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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ON THE COVER we have a picture from Sri Lanka's environmental show-piece the Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya, but not too far away in the district of upper and lower Hewaheta, lower Walapane and Meddamahanuwara, a company has been promoting the cultivation of tobacco in the past several years. Most of these hillsides are steep and the annual cultivation has resulted in the erosion of soil. The curing of tobacco requires substantial quantities of fuelwood. This has resulted in the forest cover in these remote lands being denuded. That has aggravated the erosion problems. Recently, the tobacco growers have been issued with planting material of fuelwood species, in particular, of the Eucalyptus variety. The farmers have observed that the Eucalyptus has a high evapo-transpiration rate and is indeed much higher than the forest trees that we have known before. In recommending varieties like Eucalyptus and Pinus the people trained in forestry seem to be looking at the short-term gains such as rapid growth to meet their immediate needs of fuel or pulp wood. In an article in the *Sun* of Monday, 2nd May the Conservator of Forests has mentioned that "It is possible to lower the rate of water loss by transpiration by planting up catchment with grasses, shrubs and species of trees which have a low transpiration rate, in a scientific manner, which would not only reduce the transpiration rate during drought periods but which will also reduce erosion of catchment soil. One such tree is the conifer pinus, which has needle leaves with a smaller surface area than leaves of broadleaved tree species and which have sunken stomata. The needles when they fall on the forest floor form a mattress over the soil surface and thereby prevents erosion of catchment soil, reduces direct evaporation of water from the soil surface and also improves the dry weather underground seepage of water into the reservoir. In addition Pinus is a good multipurpose timber". He seems to have missed the point that on most lands which have been cultivated with annual crops there is a loss of humus due to soil conservation measures not being undertaken. In addition, farming practices with the advent of artificial fertiliser ignores the incorporation of organic fertilisers. This leaves a sterile soil open to wash away the rapid run-off of rainfall and a multitude of other undesirable effects. The planting of conifer pinus and eucalyptus would not result in the build up of humus and the soils would also not have desirable mechanical characteristics such as tilth. It is difficult to believe that multinational companies think of the long-term benefits of rural farmers such as those living in the backwoods of Kandy. It is very necessary to examine and evaluate what has gone on in the recent past. It is also necessary to find out what was the criteria adopted by the foresters in the selection of species for reforestation. The area in question is on the right bank of the Mahaweli and erosion would have serious repercussions on the reservoirs that are being constructed in the vicinity. Adhoc studies would have been done and recommendations made across the Board to reforest these lands. They can still be exploited economically by the judicious selection of economic crops that can be planted. It is suggested therefore that the Department of Agriculture or the Faculty of Agriculture in the University sets up a special study to evaluate what has been done and to monitor what could be done in the future in this part of the country. What is unfortunate is that the so-called elite in our Forest Department (qualified in Western institutions) continue to justify the transplanting of the vegetation of the temperate zone in our tropical climate. The price this country has had to pay is already great. There must be rethinking without delay and also immediate action even if it means a reversal of the pet theories.

Mini General Elections

THE VOTING for 18 parliamentary seats and 50 local bodies (12 Municipalities and 38 Urban Councils) will take place on May 18 (64) and 20 (4). The parliamentary by elections are in the Western and Southern provinces whilst the local government elections are spread out throughout the country including the North and the East. The voting for the Parliamentary by-elections are on the old first-past-the-post system whilst the local elections are on the current proportional representation system on party lists.

