*EO*. The Jaffna branch of the National Lotteries Board situated at Station Road, Jaffna is now "managed" by a casual lady typist who is a daughter-in-law of a director of the NLB, according to informed sources; she is acting as manager. The SLFP nomination lists for the forthcoming Local Government Elections have been completed and will come up before the Nomination Board this week for approval. A National Crafts Council designed to lead to a revival of traditional crafts has been set up; the Council will improve the lot of the craftsmen in the country organise them and undertake a variety of activities such as holding exhibitions both here and abroad, award prizes and scholarships—*IS*. The Government will give assistance to farmers who have mortgaged their lands to redeem such mortgaged properties; at the same time farmers who have not paid back their bank loans will be granted certain facilities—*DP*. Several Sri Lankans living in Hong kong have come forward to assist in the development of villages in this country; they have also promised financial assistance to the Gramodaya Trust Fund—*VK*.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30:** A combined military-excise operation, considered the most extensive in twenty years, ended last week in the Hambantota and Moneragala districts with thousands of acres of ganja plantations destroyed; the nine day assault involved the use of some 175 men who fanned into the jungle plantations and destroyed flourishing ganja patches and also checked vehicles moving the narco-

tics out of the growing areas. Doctors have voiced new fears about the pain-killer drug "Distalgic" that is widely prescribed in Sri Lanka as well—*CDN*. The existing services of the Sri Lanka Transport Board have been frozen sequel to a directive to the Heads of Divisions of the SLCTB from its Chairman Mr. Victor Rupasinghe—*CDM*. Transport Board buses and Railway locomotives do not contribute to lead pollution in the country it was claimed yesterday; at the meeting conveyed by Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed it was stated that the locomotives and buses used only diesel and there was no lead content in it as in petrol. Multi-access telecommunication equipment is to be introduced to Sri Lanka shortly in a bid to cut down on the capital cost of laying lines—*SU*. The Minister of Social Services Mr. Asoka Karunaratne, will ask today's meeting of the Cabinet for Rs. 66 million to provide urgent relief to those affected by the serious drought now prevailing in the country. Tourist arrivals here dropped from 49,105 in January to 44,018 in February this year according to the February bulletin of the Ceylon Tourist Board. By elections to 18 Government Parliamentary seats are now a certainly as the deadline for the UNP to nominate new members lapsed on Sunday with no new nominations being made—*IS*. 118 tons of dust were been extracted from the KKS Cement factory; this has now been reduced to five tons per day—*DP*.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 31:** A grant of approximately Rs. 65.33 million from Japan will fund the first phase of the Kirinda fishery harbour construction. Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali vowed that the Mahapola Scholarship scheme will not be stopped until every student pursuing university education gets a scholarship. Four districts Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Puttalam and Amparai are in the grip of one of the worst droughts experienced in recent years, the Cabinet was told yesterday—*CDN*. President J. R. Jayewardene summoned the Chairman and the Director-General of the Ceylon Tourist Board to yesterday's weekly meeting of ministers and directed them to stop the cultural pollution of the country through tourism—*CDM*. A package of incentives including tax holidays, fiscal exemption, concessio-nary credit and technology and foreign capital inputs will be made available to exporters under a new export development plan. A request to prevent cart racing during the Sinhala and Hindu New Year season has been made to the Inspector General of Police by the Association of the Friends of the Cart Bull—*SU*. President Jayewardene has expressed serious concern over nudism, drug trafficking and sex offences which have been increasing in tourist resorts and has directed the Minister of State Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis to take appropriate measures to combat them. The long awaited Gratuities Bill giving relief to nearly 3 million workers in the private sector will come into force from today, Commissioner of Labour, Mr. G. Weerakoon said. A large number of import agents

are reported to have defrauded the Motor Commissioner of large sums of money by way of registration fees by under-stating the weight of cars imported by them; this has been brought to the Commissioner's notice by the Department's Internal Audit Branch—*IS*.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1:** Has the Tamil United Liberation Front revised its earlier decision to resign en bloc in August 1983, when the six-year term of the 1977 parliament ends? The proposal now is for its 16 members to resign in groups of three, forcing the government to hold periodic by-elections to the vacant seats when the party secretary fails to nominate a member. A number of students obtained distinctions in all the eight subjects they offered at the last December GCE O-level examination according to the results available so far—*CDN*. Despite recent increases in import duty and upward revision of BTT for electrical and several household appliances and other goods there seems to be a big slump in the market especially for electrical goods—*CDM*. Government will make constitutional provision shortly to give legal effect to Conciliation boards that will settle minor disputes among litigants; these boards will thereafter be set up with the introduction of an act in Parliament. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday issued a proclamation for the holding of by election in 18 electorates in the country and fixed April 22 as nominations day—*SU*. Mystery surrounds one of the most sophisticated and advanced pieces of equipment used in heart surgery imported into the country several months ago, but which has still not been put to use. A meeting of seven opposition parties under the chairmanship of Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike to discuss the forthcoming by-elections and Local Government elections will be held today at the SLFP headquarters. India has gifted to Sri Lanka 10,000 metric tons of rice valued at approximately SL Rs. 46 million as a token of friendship between the two countries. The US Ambassador in Sri Lanka, Mr. John H. Reed and the Secretary, Finance and Planning Ministry, Mr. W. M. Tilakaratne, today signed amendments providing additional funding to three on-going development projects in Sri Lanka—*IS*.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2:** Many opium addicts in Sri Lanka are slowly ingesting arsenic, according to the report of two medical research teams at the Sri Lanka Medical Association's annual sessions last week; two groups of doctors researching arsenic poisoning, found that 24 cases of chronic arsenic poisoning among opium addicts were detected and treated at Colombo and Maharagama in the past year. Police command room last evening altered police stations countrywide for a terrorist missing from yesterday afternoon from the Army Cantonment, Western Range, Panagoda, where he was held under detention after arrest in Jaffna—*CDN*. Prime Minister R. Premadasa who concludes a five day official visit to the Republic of Korea today said at a Press Conference that he

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was convinced that trade between Sri Lanka and Korea as well as Korean investment in Sri Lanka would increase further after his visit—*CDM*. By elections to 8 electorates will be held after May 13 but before Vesak, Commissioner of Elections Chandrananda de Silva said yesterday; the date of the elections which political sources claimed would be May 18, will be fixed by him soon after nominations are received on April 22. The SLFP (M) group is aiming to contest 12 of the 18 vacant Parliamentary seats at the forthcoming by-elections, according to an official party source. A well balanced course unit system is to be introduced by the University Grants Commission as an answer to declining student enrolment in certain areas of study in local universities—*SU*. Leaders of seven anti UNP political parties which met in Colombo yesterday decided to arrive at a no-contest pact to face the coming by elections under which all parties will get a chance to contest the elections in areas where they are strongest; the meeting held at the residence of SLFP leader Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike was attended by representatives of SLFP, LSSP, CP, MEP, the JVP, NSSP and the political wing of the Democratic Workers' Congress. A massive *pada yatra* (a trek on foot) is to be undertaken during the course of this week in the north to protest against certain aspects of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and urge its repeal—*IS*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3:** Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning will follow up the initiative of President J. R. Jayewardene at the seventh Nonaligned Conference in New Delhi recently to cancel the foreign debts of Sri Lanka and other poor countries at the meetings of the World Bank and the Group of 24 which he would attend later this month. Government is making every effort to urge the private sector to supply the local and foreign demand for mushrooms—*SO*. The foreign travel currency restrictions introduced in France last week, has sent shock waves through the local travel agency; this is because France is Sri Lanka's second largest tourism market next to West Germany. The Cabinet last week extended the services of eleven public officers who were due to retire on reaching 55 years of age—*ST*. An explosion rocked the conference hall of the Jaffna Development Council around 4 a. m. last morning, hours before politicians, government officials and Army and Police top brass were to meet to discuss what steps were necessary to combat the wave of lawlessness in the area—*WK*. Public has made sixty five complaints against the Police during the past three months; the complaints include assaults, threats and even deaths of persons after being taken into Police custody. The Ceylon Tourist Board has drawn up elaborate plans to promote the image of Sri Lanka at the PATA Annual Conference scheduled to be held in Acapulco, Mexico from April 19 to 22, 1983. Moves are afoot to organize a joint May Day rally by all trade union federations affiliated to the seven opposition political parties intending to form a common front at the forthcoming by-elections—*IS*.

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**MONDAY, APRIL 4:** A tidy nest-egg for the future is now being credited to the individual accounts of 1.5 million private sector employees who are members of the Employees' Trust Fund; Mr. Cedric de Silva, ETF Chairman said yesterday that an 11 percent dividend on the 1982 year-end balances of members is being credited to their accounts—*CDN*. Sri Lanka's world trade in terms of imports and exports measured during the nine months ending September last year has reflected an adverse balance of as much as Rs.12,372 million—*CDM*. Depressed runner prices which were among the chief contributory factors towards the country's economic ills, have now regained their bounces and are steadily increasing; the higher prices are a result of changes both in the local and international economic scene—*SU*. Rupavahini Services would be "frozen" at present levels until higher quality and technical standards are reached, Minister of State, Anandatissa de Alwis told *The Island* yesterday. A determined effort is to be made to solve the vexing problem of alleged harassment of civilians by military personnel in the north—*IS*. The army and police are making serious efforts to arrest the terrorists involved in the bombing of the kachcheri in Jaffna—*VK*. The police have refused permission for the *Pada Yatarai* (Trek March) that was to be launched in the North and East on the 5th of this month—*DP*.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5:** Seventeen percent of the Rs.40 million collected by the SLBC annually from radio licences goes to the Postal Department, SLBC chairman Eamon Kariyakarawana said; SLBC is now planning to get the necessary legislation formulated to carry out the licensing operation on its own. The Ceylon Steel Corporation, hurt by what its chairman yesterday described as the "dumping" of cheap African steel on the Sri Lankan market, had lost Rs. 24.3 million last year—*CDN*. Private sector customers accounted for more than 48 percent of the turnover of the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation in 1981, according to the Corporation's annual report; the Corporation netted a profit of Rs. 29 million which compares favourably with the Rs. 60 million invested as capital in the business—*CDM*. Forecasts of a bumper rice harvest may force Government to re-export wheat flour meant for domestic consumption; in a bid to prune down the local consumption of wheat flour and thus encourage more rice consumption, the government will initiate negotiations with Prime Ltd., whose million complex is providing the country's requirements of wheat flour. The Colombo Development Council and the Ceylon Electricity Board will launch a joint offensive against those pirating electricity. The Postal Department is making arrangements for a house-to-house delivery of the poll cards in the 18 electorates where by-elections are to be held, as soon as Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva announce the date of the elections—*SU*. The mystery surrounding the escape from the Panagoda Army Cantonment cell of the terrorist suspect Thambipillai Maheswaran has deepened with the Army authorities expressing

scepticism over the theory that the detainee had seen through the window bars. The biggest hurdle facing the Sri Lanka Freedom Party at the forthcoming by-elections and Local Government elections is the shortage of finance according to party sources—*IS*.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6:** The police yesterday used tear gas to disperse a crowd of 2,000 demonstrators who were without police permission marching along Main Street, Jaffna from St. Mary's Cathedral where they had earlier assembled at 9 a.m. The Examinations Department has fixed May 6 as the last date for submitting applications for rescrutiny of answer scripts of the GCE O-Level examination held in December—*CDN*. While the Meteorology Department yesterday predicted that the prolonged drought would end this week, epidemological reports indicated that diarrhoeal diseases had hit the drought stricken areas. Elections to all Municipal and Urban Councils in the Colombo district are due to be held before May 31 according to a circular sent to all secretaries and heads of departments by the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration—*SU*. The Working Committee of the United National Party meets today and it is very likely that the party's candidates who will contest the by-elections will be finalised today—*EO*. The former Member of Parliament for Nikaweratiya, Mr. Mudiyanse Tennekoon has written to President J. R. Jayewardene, requesting him to take action to implement a proposal to make bread out of a mixture of manioc, cowpea and wheat flour in order to reduce the burden on the national economy of importing wheat. The members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna have taken issue with the Party's High Command on why it had consented to a no-contest pact with the SLFP, reliable JVP sources said yesterday—*IS*.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7:** The Social Services Ministry yesterday authorised immediate drought relief payments in eight districts hard hit by the long spell of dry weather; this followed a Treasury green light for monthly expenditure of up to Rs. 22 million to alleviate widespread distress among an estimated two lakhs of families in the districts of Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Badulla, Polonnaruwa, Nuwara Eliya, Amparai and Jaffna—*CDN*. Shops and schools were closed yesterday in Jaffna in fear of reprisals from pro-Eelam groups which called for a hartal in the Northern Province. The Sri Lanka Railway has taken steps to increase its present fleet of wagons with a view to expanding the goods services—*CDM*. The leader of the Gandian Movement, an organisation involved in resettling displaced Indian labour in the north and east was taken in for questioning by security forces yesterday. A Cabinet subcommittee will examine reforms necessary in the courts system to overcome laws delays, it was decided yesterday. A Parliamentary act will be introduced shortly to grant relief to the victims of crime; this act, for the establishment and constitution of Criminal

Injuries Relief Commission, was approved by the Cabinet yesterday—*SU*. Sri Lanka's tea crop for the first two months of this year has been the lowest ever since 1956; the tea industry has identified the erratic weather patterns as the major factor for this change—*EO*. The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna is likely to pull out of the United Opposition Front which is being formed to fight the by-elections proposed to be held in May. Search operations were conducted by squadres of Police and Army personnel on the offices of the "Gandian" Movement at Vavuniya and Trincomalee yesterday and took into custody the Administrative Secretary of the Vavuniya Branch, Dr. S. Rajasunderam; a large number of files and documents at both branches were also seized while the employees attached to these were questioned—*IS*. The Cabinet yesterday approved a proposal for the exploration of oil in Sri Lanka and signed an agreement with an American company for carrying out the work—*DP*.



FROM THE POLITICAL DECLARATION  
OF THE 7th SUMMIT. CHAP. 12

## Situation In The Middle East

99. The Conference expressed concern over the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East caused by Israel's habitually aggressive and expansionist policies in the region. It was of the view that this situation threatened a new Israeli aggression and posed a grave threat to international peace and security. It reaffirmed the solidarity of the Movement of Nonaligned countries with the struggle for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the usurped rights of the Arab people

100. The Conference considered it necessary to reaffirm all the principles and resolutions previously adopted by the Non aligned Movement in regard to the question of Palestine and the Middle East situation and especially since Israel's aggression of 1967. It reiterated that the question would not be resolved and that peace would not be established in the region unless all the following principles were observed simultaneously:

(a) The question of Palestine is the core of the Middle East problem and the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

(b) The question of Palestine and the Middle East problem form an indivisible whole and cannot be dealt with or resolved separately. In view of this, a partial solution or a solution confined to some aspects of the conflict to the exclusion of others is not possible. Nor is it possible to establish a partial peace. Peace should be just and comprehensive.

(c) A just peace in the region can only be based on Israel's total and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the restoration of all the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people including the right to return to their home, the right to self-determination without foreign interference and the right to establish their own independent and sovereign State in their national territory on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974.

(d) West Jerusalem is part of the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel should withdraw completely and unconditionally from it and restore it to Arab sovereignty.

(e) The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and it alone has the full right to represent this people and to participate fully in all international conferences, activities and events relating to the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, in order to secure the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and to solve the Middle East problem. No solution can be considered comprehensive, just or acceptable without PLO participation on an independent and equal footing in its elaboration and acceptance.

(f) All the measures taken by Israel in the Arab Palestinian territories since their occupation covering installations and all changes affecting political, cultural, religious, demographic, physical, geographical and other features are null and void and illegal.

(g) All settlements set up or to be set up by Israel in occupied territories are null and void and illegal and are considered as an obstacle to peace. They should, therefore, be pulled down immediately and no new settlements should be set up and the proliferation of existing settlements should not be allowed.

101. (a) The Conference expressed its support for and adopted the Arab Peace Plan proclaimed at the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference held at Fez, Morocco, and emphasized that this Plan, being based on international legitimacy and on the principle of right and justice, constitutes a framework for establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

(b) The Conference reaffirmed that the Non-aligned Movement considered that the question of

Palestine and of the territories occupied since 1967 is a common cause to all nonaligned countries. The Conference, therefore, resolved that any amendment to the resolutions of the Conference of nonaligned countries relating to the Middle East problem and the question of Palestine would affect the unity of the Nonaligned Movement in its struggle against colonialism, foreign occupation, racism and Zionism. It would also be considered as swerving from the determination of the nonaligned countries to bring to an end the occupation of Arab-Palestinian territories by Israel and to help the Palestinian people to secure its inalienable national rights.

(c) The Conference condemned any agreement or treaty which violates or infringes the rights of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people as recognized by the Nonaligned Movement, and in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant resolutions and which prevents the liberation of Jerusalem and the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and the full exercise of and attainment by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.

102. (a) The Conference reaffirmed its firm opposition to, and condemnation of Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Arab and Palestinian territories including Jerusalem. It especially condemned the establishment of Israeli settlements in those territories, considering them to be illegal and to constitute a serious obstacle to the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine and the Middle East problem.

(b) The Conference condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanese territory and the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli forces, such as killing and destruction, in this nonaligned country.

(c) In this respect, the Conference reaffirmed its categorical rejection of all Israeli policies aimed at changing the geographical features, the demographic character or the legal status of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. The Conference resolved not to recognize any changes made by Israel in the aforesaid territories and called upon all States not to recognize them and to refrain from any cooperation with Israel that might encourage it to pursue its policies and practices in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

103. (a) The Conference strongly condemned Israel for its refusal to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly relating to the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The Conference affirmed that Israel's decision to annex these Heights and the measures taken to

implement its decision are null and void without any legal validity. They have no legal effect and are not recognized.

(b). The Conference called upon all States members of the United Nations that have not yet taken any measure to implement General Assembly resolution ES-1/9 of 5 February 1982 to do so in order to join in the just struggle of the Syrian nationals in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The conference invited the Security Council to take the necessary action to compel Israel to implement resolution 497 (1981).

(c). The Conference expressed the full support of the Members of the Nonaligned Movement for, and their solidarity with the just struggle of the Arab nation against Israeli occupation, aggression and threats and for the attainment of the national inalienable right of the Arab people of Palestine and the Liberation of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. On this occasion the Conference denounced the attack launched by Israel and the United States of America against the right of Syria to secure the means to defend itself. The Conference noted that attack could be considered as the prelude to a pre-meditated assault against Syria and other Arab States.

104. (a) The Conference strongly denounced the exploitation by Israel of the natural resources and wealth of Palestine and the occupied Arab countries in defiance of the Hague and Geneva Conventions and called upon all countries to take the necessary action in order to refrain from any cooperation that would enable Israel to continue to exploit such wealth and resources unlawfully.

(b). The Conference condemns Israel for its intention to cut a canal between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. It affirmed that this project constitutes a dangerous activity among the aggressive actions undertaken against the legitimate rights and vital interests of all Palestinian people and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as well as a threat to global peace and security. The Conference invites all countries to denounce this project and refrain from providing any support or assistance which might allow Israel to implement it.

(c) The Conference declares that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and in particular Convention No. 4 regarding the protection of civilians in time of war and the two protocols 1 and 2 annexed to the conventions adopted in 1978, should be applied to all the occupied Arab territories and Palestine, including Jerusalem. The Conference condemns Israel for its persistent violation of those conventions and of the basic rights and freedoms of the inhabitants of the territories mentioned in having displaced them,

destroyed their homes and confiscated their property. The Conference condemns the refusal of Israel to receive the tripartite committee set up under Security Council resolution 446 to inquire into conditions in settlements in the occupied Arab territories, and its refusal to comply with Security Council resolution 452 of 1979.

(d). The Conference condemned all those policies, and particularly the policy of the United States of America, which helps Israel to continue its occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories and which jeopardize the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights. In this connection the Conference noted that the United States of America was continuing to support Israel in several fields.

(e). The Conference also noted that the United States of America, by exercising its right of veto in the Security Council in a manner contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, prevents the Security Council from taking steps to implement the principle of the non-admissibility of acquisition of territories by force and to enable the Palestinian people to recover their inalienable rights. The Conference therefore calls on the United States of America to abandon its abuse of the right of veto.