In regard to the parliamentary by elections there was much talk about a no-contest pact among the anti-UNP and non-UNP parties popularly regarded as the "Opposition". Negotiations to have a joint anti-UNP front had started before the Referendum in December 1982 and had continued up to a few days before nomination. Great hopes had been entertained that a joint anti-UNP front would emerge from these negotiations. *The Island* which has consistently given publicity to such possibility had an enthusiastic headline on April 2: ANTI-UNP FORCES MEET—SEVEN PARTIES AGREE TO NO CONTEST PACT. The report read: "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. It was also decided to convene a meeting of the Secretaries of these parties on Monday to thrash out the details of the allocation of seats. The meeting which was held at the Rosmead Place residence of the SLFP leader Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike was attended by representatives of SLFP, LSSP, CP, MEP, the JVP, NSSP and the political wing of the Democratic Worker's Congress. "A political leader who attended the talks said that it was agreed to contest the by-elections on a no-contest pact and offer a common slate of opposition candidates at the local government elections. It has been decided that at these elections in areas where several parties have equal strength the opposition would contest under a common symbol while where a particular party is in a position of strength the candidates or all other parties could contest under its symbol. "The meeting was attended by Mrs. Bandaranaike and Messrs T. B. Illangaratne and Ratnasiri Wickremarajane (SLFP) Messrs Bernaerd Soysa and Athauda Seneviratne (LSSP); Messrs Pieter Keuneman, K. P. Silva and A. G. Jayasena (CP) Mr. Dinesh Gunawardene (MEP), Messrs Lionel Bopage and Upatissa Gamanayake (JVP) Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara and Dr. Wickremabahu Karunaratne (NSSP) and Mr. Abdul Aziz of the DWC."

But as anticipated by knowledgeable political observers, the seven parties were not able to agree on how to divide the 18 parliamentary seats between them and also as to how and under what symbol and name the joint lists should be submitted for the 50 local body elections

The Island, which did not hide its sympathies for an Opposition No-contest agreement, on April 20, had a front-page headline LSSP WILL GO IT ALONE: ANTI-UNP FRONT DECIDES: SLFP 14, CP 2, MEP 1, NSSP 1. The report read: "The anti-UNP front to contest the by-elections faced a major setback yesterday when the LSSP finally decided to go its own way and nominate two candidates for the Kalutara and Ambalangoda seats at the forthcoming by-elections. The Central Committee of the LSSP yesterday deliberated at length and decided to contest the two seats. It is understood that the SLFP had refused to concede any seats for the LSSP. Dr. Colvin R. de Silva is expected to be nominated for Kalutara and Mr. L. C. de Silva for Ambalangoda. Earlier the JVP had decided to contest the by-elections on its own. Meanwhile the other opposition parties the SLFP, CP, MEP and NSSP agreed on the allocation of seats on the following basis: SLFP 14; Communist Party 2; NSSP 1 and MEP 1."

The Sun of April 20 under a headline BY-ELECTIONS: ONLY FOUR PARTIES IN COALITION stated: "Only four political parties—SLFP, CP, MEP and NSSP—will form the grand coalition that will contest the forthcoming by-election, The Lanka Sama Samaja Party which was earlier billed to be one of the constituent partners has not been successful in reaching accord with the dominant partner of the grouping—the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. This is because the SLFP has turned down a LSSP request for two seats. It was willing to consider only one seat for the LSSP. In terms of the accord other constituent partners of the grand coalition have reached, the Communist Party will contest two seats (Ratgama, Kamburupitiya), the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna one seat (Maharagama) and the Nava Sama Samaja Party one seat (Eheliyagoda). All other seats will be contested by the SLFP. While some of the party candidates have already been decided on, others were expected to be picked by the nomination board last night...."

A LAKE HOUSE COLUMNIST commenting on the break up in the anti-UNP front said: "The LSSP is the second Marxist casualty of the opposition no-contest pact for the 18 by-elections. The JVP is already out and the LSSP according to informed sources had demanded Kalutara and Ambalangoda and failing Ambalangoda it has asked for Kesbewa or Maharagama. They felt slighted by the offer of one seat when the CP has got two. The two seats claimed are for

Dr. Colvin R. de Silva and Mr. Bernard Soysa. This, a SLFP source said is an impossibility and talks came to an end."