(f). The Conference expressed its profound concern at the establishment of a "strategic alliance" between the United States of America and Israel and affirmed that the alliance strengthened the aggressive role of Israel, which threatens the stability of the countries of the Middle East and global peace and security and encourages Israel to pursue its policy of annexation, aggression and racial discrimination.

(g) The Conference expressed its deep concern at the build up of conventional and nuclear weapons in Israel, which is designed to reinforce Israel's situation as a base for colonialism and racism in the third world in general and in Africa and Asia in particular. By taking such measures Israel imperils global peace and security. The Conference called for the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 33/71 (d-33) of 14 December 1978 on military and nuclear cooperation with Israel and 37/82 (d-37) of 9th December 1982 on Israeli nuclear armament.

(h). The Conference condemned Israel for pursuing its policy of aggression and annexation against the Arab countries and the Palestinian people and called on all countries, including the United States of America, to put an immediate end to their military, political and economic assistance and to the provision of human resources to Israel. The Conference called on all countries to refrain from providing assis-



tance and facilities for implementing zionist plans for the immigration of Jews from all over the world to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. The Conference condemns all imperialist or colonialist forces of military intervention which have constituted or constitute a threat to the security and independence of Arab countries and interference in their internal affairs.

(i). The Conference expressed its deep concern at the increase in collaboration between the zionist entity in Palestine and the racist regime of South Africa, especially in the military and nuclear fields. It strongly condemned this collaboration and solidarity and called on all countries of the Movement to sever relations with the above two regimes in all fields and to isolate them completely.

105 (a) The Conference calls upon the Security Council to recognize the inalienable national rights of the Palestine people, including its right to self-determination and its right to establish an independent Arab state in Palestine, and to facilitate the achievement of these rights. The Conference also called upon the Council to implement the principle of the non-admissibility of the acquisition of territories by force, by taking the necessary measures to achieve the withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and Arab territories it has occupied since 1967. The Conference called upon the Members of the Security Council to play their role and discharge their responsibilities so that the Council may take appropriate measures in conformity with the Charter to establish and guarantee peace and security in the Middle East.

(b). After reviewing the history of the Middle East since the establishment of Israel in Palestine in 1948, the Conference considered that Israel's aggressive, expansionist and colonialist policies and practices in the occupied territories against the Arab nation in general and the Arab people of Palestine in particular, its continued violation of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law and international agreement and treaties and its persistent refusal to implement the United Nations resolutions relating to the Middle East demonstrated that Israel is not a peace-loving member and does not fulfil the requirements of the Charter and the resolutions of international organisations. The Conference therefore considers that it is high time for the United Nations to take the necessary measures under Chapter VII of the Charter. The Conference called upon the Security Council to convene to take the measures referred to against Israel for not carrying out the resolutions of the Security Council and for imperilling international peace and security by its conduct.

(c). The Conference called upon all countries that support the liberation of occupied countries and the Palestinian cause to take all the appropriate

measures against the countries that encourage Israel to pursue its policy and practices, especially the United States of America.

(c). The Conference recalled the decision taken by the Heads of State or Government at their meeting in Algiers, urging nonaligned countries to work for a boycott of Israel in the diplomatic, economic, military and cultural fields and in the sphere of maritime and air traffic in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. Considering the reasons that led to the adoption of this resolution, the Conference stressed the need to continue to implement it and urged member countries of the Movement to adhere to it and apply it strictly.

106. (a) The Conference affirms the commitment of the countries of the Nonaligned Movement to strengthen their support for the confrontation of Arab States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people, in order to enable them to fulfil the requirements imposed on them by the Liberation struggle and to defend their lands and their independence against Israeli aggression and threats. The Conference urged friendly countries and the organisations that have participated in the national liberation struggle to continue to give it their support.

(b). The Conference expressed appreciation of the effective solidarity offered by all States and powers that support the struggle of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, especially the countries of the Organisation of African Unity, the socialist countries and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. The Conference also praised the advanced European stand on the problem of the Middle East and Palestine. The Conference called upon those countries and powers to intensify their political, diplomatic and material support for the Palestinian people and the Arab countries in their efforts to re-establish all their national rights and recover all the occupied Arab territories.

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US AID

## For Sri Lanka

Following is the Sri Lanka portion of the prepared text of a statement by Howard B. Schaffer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, presented to the House Foreign Affairs Sub Committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs March 8 in support of the Administration's request for foreign assistance to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal:

*Washington, March 24:* Sri Lanka has adhered to constitutional and democratic government from the time of its independence in 1948. It has an enviable record of democratic government and peaceful political transition through free elections. Social and economic problems persist, such as communal tensions between the majority Sinhala and the minority Tamil communities, but are unlikely to threaten Sri Lanka's long-established democratic institutions. These will continue to be the basis of its stability. Pragmatic and moderate at home, Sri Lanka is committed to a moderate non-aligned foreign policy. It plays a constructive role in the Nonaligned Movement. We have applauded its policies on such key issues as aggression in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. The Sri Lankan Government has concentrated its attention on domestic affairs. Since 1977, under the leadership of President Jayewardene, Sri Lanka has consciously sought to use the dynamism of the private sector to accelerate economic development after years of virtual economic stagnation. We have applauded the government's political courage in seeking to meet economic goals through market-oriented economic policies. These include: removing government controls stimulating the private sector, providing production and investment incentives, reducing consumer subsidies and encouraging foreign investment. With these policies, Sri Lanka has achieved considerable success. Despite the world recession, deterioration in the terms of trade and the shock of higher oil prices, Sri Lanka has in recent years maintained its impressive rate of economic growth, reduced unemployment and increased economic opportunity for its citizens. The re-election of President Jayewardene is widely interpreted as a popular endorsement of his pragmatic, growth-oriented policies.

In the past six years the Sri Lankan government has taken bold measures to reduce the welfare aspects of the country's economy, a politically difficult policy. To sustain support despite these measures and maintain popular backing for its market approach, it must demonstrate an ability to set up economic growth. Foreign aid makes a vital contribution to this. It helps make possible the expansion of the economy, generation of employment, and opening of new lands, for settlement and development. Additionally, development projects undertaken with foreign assistance encourage the growth of private industry — e. g., construction — and the demands for goods and services. For financial year 1984, we are proposing for Sri Lanka 40.3 million dollars in development assistance, 31 million dollars in PL-480 and 150,000 dollars in IMET. The Sri Lanka Government clearly appreciates the substantial assistance we provide that country. It is anxious that we and the other donors continue to provide support in the future. Our assistance promotes our foreign policy objectives by creating an environment favourable to constructive and moderate policies, both foreign and domestic. The

significant role that foreign aid plays in Sri Lanka is not a source of internal political controversy. Although much of the opposition does not agree with the current government's economic policies, there is broad consensus that foreign aid is appropriate for Sri Lanka and should continue.—USIS

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DIEGO GARCIA

## More Facilities

*Nairobi, March 27:* The United States is forging ahead with the expansion of its military base on Diego Garcia island widening the runway and extending it to more than two miles to take B52 nuclear bombers according to reports received here from Mauritius. Quoting French priest Father Alian Harel, the reports said that a vast apron had been constructed at the base to accommodate Boeing 757s for mid-air refuelling. Inside the horse shoe shaded lagoon now used by US navy vessels, a deep water quay was also being constructed. Outsiders are banned from Diego Garcia but the priest was allowed in the base for three weeks to minister the spiritual needs of the tightly supervised groups of contract workers. Describing the Diego Garcia build-up as "most striking" the priest said luxurious facilities including air conditioned blocks of flats, cinema and a super market had been put up for one thousand sailors and mariners.

While these luxuries are coming in downtown Diego Garcia, as around the otherside of the island there was a different scene: the ghost village once occupied by more than a thousand Diego Garcians. "It was touching and sad to see it. In the house there was some furniture — I even saw pairs of shoes. As though the owners may soon be returning of course they never will" remarked the priest. The Diego Garcians and the inhabitants of other nearby islets totalling 1800 were thrown out from their home after British gave the island to the Americans on a 50-year lease. Mauritius has claimed sovereignty over the island, repudiated the compensation agreement for the displaced people and is pressing for the retrocession of the Chagos archipelago which include the Diego Garcia. Mauritius has also refused to allow Mauritians to continue working at the base and the last were being withdrawn at the end of this month, leaving Filipinos hired by two US military contractors to get on with the job there, the report said. The Americans were sardonic about the Mauritian attitude said the report and quoted one US diplomat as saying "let them eat principles." The report also quoted the priest as saying the way in which the work was going at the base it looked they had enough job for the next five years

—PTI.

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EDITORIAL  
THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURIST, JULY 1939

## The Citrus Fruit

The area under citrus in this country has steadily increased during the last few years. Interest in the crop has grown and the Department of Agriculture has stimulated that interest and helped those who wished to plant citrus. It is probable that the recent rate of expansion will be maintained for some years. It is very important that the pioneers who have invested money in this nascent industry should not suffer disappointment through the absence of a market which will absorb their produce at a remunerative price. *It is premature to look to a market abroad. Increased local consumption can only follow a general rise in the earning capacity of the urban and semi-urban population.* The activities of the Department of Industries will no doubt produce this rise in course of time. In the meantime, the citrus grower must look to the present demand for his market, and must capture as much of it as seasonal fluctuations of production allow him. *About 9,000 cases of citrus fruit are annually imported, and it is a curious fact that even during the months when the local fruit is abundant the imported article finds purchasers at prices appreciably higher than the local grower can obtain for his oranges and his grapefruits.* The consumer who considers fifteen cents too high a price for a local grapefruit will often cheerfully pay thirty cents for a Californian or South African fruit.

The reason for this phenomenon merits investigation. Some aspects of the problem were examined by Dr. Joachim, the Agricultural Department's Chemist and the results are published in this number. He admits what, in fact, for all of us know, that there are certain superficial characteristics in which the imported fruit is superior. Its colour is attractive; its coat is less tight-fitting and can be more easily removed; it

has less seed; and, perhaps, the rag inside is less coarse. Our inferiority in some of these characteristics is climatic origin; but in the case of most of them improvement can be effected by selection and culture. Work is in progress in these directions. The essence of the comparison is in the chemical analysis. The results of the analysis are summarised in table V of Dr. Joachim's article.

THE MOST STRIKING FEATURE is the wide range of variation of all the essential factors. For example the juice content of local orange ranges from 35.4 to 63 percent, and that of imported oranges from 36.9 to 62.2 percent; and their sugar acid ratio from 5.3 to 17.3 and from 5.4 to 16.8 respectively. It will be noticed that in practically every essential characteristic the range is wider in the case of the local fruit, but only very slightly wider, so that there is nothing to choose between them with regard to uniformity of quality. Statements of averages must be read and interpreted in relation to the range of variations, and little importance can be attached to differences in the average in this analysis. But in fact the differences in the averages between the local and imported fruits are very small. Thus the average juice contents of imported oranges and local oranges are 49.9 and 45.4 percent respectively and the corresponding figures for grapefruit 40.1 percent and 43.5 percent. It is interesting to note in parenthesis that there is no justification for the reputation which the imported grapefruit has for superior juiciness. Similarly the high vitamin contents differ only 2.7 mgm per 100ml of juice in the case of oranges and by 2.9 in terms of the same unit in grapefruit. These are only slight arithmetical differences with no scientific significance whatever and the lay mind appreciates Dr. Joachim's argument in summary that "considered as a whole, the average composition of the local samples is not significantly different from that of the imported samples."

THERE REMAINS the elusive quality of flavour. The scientist has not so far been able to invent a formula based on chemical analysis which would provide a reliable index of flavour, but the best known guide, though an imperfect guide to flavour "is the true sugar/acid ratio, considered in conjunction with the actual amounts of sugar or acid or both present in the juice". The average sugar/acid ratio is higher in the case of local fruit, while the total content of both acid and sugar is slightly higher in the case of the imported fruit. These slight arithmetical differences have as little significance as those relating to juice and the Chemist's generalization regarding the similarity of local and imported fruits in respect of chemical composition is equally applicable to flavour in so far as that quality is determinable by physical tests other than the application of the human tongue. **From these considerations we draw the conclusion**

that this country can raise an orange and a grapefruit which is quite equal in essential food values to those of the better known fruit-growing countries of the world, while it has much ground to cover in respect of the qualities which are related to what may be called the aesthetics of food.

*This was written in July 1939. Nearly 45 years have gone by. What has happened in that time. This is a matter we propose to investigate.—Ed.*

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IN HOMEGARDENS  
IN INDIA

## Breadfruit

By S. Sayed

BREADFRUIT (*curry pela* in Tamil) originally a native of Malayan Archipelago was introduced into India by Dutch voyagers. In India breadfruit cultivation is confined mainly to the southern region chiefly on the west coast covering the States of Kerala and Karnataka. In Tamil Nadu, this is cultivated to a limited extent at the lower slopes of the Nilgiris. But both seeded and seedless types of breadfruit trees come up well in the plains and are being grown as stray trees in house compounds and in orchards. The fruit of seedless breadfruit contain 27.98 per cent carbohydrate which is higher than that of bananas. This compares favourably with vegetables like potato having 22.9 per cent carbohydrates. In some of the Far Eastern countries breadfruit occupies a prominent place in the diet of the people and sometimes forms the staple food and hence the name "breadfruit". Breadfruit requires a warm humid climate and plenty of rainfall for good growth. It grows well from sea level to 1,000 metres above sea level. Its climatic requirements are an annual rainfall of 200 cm, a temperature range of 15.6° to 38°C and a humidity of 70 to 80 percent. It comes up well on well drained soil with high humus content. However, lateritic red loams are best suited. Full grown breadfruit tree is 12 to 18 metric high, and has large ovate leathery leaves which enhances the ornamental value of the tree. The tree produces separate male and female flowers on the same tree, just like the jack fruit. Fruits are oval in shape, green when immature, turning yellow as they reach maturity. Fruits contain whitish fibrous pulp. Mature but unripe fruit is used as a tasty vegetable. The fruits are cooked and eaten separately or with mutton preparations. The fruits should be harvested for such purposes when they are still hard to touch and have not ripened.

THERE ARE two district varieties, one is seeded and the other entirely seedless. The seedless variety is the one popularly cultivated. Seedless breadfruit tree can be propagated by root suckers. Seeded types can also be raised through seeds. Pits 75 cm x 75 cm x 75 cm in size are dug with enough spacing between them for planting breadfruit. Planting can be done between August and October. For the young trees, irrigation is required only up to two years. Thereafter the tree will have its normal and natural growth under rainfed conditions. In the early years a little dose of nitrogen can be given. The natural high fertility of the soil in the areas where it grows, enables the trees to attain good growth and produce crops without the aid of nature. Open situations provide ideal conditions for the growth of trees and in the shade growth is retarded. Therefore breadfruit trees require very little care and the inputs needed for maintenance are practically nil. Under highly humid conditions, the tree may need one two fungicidal sprays after fruiting season against soft rot disease.

The first harvest can be done after the fifth year. In general two crops are obtained in March-April and September-October. Fruits will be available for harvest in about 60 to 90 days after the emergence of the inflorescence. The yields of fruits per tree may vary from 200 to 500 per year. The weight of each fruit may be about 300 to 500 gm. According to the yield data collected at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University orchard at Coimbatore the average yield per tree was 540 nos. (228 kg). Breadfruit seeds (Breadnut seeds) are roasted and eaten for and they taste like roasted chestnuts.

Breadfruit tree can be grown both in the house compound and in orchards for its tasty fruits (vegetable) and its ornamental value.

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THE CULTIVATION OF

## Singapore Jak

By A. V. Richards

Horticultural Officer,  
Department of Agriculture  
Peradeniya

Jak is easy to grow, and provides an important article of food which is highly relished by the poorer classes in the villages. They live on it during the season when food grains are in short supply. The fruit is used in nearly all stages of maturity. The tender fruit is finely chopped and made into a *mellum*, the mature but not ripe fruit is carried in coconut milk or simply boiled with the seeds and eaten, while the

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ripe *penikwaraka* is relished as dessert. The Singapore Jak is an early bearing variety of the ordinary jak *Artocarpus hererophyllus* Lamk. The Johore jak is of a different species altogether, its botanical name being *Artocarpus Champeden* Lour. It is readily distinguishable from the ordinary jak by the presence of stiff brown hairs on the young shoots, and the overpowering durian-like odour of the ripe fruit which is generally ovoid and small. The tree does not grow big, and its timber has hardly any commercial value.

The Singapore Jak comes into yearning in about 18 months under favourable conditions in the low country wet zone, but may take two years or more at higher elevations. The fruit of this variety generally matures in large numbers during the off season from November to February. By planting both this variety and ordinary jak it should be possible to harvest fruits nearly all the year round. The fruit is a hardfleshed *Waraka*, but seedling trees may produce soft-fleshed *Vela* fruits since they do not always come true to type. Jak seeds do not retain viability for a long period when exposed, and are best planted immediately on extraction from the fruit. They could be stored for sometime in coir dust or sand without losing viability, but if the cotyledons become dry and shrivel up they fail to germinate. The seeds may be germinated satisfactorily in pieces of coconut husk containing enough soil to cover the seed, and planted in the fields with the husk. They may also be germinated in small bamboo pots or plant-supply baskets, but the young seedlings don't remain healthy for more than a month or so in such containers. If the seed is planted in seed beds the young plants should be transplanted before the food reserve in the cotyledons is exhausted, otherwise they often fail to recover from the shock of transplanting. —

— *Tropical Agriculturist*, July 1939.



INDIA TO MAKE

## Vegetable Seeds In a Big Way

*Madras, March 30:* The National Seeds Corporation (NSC) is planning to produce seeds of vegetables such as bhendi, peas, tomato and brinjal in a big way, according to Mr. K. P. A. Menon, Chairman and Managing Director of NSC. Not much had been done in this field so far and the NSC would lay emphasis on this programme. Mr. Menon told a press conference in Madras, "There is also tremendous scope for exporting vegetable seeds to the Western countries". The project would be launched with the assistance of the World Bank, and it was still being discussed, he said. Mr. Menon said the third phase of the national

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seed project, a scheme handling the production, packing and storage of high quality seeds in different regions, would get into stride shortly and would cover Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir which had not been covered earlier. Now the project covers only nine States. The first phase of the World Bank aided project, commissioned in 76, would come to a close by the end of this year, and the second phase, initiated in 78 would be over by July 1984. To Tamil Nadu the NSC has offered to supply about 140 tonnes of greengram seeds and 600 tonnes of paddy seeds. The State Government had asked for 6,000 tonnes of paddy seeds, but the NSC could supply only a tenth because of its nationwide commitments, the Chairman said. Mr. Menon held talks with the Director of Agriculture on coordination in seed distribution in the State between the NSC and Agriculture Department. He said the production of certified seeds by the NSC would go up from 41.2 thousand tonnes to 82.4 thousand tonnes in 1983-84. Emphasis was being laid on the production of certified seeds of pulses and oilseeds. About 7,100 tonnes of these seeds would be produced this year as against 3,587 tonnes last year—PTI



MANGO PEST

## How To Check It

Scores of mango trees aged between 10 and 20 years in some plantations around Thogarapalli in Barugur block of Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu have dried up due to a severe attack of mango stemborer. It is feared that if the menace is not checked on a war footing, the entire mango wealth of the Krishnagiri-Thogarapalli belt will be ruined. The affected mango groves were examined by a group of arm scientists of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's Regional Research Station, Paiyur. A close examination of the affected trees revealed that the attack had started at least a year ago and more branches had dried up during the last season itself.

The borers are very active and the attack is unchecked. The young branches are drying up one after the other. The entire tree may die during the coming season or the next. When the attack is confined to the branches, the branches die and when it spreads to the trunk, the tree dies. The owners of mango plantations have a deceptive notion that this drying up of the trees is due to the extreme drought conditions in the area. The drought may only hasten the death of the trees or the branches. The following measures to check the dreaded mango pest can be adopted. The bore holes should be fumigated either with 30ml petrol or one celphos tablet per hole and the holes

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should be plugged with cement, clay or dung after the chemical is inserted. The holes may be sprayed with monocrotophos (Nuvocron) at 2 ml. lit.