If there was a partial agreement among four parties for the 18 by-elections, there was even less in regard to the local elections. This had led to grumbling within the SLFP. The Island in a report had stated: "Dissension is brewing in the SLFP over what many describe as the 'double standards' of its partners in the anti-UNP front with regard to the by-elections and local government elections. And local government election nominations have resulted in strained relations at electorate level between these parties in the pact. It is learnt that while the SLFP had conceded an electorate each to the NSSP and MEP at the by-elections, these parties had put forward lists for the local government elections in areas contested by the SLFP. Sources said that strong representation to the party hierarchy will be made by the SLFP local government candidates in these areas protesting about the absence of accord for the local polls with the opposition and for only concentrating on the by-elections. These sources pointed out that while the MEP Secretary Mr. Dinesh Gunawardene was allocated the Maharagama electorate with SLFP backing for the by-election, the MEP president Mr. W. Santiago Fernando himself headed a MEP list for the Negombo Municipal Council elections which is being contested by the SLFP. It is learnt that in Avissawella too both the MEP and SLFP had submitted separate lists. Informed sources also said that the NSSP which had been given the Eheliyagoda seat at the by-election, had submitted lists for the local polls in opposition to the SLFP. NSSP Treasurer Mr. Linus Jayatilleke is heading the polls list in Negombo. These sources alleged that this amounted to an attempt to split the votes to return the UNP to the various councils."

ONE INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT was that the SLFP (M) has decided to rejoin the SLFP (S) and that the latter was willing to admit the prodigal group. *The Island* of April 10 had reported: "The breakaway Maithripala Senanayake group has made overtures to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party in a bid to return to the fold, informed SLFP sources indicated yesterday. It is understood that two lieutenants of Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, former Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, V. T. G. Karunaratne and former Pelmadulla MP, Piyadasa Palendagama had met Mr. Anura Bandaranaike and indicated their willingness to return to the fold. They had sought an interview with Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike. The two-man delegation is also said to have asked for three electorates at the forthcoming by-elections. It is likely that the request made by the Maithri Group would be discussed at the next Central Committee meeting of the SLFP. Mrs. Bandaranaike has not taken any definite stand on the issue so far, but it

is understood that SLFP thinking on the matter is that since the group is not a recognized political party, it will be difficult to concede any seats to it. In the past too, the SLFP hierarchy has taken up the position that if the Maithri Group is to come back, the return should be unconditional. The overtures made to the SLFP are interpreted by political observers as a result of serious internal differences within the group which erupted last week when party secretary S.K.K. Sooriaratchchi decided to seek UNP nomination for the Mahara seat. While Mr. Sooriaratchchi had been strongly advocating an alignment with the UNP, a group led by Colombo Central Third MP, Halim Ishak, had been opposed to this move. The Maithri group, which supported the UNP at the Referendum, has felt let down since the UNP, which was expected to invite it into a National Government, has failed to respond."

The *Sun* on April 19 said: "The two SLFP factions led by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike and Mr. Maithripala Senanayake have decided to field a common list of candidates at the forth-coming by elections and the Local Government Elections, said Party sources yesterday. The two groups made this decision after discussions a few days ago. The meeting was attended by Mrs. Bandaranaike, while the M group was represented by V. T. G. Karunaratne Deputy leader of the M group and S. Paranagama of Ratnapura who is Vice-President of the group. Meanwhile, the M group, had decided against applying for the symbol of the 'Hand' to contest the by-elections as a separate group as it was revealed that the Elections Commissioner could have invoked special provisions in the constitution to suspend use of a disputed symbol. A M group spokesman said the Party had therefore decided that it would rather not apply for the use of this symbol since the SLFP (S) group too would be unable to use it for the elections".

On April 29, all daily papers reported that: "The Central Committee of the SLFP (Maithripala Group) has decided to offer its complete support to all SLFP (S) candidates at the forthcoming by-elections and local council elections, the party's acting general secretary, Mr. Mahinda Senanayake said in a press release issued yesterday. He said the decision was taken after considering a request made by the SLFP (S) General Secretary Mr. Ratnasiri Wickremanayake in two letters dated 21.4.1983 and 22.4.1983. Mr. V. T. G. Karunaratne Vice-President of the SLFP (M) presided over the Working Committee meeting which considered this request as the President Mr. Maithripala Senanayake was in Helsinki attending an IPU meeting, it has added. 'The SLFP (M) requests all party organisers, supporters and sympathisers to work for the SLFP at the forthcoming elections in accordance with the Party's Central Committee decision', the release had stated. The Maithri Group, it will be recalled, supported the SLFP at the Presi-

dential elections but opted to support the UNP at the Referendum”.