*Nuvocron* may be applied by the padding method. This method involves peeling off about five cm square bark and a cotton piece impregnated with *Nuvocron* solution (0.1%) is placed in the peeled portion and tied with the bark covering it. The paddy method is effective for controlling the early instar grubs. Spraying or fumigation will be effective for controlling the late instar grubs. As a preventive measure, the affected as well as healthy trees should be swabbed with BHC 0.1% solution at the trunk in the month of July-August when the ovi position normally occurs. It is also advised to cut and remove the dried branches which will otherwise encourage termites. The removal will also give a pruning effect to the tree. Urgent coordinated efforts are needed between the technical, executive personnel of the Agricultural Department and the farmers to check the stem borer menace and to save the mango plantation of the area.—*Hindu*

## FOCUS ON THE VILLAGE

### FOCUS ON THE VILLAGE

## An Introductory Note

*TRIBUNE'S* AGRICULTURAL DIGEST is now one of its most popular features. It has many admirers and the feedback from readers is substantial as it is qualitative. Even those who do not preserve every copy of *tribune*, ( on a modest estimate more than 65% of readers do ), carefully file articles from our Agricultural Digest or have them pasted in a Cuttings Scrap book. Encouraged as we are by such interest in what we have published on this subject over the last one year we are deeply conscious that it is not enough merely to write about matters agricultural. We realise that unless the farming community in our villages get the benefits that stem from scientific information and knowledge, the compilation of useful information in the Agricultural Digest becomes a sterile exercise. Various Government Departments and agencies have been entrusted with the responsibility of taking the latest information, techniques, planting materials and other inputs to our farmers, but we find ( as we shall demonstrate as we go along ) that this is being done in the most half-hearted, inefficient, inadequate and tortuous manner which only bureaucrats inhibited by red-taped blinkers can devise. *A periodical cannot ever hope to do what only governmental or semi-*

*governmental agencies alone can do, but we can suggest as we have been doing as to what can and should be done. Criticism, when vitriolic or destructive is intended to prod bureaucratic officials, lost in lethargy, into some kind of activity. But our criticism ( bona fide in the national interest ) is constructive and there is no reason why officials should react aggressively or sheepishly as they most often do. They either damn the critics as subversives or shy away from them as if they are lepers or the black plague.*

Apart from this, another factor that made contact with the farming community very difficult, arises from the fact that many departments and ministries are responsible for things rural and agricultural. We have often pointed out that as many as 12 or 13 ministries, with a multitude of departments and agencies, are in charge of agriculture and things allied to it like Livestock. Furthermore, the marketing of agricultural produce (which is key to the success of agriculture) is handled by three or four Ministries. Rural Credit another important link in the development of villages, (dependent on agriculture and agro-industries), is in the hands of the State Banks which have, in the last few decades, only succeeded in making the position of the marginal farmer worse than ever and have utilised the funds allotted to rural credit to finance (and that without success) large tycoons to pretend to run farms set up by them in order to evade income tax. Millions have been lent to a few individuals, and most of them have failed to make good in farming because the money borrowed under the excuse of agriculture was mainly used for other purposes (including in some cases moneylending and pawn-broking). *In this situation, we were attracted by the concept of the Village Reawakening Movement promoted by Prime Minister Premadasa. Centred round the Gramodaya Mandalayas in each Grama Sevaka Division, the movement seeks to promote the growth of integrated villages which will be economically viable. They are an extension of the Model Villages set up from 1979/80 to bring about Village Reawakening.*

In this connection, we would like to cite two of our *Letters From the Editor*. The first on March 12, 1983 read: "ON THE COVER we have a very simple piece of construction in which from ancient times our rural folk has stored their paddy. It was done on a family unit basis. For large-scale farming today this kind of storage may seem inadequate, but there is no reason why this kind of construction cannot be updated by modern scientific techniques to meet the needs of the day. This is something which we hope the *Gramodaya Mandala Million House Project*, initiated by Prime Minister Premadasa, can usefully examine. The scheme he has envisaged is daring, but whatever angle one looks at it seems workable. This scheme is an extension of *Udagama* concept. In a recent speech he had explained, 'Before the General Election of 1977

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when I was promising a lakh of houses, I did not imagine that these benefits would also accrue to them, and thought it would provide only a roof over their heads. But while this scheme was being implemented I felt that this would transform a man completely. That is why we decided to extend this programme. We have started on the one hand housing development and on the other village reawakening. We made new villages—*Udagamas* — to the exceedingly poor in certain areas.' Then he went on to say: 'On the 23rd of June this year we would hold the *Udagama* centenary at *Nikaweratiya* and we would be completing the 58th *Udagama* for this year. The sum total would be then 227. The first *Udagama* was declared open in the *Yapahuwa* Electorate. The 100th was also declared open in the *Yapahuwa* electorate. It is the 227th that will dawn at *Nikaweratiya*. You will at the *Gam Udawa 83'* exhibition see the manner in which we intend to carry out our one million housing programme'. Then he went to expound the new project he had in mind: 'The other day I stated at *Akmeemana* that this year will be the planning year. How are we to plan it? It is during this year that we shall obtain all our data from the *Grama Sevaka* division level through the aegis of the *Gramodaya Mandalayas*. What are the houses that have been half done? What should we do to complete them? Where should new houses be constructed? What are the raw materials for building construction that may be available in those areas? Have the prospective tenants of these houses any means of livelihood? Have they a job? Or would it be necessary to train them in some industry, say for example as masons and carpenters? We have 4,400 *Grama Sevaka* Divisions in Sri Lanka. For the sake of this plan, let us say that we have only 4,000 *Grama Sevaka* divisions and that the other 400 are really within urban limites. Accordingly, under our 1 million housing scheme, we will have to construct 250 houses in these 4,000 *Grama Sevaka* divisions. It is only at the rate of 250 houses in each of the 4,000 *Grama Sevaka* divisions can we complete this target of 1 million houses. If we take into account our ancient villages too, the total number of villages would amount to about 20,000. For every 250 houses we construct in the 4000 *grama Sevaka* divisions, we will be constructing a further 50 houses in each of those ancient villages as well. That adds up to 1,000,000. That is at the rate of 50 houses per village in 20,000 villages. We are training 45,000 youths throughout the island for the construction industry. All of them are educated youths. I am going to have them distributed among *Grama Sevaka* divisions, so that they too can teach the people in the villages about the various aspects of building construction. I can see another development taking place here. When school children see a new programme of work being launched in their *Grama Seveaka* division they too will get interested in this work. The older children will learn the industry and even help when they see the work being done.' *This Premadasa*

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*Project, in our view, should receive much more attention than at present from people at all levels ( especially the sophisticated elite ).*"

The second piece on March 19 read: "ON THE COVER this week we have a scene that is rare these days — hackery racing. We do not think that this cart and bull racing will come back in a big way, but we are among those who entertain nostalgic sentiments about the symbolic grandeur that had been vested on animals during festivals like the New Year celebrations. Even if hackery cart racing is a thing of the past (motor car and motor cycle racing is the vogue of today), every effort should be made to rehabilitate our villages and make them the centres of a new life and culture that is now emerging. The *Premadasa Grama Mandalaya* Project to bring new life to rural people in all parts of the island is one of the most refreshing developments that has come upon this island. Last week, in this column we had cited extracts from a speech of the Prime Minister about his new million-house programme. Below we cite further extracts about what he proposed to do: ' . . . . That is what I am getting ready to do this year. There are people without a piece of land to build a house. The land is there in plenty. It is a survey that is necessary. Roads leading to these lands have to be opened up. We should make sure whether water is available and if not, how water could be supplied. Otherwise, wells will have to be constructed. There should be some kind of cultivation in each garden. I can see that even our villagers take a basket and go to the market in the evenings. It has become a fashion. Why do they want to go the market? If they buy things which cannot be grown in their own plot of land, it does not matter. What do they go and buy? They buy *gotukola* or any other vegetable which they can very well grow in their own garden. They can keep a cow in their own garden and get fresh and nutritious milk. That is a source of nutrition. Once this programme is launched in each *Grama Sevaka* Division, there will be a psychological revolution and a physical revolution. I take this an opportunity to say that by the end of this six year period, 20,000 *Udagamas* will be created. Every village is going to become a *Udagama*, so that one will not be able to identify one from another. Houses which are not completed in these villages will be completed. New houses necessary will be constructed. Roads, water and electricity as far as possible will be provided. Before the end of this year, the *Mahaweli* Project and the *Victoria* Project will be complete, and there will be no more sudden power cuts then. Why is our electricity generation limited today? At the moment hydro-electricity is generated only through *Castlereagh*, *Mousakelle*, *Laxapana*, *Gal Oya* and *Walawe*. There will be vast increases in power generation when the *Victoria* Reservoir is completed and people engaged in skilled industry and those who earn money in countries like Saudi Arabia and Dubai could be able to get electricity for their houses, once the Members of Parliament

provide them with power connections. These people will then be able to replace the bottle lamp with an electric bulb. They will also be able to operate a small machine powered by electricity and engage themselves in some kind of small industry. When the husband is out in the paddy field or working in the garden or engaged in some job, the wife at home would herself be able to produce something by operating a small machine at the touch of a small button. So I ask you, when this new situation arises would not poverty flee from Sri Lanka's shores? . . . . . *Though what the Prime Minister had tried to portray may seem to some as an idealistic and romantic dream, in reality it is not. It is an attainable objective though it calls for hard work and sustained action. Tribune proposes to take an active interest in this Premadasa project which it thinks can help to bring all round development in every village.*"

This concept of integrated village development built around the slogan of a million houses can bring a new life to millions in our rural sector. But the concept has to be given flesh and blood. The Prime Minister has based the programme for the first year primarily a training of artisans for the building projects whilst some attention is paid to various other aspects; water, sanitation, agriculture, agro-industries, roads marketing, rural credit and so and so forth.

*Tribune* will play its part by providing each week information and guidelines on all matters that will help to create the new re-awakened and regenerated village as a viable reality.



UDAGAMA

## How it all began

By Evans Cooray

The day was 31st March 1978. A person dressed in sarong and a bush shirt sporting a cap walked into the Mahawa Police Station in the Yapahuwa electorate. Talking to the sergeant on duty the person asked: "Can I make a telephone call?". The sergeant casually asked the visitor: "Who are you. Where are you from?" "I am Premadasa" replied the visitor. The sergeant clicked to attention and offered Mr. Premadasa a chair. The prospect of the Prime Minister of the country walking into a police station so casually was a thing beyond anyone's belief. "There is no need for a chair. I will sit on this bench. You carry on with your work," said Mr. Premadasa. The Prime Minister got a few officials in Colombo on the telephone and told them to come to a hamlet called Badalgama the following day. He told them to pass on the message to the others. April 1st is a day when nobody takes anybody seriously. The genuineness of the message was in question. I was among the group of officials who took no risk and trooped to Badalgama. The Prime Minister was there at the site before time.

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There was no hall or a shelter where we could sit down and have a discussion. The Prime Minister suggested that we sit in the shade of a tamarind tree that stood in the village. And thus took place the first ever open air conference of heads of Departments and Corporations of a Ministry at such short notice too.

Yes it was on 1st April that the Prime Minister set the ball rolling on the first Udagama. It was an unbelievable task more in keeping with the day, yet true. The Prime Minister explained to the officials his determination to give these poor Rodiya villagers better living conditions. To start with he wanted new houses built for them to replace their almost crumbling wattle and daub houses. He also wanted to give them and their children new vocations in life. They were until then used to begging. A few earned a pittance by turning the rabana on the finger and other antics. Some were adept at cane weaving but their output was inconsistent. Official set about the task of planning the village. As it was a revolutionary step the Prime Minister knowing well the role of the mass media wanted the Press representatives to see for themselves the village under construction. I took the journalists to the spot. As the houses came up brick by brick alongside the wattle and daub houses it was a historic event to write about. The media flashed the project. It created an instant impact. On another day I was present when the Prime Minister visited the village under construction. He called the village leaders and officials and said he wanted to give the village a new name. Bandia, a village elder suggested the name "Chandrapaya." Suggestions were made and the search was on for a more suitable name. I mentioned "Udawa" and "gama". Yes we can call it Udagama," said the Prime Minister.

And so it was Udagama. The village took shape. State patronage to build houses for a group of people whom nobody bothered about took everyone by surprise. There were several eyebrows raised. A community cast aside soon became the cynosure of not only the neighbouring villages but of the entire country as well. The village was completed within two months. The poor villages soon moved into their new homes with tears of joy in their eyes. Their deliverer became a hero they could not easily forget. Today four and a half years after pictures of their deliverer still adorn their walls. The Word Udagama became synonymous with village re-awakening. Soon the message spread to the length and breadth of the country firing the imagination of all. It has now come to stay as a national movement as said President J. R. Jayewardene at the 3rd Anniversary celebrations held in Tissamaharama in June last year. The philosophy guiding the movement has apparently touched the hearts of people of all walks of life judging by the flow of letters received by the Information Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction from the public literature on the villages so far opened. It has prompted research

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work by University undergraduates and scholars. Its ideal of extending a helping hand to the needy has spread far and wide even to foreign climes with the result that many foreign organisations have offered various forms of assistance both financial and material. There is no doubt of the value of the mass media to make any genuine effort a success spurring into action all those involved in the exercise. It is in this regard that the newspapers and radio together with the descriptive leaflets issued at the opening of each model village have played a very "vital role in making the Udagama Programme the success it is.



FOR VILLAGE HEALTH

## Pump Maintenance

By Maggie Black

Editor, UNICEF News

THE PROVISION OF CLEAN WATER supplies<sup>S</sup> to Indian villages originally ran into two major environmental snags. One was the mismatch between the pump's design and its purpose. The other was the failure to consider the human dimension of what seemed to be an engineering problem. The *Pan* shop run by Sri Isamuddin in Kohir village is a simple, rather ramshackle stall, whose whole inventory of crumbling cigarettes, fleshy green betel leaves and silvery spices would fit inside a large paper bag. It is a stall like countless others throughout India, and its location next to a shady teashop on the main street is in no way remarkable. But Sri Isamuddin has set it up there for another reason. It keeps him near his other job: caretaker and overseer of Kohir village handpumps and water supply system. There are four handpumps to serve the 15,000 people in the village and the one near his pan shop is the most heavily used. Sri Isamuddin is only 21 years old, has received a mere two days training for his part-time job and is unrewarded except by a tool kit and a certificate which confers on him a modest rise in status. But his services as a do-it-yourself maintenance man keep the village handpumps in working order and, when one breaks down, Sri Isamuddin acts as the link with the next tier in the maintenance system. He has a supply of already addressed and stamped postcards, one of which he puts in the mail to summon the block engineer. It then becomes the responsibility of the block engineer to call in the district mobile maintenance team if a major repair is necessary.

AS WELL AS HIS MAINTENANCE DUTIES, Sri Isamuddin also functions as an informal public health official, trying to ensure that the water used by mothers and children in Kohir is kept as germ-free as possible. The area around the handpump near Sri Isamuddin's pan shop is immaculate. All dirt and refuse has been swept and a small channel in the concrete area at the handpump's base is draining off the excess water. Sri Isamuddin is a bright young

man and is conscientious about his duties. He seems to have fully absorbed the various elements of his training which took place a few months ago at a two day camp. Together with 95 others from the district he was taught rudimentary preventive maintenance—greasing bolts, cleaning the pump head—and was made aware of the connection between contaminated or stagnant water and the spread of disease. The village handpump caretaker training programme in Andhra Pradesh grew out of an earlier experimental programme in Tamil Nadu State, which had been set up with UNICEF assistance and encouragement. The intention was to try and design a maintenance structure for rural water supplies which could be applied all over the country. In an attempt to raise the health standards of mothers and children in rural India, UNICEF had for some years been heavily involved in programmes to provide over 150,000 "problem" villages with safe drinking water supplies. But in the early days, the drilling of boreholes and the installation pumps often seemed almost futile.

ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS was the pump itself. Before 1974, the type of pump invariably installed was an old-fashioned cast-iron pump which, while it might have apparent advantage of costing very little, broke down with monotonous regularity. This kind of pump, patterned on types used years ago in the rural Western world, was intended for use by a single family. Under the pressure of use by the two or three hundred families, living in an Indian village, the pump's strength soon gave out. The Indian government therefore invited UNICEF to help develop a heavy duty handpump which could withstand the strenuous requirement of providing a whole village population with a continuous supply of clean water. The result was the India Mark 11 Handpump, an all-steel pump which is produced under strict quality control and which in the past several years, has gained a reputation for technical reliability. Properly installed, the Mark 11 handpump can function for considerable lengths of time without the need for major repairs. The design of the pump took account not only of the physical environment factors—typical depth of boreholes, ease of installation, heavy use—but also of the vagaries of the human environment. For example, the spout was bent so that village children could not poke sticks into it, and the handle reinforced so that village children could swing on it without mishap. Above all, the pump was designed to be very easy to service and maintain. Stumbling block.

THE SECOND MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK to the successful provision of clean water in the "problem" villages was the lack of a maintenance system and at the same time the lack of any sense of involvement by the village in the new pump's installation and upkeep. Engineers are not trained as social workers: they tend to concentrate on the mechanics of their job and, once having installed a

pump, replaced a pump, or repaired a pump, they get back into their landrover and drive away. Without a conscious effort to involve them, many village people thought of the pump as belonging, not to the community, but to the engineers. They were apathetic about its maintenance and its state of cleanliness, and if it broke down they simply went back to the supply source-usually an open well-which they had used before. The block or district engineer would only hear about the breakdown by chance. In Andhra Pradesh, the village caretaker programme is still in its infancy. It is only a short time since Sri Isamuddin and his counterparts in other villages were trained. Not all of them bother as much as he does about taking off the pumphead and checking the chain, tightening the bolts and sweeping the concrete base. Not all of them would, like he did, take a twenty-mile ride on the bus into town, paying his ticket and losing that afternoon's pan business, to fetch the block engineer when the postcard failed to bring him. Even he may lose his enthusiasm if he is not given a refresher course in a few months' time, or if his spanner is stolen and the water department fails to replace it. There are many details, major and minor, which could do with improvement. Sri Isamuddin is the first to admit failure so far in persuading all the local women to follow his example and keep the pump area spotless.

*But the combination of Mark 11 handpump and village caretaker is having some definite effect. One survey in a nearby district carried out within the last twelve months discovered that over 95 per cent of the newly-installed Mark 11 handpumps were working. The equivalent figure of a few years ago at any one moment would have been around 30 per cent. Gradually, the health impact of clean water supplies in these "problem" villages is bound to begin to make itself felt. —Development Forum*



#### SPOTLIGHT

## Selectors' Foibles

The selectors of the Board of Control for cricket in Sri Lanka Messrs Abu Fuard (Chairman), Anura Tennekoon, Channa Gunasekera and Lasantha Rodrigo dropped a stunning bombshell when they dropped Sri Lanka's number one all rounder Asantha de Mel from the large cricket pool of 38 from which teams to meet the Australians would be chosen. De

Mel just 23 and with a good 10 years more of cricket in him went on tour with the Sri Lanka team to Australia and New Zealand, but was unable to make any impression because of injury. Back in Sri Lanka he found himself out of the pool. The dropping of this youngster is a great injustice when one considers the fact that he is one of the very few genuine all rounders in Sri Lanka cricket today. De Mel has always been a great trier. Can one forget the belligerent century he made against the Tamil Nadu cricket team that came on tour here for the Gopalan Trophy? He smashed this century, mind you, coming in at number nine. It is whispered that De Mel has been flushed out of the pool for disciplinary reasons. This excuse by the Selectors will not go down with the cricketing public. If de Mel has not heeded authority during the tour of Australia and New Zealand he should have been fined. This would have been a mere sensible course of action. To drop him for disciplinary reasons is to say the least puerile. Sri Lanka is making every endeavour to make the grade in the highly commercialised world of Test cricket.

Fast bowlers the world over have been known to be temperamental. Their work on the field is such that they tend to lose their tempers quickly. So De Mel is no different. The Selectors will do well to reconsider their decision and bring de Mel into the pool. Others who have been dropped from the pool after the tour of Australia and New Zealand are Mitra Wettimuny, Sri Jeganathan, and Roger Wijesuriya. One sees justification in dropping of Wettimuny and Wijesuriya, but not Jeganathan. Many eyebrows were raised when Wettimuny and Wijesuriya were originally selected. So their dropping has not come as a surprise. Jeganathan was not given much opportunity to show his prowess. He played in a few games on tour and did not fail for want of trying.