Political commentators have referred to speculations in SLFP party circles about the implications of the new SLFP unity. On May 1, there was an interesting piece in *The Island*: “The two estranged factions of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party are expected to close ranks later this month when Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike and Mr. Maithripala Senanayake return to the country. Informed SLFP sources indicated that the breakaway Maithripala Senenayake group would be admitted to the party without any conditions in keeping with the wishes of the party’s rank and file. If the two factions unite Mr. Senanayake, who has long been in the political dumps since he defied Mrs. Bandaranaike and broke away with Anura Bandaranaike will become the leader of the SLFP group in Parliament. Informed sources said that Attanagalla MP Lakshman Jayakody who is the present SLFP Chief in Parliament will be willing to step down in Mr. Senanayake’s favour. Mr. Jayakody has said in Parliament that he would be leader only until unity is achieved. Political circles say that if the joint opposition, which has pitted candidates against the UNP at the by-elections, manages to win 13 seats Mr. Senanayake can even become Leader of the Opposition. At the moment the two SLFP factions and the CP have six seats in Parliament. If they get a further 13 this will eclipse the 18 seats which the TULF holds at present. The Vice President of the Maithri group Mr. Halim Ishak told *The Island* that his group will address by-election and local government election meetings in favour of SLFP candidates.”

It is in this backdrop of the state of the anti-UNP forces that we view the 18 by-elections. A total of 82 candidates have filed nomination papers. The UNP is contesting all 18 parliamentary seats. On the four-party no-contest agreement the SLFP is contesting 14, the CP 2, the NSSP 1 and the MEP 1. The LSSP is contesting 1 seat and the JVP 5. There are also 40 independent candidates for the 18 seats.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY’S fortnightly *Forward* dated May 1 had this to say about the By-elections in an editorial. First it points out the role of what it calls the Right-wing in the SLFP: “We share the disappointment of all anti-UNP voters that the Opposition parties were unable to reach complete agreement to avoid contests against each other in the 18 Parliamentary by-elections that will be held on May 18. Their failure to do so will undoubtedly weaken their ability to inspire and mobilise the over 2 million voters of these constituencies for an all out and united campaign to inflict a political defeat on the UNP government and to reassert the people’s demand for a general election this year. *The main responsibility for this failure rests with the SLFP’s right-wing and*

the JVP leadership. The anti-Leftism which still has the upper hand in the SLFP’s High Command prevented it from acting justly or even rationally towards the Left parties and towards the radical elements in the SLFP itself. The refusal to concede even a single viable seat to the LSSP, despite the agreement that all Opposition parties should be represented in the final list of nominations, is a case in point. So too, was the abortive attempt to play the Left parties against each other, not to speak of the tragi-comedy over the SLFP’s own nomination at Habaraduwa....”

Second it went on to denounce the part played by the JVP: “The dominant section of the JVP leadership accepted the SLFP’s invitation to join the no-contest talks because they had been given a dead rope by a satanic SLFP rightist about the gift of two seats for its leaders if it did so. They hoped thereby to find a way out of the debacle they had created for themselves at the Presidential election four months ago. But exaggerated notions of their own importance and influence made the JVP leaders price themselves out of the market. So, the JVP which entered the no-contest talks with noble slogans about united action to prevent UNP dictatorship, ended by making 5 nominations, 3 of which are clearly grudge fights against the CPSL and a former colleague, and all of which have obviously no other purpose than to spilt the vote and objectively help the UNP. No one who wants to defeat the UNP can therefore vote for the JVP in the present round of both Parliamentary and local polls. Such a vote can only help the UNP to win. Giving the JVP another rebuff at these polls will not only help to defeat the UNP but also assist the healthy forces in the JVP to assert themselves more decisively than they have been able to do so far....”