The Selectors in naming a 38-member pool have included six school boys. They are Ajit Cooray, Greame Labrooy, Marlon Von Hagt, Arvinda de Silva, Rochana Jayawardene and Chulaka Amerasinghe. In including the schoolboys the Selectors have shown that they are willing to take risks and blood them if the situation demands. Marlon and Chulaka if given a break have the potential to make the grade. The main problem confronting Sri Lanka cricket at the moment is the finding of an opening partner for Sidath Wettimuny. Wettimuny batted well on the tour of Australia and New Zealand, but failed to gain support from the other opener. Several opening batsmen have been included in the pool. They are schoolboys Amerasinghe, and Von Hagt and tested and proved club cricketers like Brendon Kuruppu, Sumithra Warnakulasuriya, Atula Samarasekera, Keerthi Ranasinghe, Charit Senanayake and Sunil Jayasinghe.

Senanayake has the best chance of partnering Wettimuny. Being a left hander Senanayake has the qualities that go to make a successful opening batsman

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and we hope the Selectors will persist with him. Sri Lanka must also find a penetrative spinner to support leg spinner D. S. de Silva. At the moment the spinning cupboard is bare and with a view to finding the right spinner they have named Roshan Gunaratne, Oshadie Weerasinghe, Ranil Abeynaïke, Rochana Jayawardena, A. J. Samarasekera and Jayantha Amerasinghe. All are good spinners and are capable of getting into the Sri Lanka squad. The selectors have realised their folly in dropping young Arjuna Ranatunga from the team that toured Australia and New Zealand. They have recalled Ranatunga and after his rollicking form with the bat in the Premier Tourney he looks a certainty, at least for the four One Day games against the Aussies.

The Selectors also named Duleep Mendis to lead against Australia and also for the tour of England for the World Cup in June. The pool: D. Mendis (Capt.) R. Dias (V. Capt), D. S. de Silva, R. Madugalle, S. Wettimuny, Ravi Ratnayake, Ramesh Ratnayake, S. Fernando, G. de Alwis, A. Silva, V. John, Y. Gunasekera, A. Samarasekera, K. Ranasinghe, C. Senanayake, S. Jayasinghe, B. Kuruppu, A. Ranatunga, R. Abeynaïke, R. Perera, H. Mendis, R. Bultjens. S. Warnakulasuriya S. Munaweera, G. Labrooy, R. Naguleswaran, A. Cooray, G. de Silva, L. Aloysius, A. J. Samarasekera, J. Amerasinghe, R. Jayawardena, C. Weerasinghe, R. Guneratne, S. Angulugha, M. Von Hagt, C. Amerasinghe and A. de Silva.

Another week spot in the Sri Lanka squad is that of the wicket keeper. Guy de Alwis and Amal Silva who failed on the tours of Australia and New Zealand are being retained while the best wicket keeper in the country Russel Hamer continues in the wilderness. Why won't the Board come clean and tell the public why they are keeping Hamer out?

Here is a good reason why Asantha de Mel should not have been dropped from the Cricket Pool. Dennis Lillee, the highest wicket taker in the world and whose cricket fans in Sri Lanka are eagerly awaiting to see received a suspended 1,000 dollar (870 US dollars) fine from the Australian Cricket Board for using abusive language. Bob Merriman, the Australian Cricket Board's Cricket Committee co-ordinator, who conducted the hearing said the suspended fine would be payable in addition to any other penalty should Lillee be found guilty of a breach of the code of behaviour during the next 14 months. Lillee, it is reported has used abusive language on the spectators while he left the field after injuring his right knee.

According to Merriman, Lillee on leaving the field had made a comment to the spectators which was loud enough to be heard a considerable distance away. The complaint against Lillee was lodged by Geoff Noblet, vice president of the South Australian Cricket Association. Under ACB's code of behaviour the suspended fine is the heaviest handed out. Previously Lillee lost 700 dollars in match fees after

being suspended for two one-day internationals for aiming a kick at Pakistan captain Javed Miandad in December 1981. In another ruling, the ACB reduced an earlier fine on Lillee for breach of player-writer rule from 500 dollars (435 US dollars) to 300 dollars (260 US dollars). Merriman said the reduction made on an appeal was consistent with other penalties for a first offence under this rule.

BJORN BORG, Wimbledon's tennis sensation who took the title for five consecutive years has retired from the game. Borg retired after losing his last match to Henri Lacente in the second round of the Monte Carlo open. Before playing in this tournament, the tennis ace had said he would retire from top class tennis. The first of Borg's major titles came in 1974 when he took the Italian Open just before his 10th birthday. A few weeks later he won the French Open and retained the French crown in 1975 and won it four more times from 1978 to 1981. Borg won Wimbledon from 1976 to 1980. After the match Borg said, according to *Reuter*: "That's the end. I won't be going out and competing anymore. I'm glad that when I wake up in the morning, I know I won't have to go out and practice four or five hours." The tennis world will, with the retirement of glamorous Borg lose one of its most lovable personalities ever to grace the tennis court.

**At the time of writing Asantha de Mel has been recalled to the Cricket Pool. More about it next week.**

*Tribune* announces with deep regret the tragic passing away of Tommy Perera, one of Sri Lanka's most famed broadcasters. Five minutes after dropping his wife Mahes at The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, Tommy had the misfortune of meeting with an accident which proved fatal. Tommy was an allround broadcaster, but made cricket his speciality. He accompanied the Sri Lanka team twice on tours to England and once to India. His comments which came down the line and was broadcast on radio proved very popular. Tommy was also instrumental in organising the Bristol Sports Newsreel that goes over the air every night at 7.30 p.m. Tommy was also a very keen jazz enthusiast and several were the concerts he organised. May his soul rest in peace.

ALLROUNDER

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SPORTS CHRONICLE

**March 28 - April 7**

**MONDAY, MARCH 28:** The match was of academic interest as BRC had already won the Raheman Hathy Trophy; yesterday at Galle Face, they scored a comfortable first innings victory over Army. BRC 302 and Army 197. Panadura SC scored a 156 runs first innings win against Moratuwa SC in their Raheman Hathy encounter at the Panadura Esplanade yesterday; Panadura 353 and Moratuwa SC 197. The

Moratu MV-Sri Sumangala "Big Match" at Moratuwa ended in a tame draw at Prince of Wales grounds yesterday; replying to the Sumangala score of 177, Moratuwa MV declared at 178 for 8. Sri Sumangala declared their second innings at 140 for 8 leaving Moratu 140 runs to get for victory; at stumps they were 86 for 3. Sri Sumangala 177 and 140 for 8 dec. and Moratu MV 178 for 8 declared.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 29:** Tamil Union achieved the "near-impossible" when they won an Inaugural Trophy for the third successive time. In 1950-51 they won the First Saravanamuttu Trophy, ten years later the First Donovan Andree Trophy and yesterday the Lakspray Trophy when they beat Police outright by 193 runs at Police Park; the victory game then 17,750 points and put them .065 points a head of Defending Division I Club Champions Bloomfield in the Final Standing Tamil Union had 96,505 points and Bloomfield 96,440 points from eight Final Round matches; Tamil Union last won the Division 1 title 32 years ago. A brilliant innings of 184 in 362 minutes by left-hander Arjuna Ranatunge failed to bring SSC victory in their traditional match played at the NCC grounds, Maitland Place; NCC won on the first innings by a mere 18 runs after Ranatunga had brought SSC to the verge of pulling off a sensational victory. SSC crumbled to 235 in reply to NCC's 341 at which stage last man Ritchie de Silva joined Ranatunge.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30:** Lake House defeated Insurance Corporation 7 - 2 at Table Tennis at the Lake House Recreation Hall. Black Square defeated Victory 2 - 1 in a City League (A Division) Tournament football match at the Army grounds on Monday. W.J.H. Boteju of the YMBA retained his National Billiards Title when he beat W. A. J. Weerasinghe (Indian Club) by 1233 to 1143 at the YMBA tables Borella. Thurstan hope to forge ahead in the Series when they meet Isipatana in their 20th Big Match at the P. Saravanamuttu Stadium on Friday and Saturday. Thurstan drew against Maliyadeva; Thurstan 200 and Maliyadeva 121. Drew against Nalanda; Thurstan 190 and Nalanda 124. Beat Carey by 10 wickets: Thurstan 159 and Carey 59. Lost to St. Joseph's by an innings and 1 run: Thurstan 165 and St. Josephs 336 for 8. Beat Ambalangoda Dharmasoka by an innings and 29 runs; Thurstan 310 for 9 and Dharmasoka 98.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 31:** Taunton Schools Under 16 cricket team from Somerset England lost the opening match of their three week tour of Sri Lanka to S. Thomas Mount Lavinia Under 17 team by 7 wickets played at Mount Lavinia yesterday. In reply Tauntons 113 the Thomians scored 114 for 3. Half centuries by Dushantha Peiris and Harsha Deepal and their opening stand of 98 runs helped Isipatana Old Boys to beat Present Boys by 8 wickets in a one-day match played at Vihara Mahadevi Park yesterday; Isipatana Present Boys 162 for 8 declared and Old Boys 166 for 2 wickets. Darrel Marcus who was in great form at the Ridgeways last weekend

achieved a double; he won the Life Members Cup of the Royal Colombo Golf Club and the MacBridge Foursomes; in the Life Members Cup final Marcus beat S. T. Hyuan 5 and 4 and then partnered by Walter Mendis won the MacBridge Foursomes defeating the combination of Shirley de Silva and A. G. Musajee in the final at 4 and 2.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1:** Tissa Vidyalaya were in a sound position at the end of the first day of their 29th Battle of the Mangosteens cricket encounter against Kalutara Vidyalaya at the esplanade at Kalutara yesterday; they shot out Kalutara for 58 and by the close had replayed with 102 for five. Royal under 17 trounced Taunton School by 112 runs in a one day match at Royal grounds yesterday. Royal batting first amassed 207 for 5 wickets off 45 overs in only 168 minutes; Taunton in their turn, were skittled out for 95 off 44.2 overs. Anoja Tillekeratne won the men's singles title by defeating Chandra Jayaweera in straight sets 18 - 15, 15 - 0 in the final of the Colombo YMCA Open Novices Badminton Tournament concluded at the Colombo Y gymnasium. Kalutara MV old boys beat Tissa MMV Kalutara North old boys by 80 runs in their inaugural limited over encounter played on the Kalutara esplanade recently. Kalutara MV old boys 173 for 5 and Tissa MMV old boys 93. Sri Lanka Signals Corps won the Army Inter-Unit rugby championship for the fourth year in succession by beating the 1st Battalion Gemunu Watch by 12 points (1 goal and 2 penalties) to 4 at Longden Place on Tuesday.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2:** Isipatana crawled to 59 for 3 at the close after Thurstan declared their first innings at 229 for 5 in their 29th Big Match which began at the P. Saravanamuttu Stadium yesterday. Good bowling by R. Nandana (match bag of 8 for 56) helped Tissa MMV beat Kalutara MV by six wickets in their 29th Battle of the Mangosteens at the Kalutara Esplanade yesterday. Kalutara Vidyalaya 1st innings 58 and Tissa Vidyalaya first innings overnight 102 for 5 continued. Kalutara Vidyalaya 2nd innings 111 and Tissa MV 2nd innings 41 for 4 wickets.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3:** Dharmasoka College scored an exciting 11 run win over their traditional rivals Devananda in their 50 over cricket match played yesterday at the Ambalangoda Esplanade; Dharmasoka 145 in 44.5 overs and Devananda 134 in 36 overs. Taunton School junior cricketers from England were out for 145 on the opening day of their two day cricket fixture against Mahinda under 16 cricketers at the Galle esplanade yesterday. Taunton School 145 and Mahinda 39 for 1. Ananda Sastralaya took a commanding lead of 79 runs in the first innings in the Matugama big match against St. Marys Matugama at the Matugama esplanade yesterday. St. Mary's 1st innings 51 and Ananda Sastralaya 1st innings 103. When rain brought play to an early close at 4.30 p.m. Mahanama were 54 for 2 wickets in reply to Sir Jayewardenapura's 1st innings total of 219 for 9

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wickets declared in the inaugural Anandatissa de Alwis Trophy Cricket Match which began at Police Park yesterday.

**MONDAY, APRIL 4:** Nalanda's right-hand opening batsman Priya de Mel, who has scored over 600 runs this season, completely upset Ananda with his off-spinners; de Mel seldom used as a bowler, was brought on after five front line bowlers had tried their hand in bowling Ananda out. He grabbed three wickets for 19 runs off 5.2 overs to see Ananda slide from 84 for four to 107 all out by lunch in 8.2 overs. Ananda 107 and Nalanda 109. Set a victory target of 171 runs in 20 mandatory overs, Ananda Sastralaya were 18 for 3 wickets when bad light stopped play after nine overs; thus their "Big match" against St. Marys at Matugama ended in a draw at the Matugama Esplanade yesterday; St. Mary's 1st innings 51; Ananda Sastralaya 1st innings 139/9 declared; St. Mary's 2nd innings 250 and Ananda Sastralaya 2nd innings 19. M. Lalith of Dolphin's Aquatic Club, Ambalangoda pulled off a shock win, beating his fancied team-mate Mahi Chandralal in the Six-Mile sea swim conducted by the Kinross and Life Saving Club at Wellawatte yesterday.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5:** Mahinda scored a thrilling last ball victory over the touring Taunton Schools by six wickets in their two-day game played at the Galle Esplanade; Taunton Schools 145 and 127 and Mahinda 38 for 1 continued 205 for 6 declared. Arthur House annexed the championship title at the annual inter-house track and field meet of the Ampitiya College held at the College grounds. Vosen House and Peiris House were placed second and third respectively. Viv Richards completed his 14th Test century and Clive Lloyd hit a chanceless 81 to lead West Indies to a big first innings of 468 on third day of their rain-hit Third Cricket Test against India at GeorgeTown on Saturday.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6:** Petroleum Corporation were 206 for 7 wickets at the end of the first day after being 107 for 1 at one stage, in the Nationalised Services A division tournament final against Ceramics begun yesterday at the Colts grounds Kennedy Sports Club Kandy beat Skanska Sports Club by 3 goals to 1 in a soccer match played at Bogambara Stadium recently. NCC Under 15 juniors put up a creditable performance on their maiden tour of the hill country; they beat Trinity under 15 by 186 runs but lost to St. Anthony's under 15 by 49 runs. Lqke House scored a 9 matches to 4 win over Ceylon Plywoods Corporation in a table tennis contest at the Plywoods Recreation Room.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7:** Ratnam Sports Club and Old Bens Sports Club both won their second successive matches when they beat Pettah United Sports Club 3 - 2 and Serendib Sports Club 3 - 0 on the

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Mayors Cup Football Tournament played at the City Football League grounds under floodlight on Tuesday. When play ended yesterday, Petroleum Corporation had an overall lead of 63 runs over Ceramics in the Final on the Colts grounds with all their second innings wickets in hand. Petroleum scored 256 and 16 for no loss at the close to which Ceramics replied with 209. Harsha Aturupane reigning National Champion and Sri Lanka's Highest Rated Player (2435) suffered shock defeat in the First and Second Rounds of the National Rating Chess Tournament; Aturupane was beaten in the first round by another Seeded player T. D. R. Peiris and in the second by that promising Novice Lakshman Wijesuriya.



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

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7.**

Reference No. 3/64/370 - 03 J. 75 2 118(VE)

It is intended to acquire the land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**SCHEDULE**

<i>Name of Village etc.</i>	Ipalawa Village in Ipalawa G. S. Division, Dewamedda Korale, Wariyapola D. R. O'S Division, Kurunegala District.
<i>Name of Land</i>	: Weralugaspitiya Hena
<i>Plan and Lot No.</i>	: Lot. 147 in Supplement No 3 in F.V.P. 2505

The Kachcheri,  
Kurunegala  
30 3 1983

**A. George**  
District Land Officer  
Kurunegala District.

## Scientists' Chicanery - 2

THAT LAST WEEK we had published a despatch from the UNI-DPA dated January 22 about the "fireball from outerspace" (suspected to be a fragment of Soviet Cosmos 1402) that had struck Sri Lanka at a spot near Mawatha gama? That for a week or more there after the daily papers, the Radio and even the TV had kept up a mounting suspense about this visitation from "outerspace"? That the *Ceylon Daily News* on 22/1/83 reported the story under the headline THAT OBJECT: A PART OF COSMOS? as follows? "Dr. Granville Dharmawardena, Chairman, Atomic Energy Authority, said yesterday that investigations carried out so far indicate that it was possible that the object that fell at Mawathagama on Saturday morning was a breakaway part of the satellite. He said the satellite might enter the atmosphere either on Sunday night or this afternoon. He and a party of scientists who were rushed by helicopter to the site had brought a specimen of the soil for detailed testing. Spot testings done by them showed mild radioactivity. Dr. Dharmawardena said all that they could find at the site was a little ash and signs of burnt vegetation. A report of the detailed soil examination will be available today. Nanda Ekanayake our Mawathagama group correspondent adds: Two schoolboys, R. M. Anura Bandara and V. Sivakumar saw what they described as a 'fiery ball' descend from the sky as they played near a coconut plantation at Pitakande in the Mawathagama area on Saturday. It hit the ground with a bang and sent out a lot of smoke, they said. They said they saw many yellow particles scattered on the ground. A crowd of people who gathered said they got a burning smell at the place." That *The Island* of 23/1/83 like every other daily newspaper in Sri Lanka had reported the "fall" in the most graphic and dramatic manner? Under the headline WE SAW A RED BALL OF FIRE CRASH NEARBY — EYE WITNESSES, the report read: "Two boys from Mawathagama R. M. Anura Weragoda and V. Sivakumar were eye-witnesses to a mysterious object which crashed to earth at Pitalande, on Saturday. They described how they saw a red ball falling from the sky to fizzel out into ashes, burning the grass on the spot. They were the first to see the mysterious object falling, emitting yellow smoke. 'We were playing at Udadeniya junction when we saw a red ball of fire the size of an orange coming down on the coconut plantation nearby', they told *The Island*. It struck a branch of a coconut tree before falling to the ground and they had seen the branch burning. They had run to the spot. But they were not able to get near since there was a strong smell of burnt-out crackers coming from the spot. So they had called one Mr. Wimalaweera who

had been nearby. Mr. Wimalaweera had then told the people who had rushed to the scene that this may be from the Cosmos satellite and informed the police who cordoned off the area. The object is believed to be debris from the Soviet satellite Cosmos 1402 but the experts have so far not been able to make a definite decision on it. Dr. K. G. Dharmawardana and a team from Colombo arrived by helicopter and made on-the-spot on Saturday evening. They took away ashes from the spot for examination in the Radio Isotope Centre at the Colombo University. Dr. Arthur C. Clarke, the well known space authority, is also assisting in the investigations. Dr. Dharmawardana, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority told *The Island* they could not establish what the object is until the tests are completed, hopefully today. Although at the time of testing, there had been a slightly higher amount of radiation than normal in the atmosphere, Dr. Dharmawardana said there was no cause for panic. Meanwhile large numbers are flocking to the spot to get a glimpse of this rare site." That before we go further into these highly dramatised reports, it is necessary to mention that on January 23 the *Ceylon Daily News* had published a report under the headline UNLIKELY IT WAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH COSMOS — CLARKE "Arthur C. Clarke the well known science fiction writer yesterday said that his guess was that the unidentified flying object which hit earth at Mawathagama on Saturday had nothing to do with Cosmos. If it was a Cosmos fragment or a meteorite we could expect more ash. We recovered only a handful, Clarke said. However the space scientist was not making any firm comment He said that would need a hard check of the exact time of impact against the position of Cosmos debris. Preliminary investigations including running a magnet over the ash indicated that the ash had magnetic properties suggesting the presence of iron. Cosmos was built of lighter material aluminium and magnesium. Anyway a thorough chemical analysis must be done before I can say something definite, Clarke said." *The Island* on January 23, had also published this report: "'Dr. Arthur C. Clarke said the possibility of the object that crashed from outer space at Mawathagama on Saturday being from the Soviet Satellite Cosmos was very remote . . . . . That in spite of this "cautionary warning" from the well-known space scientist Arthur C. Clarke, the newspapers, the radio and the TV led the people on a merry media dance going into graphic details about a matter that any newspaper should have kept in cold storage until there was adequate scientific proof that the "object" was from Cosmos 1402 ?

To be continued . . . . .

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