And finally it sums up thus: “Although the final outcome of Opposition nominations for May 18 is confused, all is by no means lost. There are no contests whatsoever between Opposition parties in 12 out of the 18 seats. In 5 others, the problem is the JVP’s spiteful attempt to hand these seats back to the UNP by splitting the CPSL and SLFP votes. Only in one seat—Kalutara—does a genuine problem exist for the anti-UNP voters, who can only regret the SLFP-LSSP clash here. Is it too late to patch this up? We would like to urge, with all the force at our command, that these two parties should even now make a new effort to discuss and remove this dispute. Other anti-UNP parties should use their good offices to help such a settlement. Whatever the complications, the main task for the anti-UNP voters at the May 18 by-elections is to defeat the UNP and its helpers and to proclaim once again the need for a general election this year. One does not know yet whether the UNP, plagued by its own divisions and desperate to clean up its President’s besmirched image at home and abroad will try to repeat the terrorism and fraud it practised during the referendum.

But united action at grass-roots levels remains the answer to both situations."

The simple fact is that there is really no united or effective anti-UNP front in any of the 18 parliamentary by-elections. There are straight fights between the candidates of the 4-party No Contest Coalition and the UNP in about 10 or 11 seats, but an abundance of Independents (many of them ex-MPs of different parties) has added to the confused situation. The JVP is contesting the 4-Party No contest Coalition in 5 seats: and the LSSP in one. Furthermore, the anti-UNP front has no consistent programme. The SLFP's theme song is to call for a general election before August. Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, deputy leader of the SLFP, is leading the campaign in the absence of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike who is away in Yugoslavia and is expected to return only after May 21. She is not debarred from participating in the by-elections because it is being held under the old electoral laws. But she cannot play any part in the local government elections. She has however chosen to keep out of the entire campaign. Her son Anura has been out of the country for over three weeks and is expected to address a few meetings after his return. Mr. Bernard Soysa, General Secretary of the LSSP said that the party's main demand would be a call to defeat the UNP and they would also focus attention on the fact that at the no-contest negotiations with the SLFP they were denied one uncontested seat after having been promised two. The CP and the SLFP are in the no-contest pact for the parliamentary by-elections, but they will clash at several places in the local government elections. The UNP bases its campaign, as in the Presidential Election and the Referendum that the work the party had started should be completed.

IT WOULD BE USEFUL, however, to examine the kind of candidates selected by the parties and also the Independents who have chosen to come forward. Columnist *Arjuna* in *The Island* in his piece on April 24 speaking about Independents said "The gradual consolidation of the party system has now virtually banished the Independent from the political centre stage and this might well be the independent candidate's final salute. It has even attracted a Buddhist monk, perhaps contesting a parliamentary seat for the first time, and resurrected from the political wilderness D. S. Gunasekera the aged former Minister of Social Services of the SLFP Government, who was known in his heyday as a pillar of the YMBA. But the only independents even capable of making any impact, however, are former MPs Prins Gunasekera and S.K.K. Sooriarachchi contesting Habaraduwa and Mahara respectively and G.I.D. Dharmasekera, the flamboyant leftist of Maoist inclinations who did creditably at the 1977 General Election contesting the two-member Beruwela Seat. Another colourful maverick in the fray is Subash

Chandrasiri, the son of former MP Somaweera Chandrasiri, who contesting the Kesbawa by-election caused by his father's death pushed the incumbent SLFP into third place. But his sister Malini contesting the same seat on the United Left Front ticket at the last General Election could make no impact at all...."

Speaking about the role of the JVP, *Arjuna* says: "With multi-cornered contests in several key electorates the UNP will no doubt hope that opposition divisiveness will be to its benefit. With the LSSP restricting itself to Kalutara and the JVP fielding relatively unknown candidates the contest will basically whittle down to a confrontation between the UNP and the non-JVP opposition. In retrospect those who tried to bring about the unity of the anti-UNP forces cannot be dissatisfied with the efforts because with the LSSP dormant and with its support expected to go to the SLFP, CP, MEP or NSSP candidates (as the case may be), the SLFP-led Front starts off with a substantial measure of confidence. For the JVP the present contests will be a test of their strength in the deep south but in all four electorates it is bound to come up against stiff opposition....."

About the SLFP list *Arjuna* had this to say: "The SLFP list contains several younger hard-core activists of the party from the Kumaranatunge camp who have been rising in the party's hierarchy recently such as Mervyn Silva (Tissamaharama), Indrapala Abeyweera (Kalutara) A. M. Karunaratne (Ambalangoda), Ossie Abeygunasekera (Habaraduwa), Ariya Bulegoda (Hakmana) and Mahinda Wijesekera (Devinuwara). Mervyn Silva is a former CWE employee while Kartunaratne is a teacher who had lost his job as a result of the 1980 General Strike and is one of the accused in the "Naxalite" case as it is known now. Abeygunasekera was in remand for a long time after the Presidential Election over the alleged printing of rice ration books. Most of these candidates are young, hard-bitten men quite unlike the traditional staid image of the average SLFPer and the by-elections more than anything else will be a test of the capabilities of this emergent leadership.

The UNP has nominated six of the MPs who had been compelled to resign but has also brought in new faces some of whom have until recently been government officials. The CP has put up two of its old MPs of the 1970-77 vintage.

Arjuna sums up: "The campaign has yet to start in earnest but it is fairly clear that the issues will be primarily economic. The battle will be between the high living costs of the present day and the hardships of the 1970-77 era and it remains to be seen whether the people will decide as they did at the Presidential Election that in spite of burdensome living costs the open market economy has been appreciably able to

mitigate its rigours. If the Presidential Election was decided on the personalities of the two opposing contenders: the Referendum reflected popular discontent in certain parts of the country and if this is reflected at the by-elections the Opposition has a fair chance of success. It is, however, too early in the campaign for even the most intrepid political soothsayer to begin doing his bit."

It is still not clear how the voting will go. The UNP is well organised and has a definite platform. Nevertheless, UNP adherents are prepared to concede that they will lose a number of seats. The 4-Party NO-Contest Coalition group are keen that they should win at least 15 of the 18 seats - because among other things this will make the SLFP the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. But observers who have gone the rounds of some of the 18 electorates are unable to see the 4-party coalition winning all the seats they think is in their bag. Prices are no doubt high, people have told them, but people were also quick to point out that neither the SLFP nor the Left Parties have offered any concrete or viable proposals to run the country better

ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS the confusion in people's mind is even greater. The UNP has fielded candidates in all 50 local elections (12 Municipalities -MCs- and 38 Urban Councils -UCs). There has been an attempt to disrupt the UNP lists in the Jaffna Peninsula by Eelam terrorists killing 2 candidates and one party activist, and also threatening all other UNP candidates with the same fate. There are reports that even TULF leaders and candidates have been similarly threatened with death by bullets. Though UNP candidates wanted to withdraw, the Party wants to continue to fight the elections in Jaffna by providing adequate protection for them.

The SLFP has fielded candidates in 40 of the local body elections — in 10 of the 12 MCs (leaving out Jaffna and Batticaloa) and in 30 out of the 38 UCs. (the SLFP is not contesting in Chavakachcheri, Pt. Pedro, Valvettiturai, Vavuniya, Gampola, Haputale, Balangoda and Bandarawela). The TULF is contesting in 2 out of 12 MCs (Jaffna and Batticaloa) and 5 of the 38 UCs (Chavakachcheri, Pt. Pedro, Valvettiturai, Vavuniya and Trincomalee). The JVP is contesting two MCs — (Colombo and Nuwara Eeliya) and 3 UCs— (Talawakelle-Lindulla, Hambantota and Tangalle.) Elsewhere some JVPers appear on Left Party lists. The LSSP is contesting 2 MCs (Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia and Negombo) and 6 UCs. The LSSP and CP had hoped to make arrangements for members to appear on each

other's lists, but were not able to do so. In Badulla, the LSSP and SLFP have submitted a common candidate list. In some places the NSSP, JVP and LSSP have a common list (e.g. Kotte UC.).

For the 12 Municipal councils elections, there are 42 nominations by 8 political parties and 10 Independent groups. For the 38 UCs there are 113 nominations from 10 parties and 23 Independent groups. The party nominations can be summed up thus: UNP - 12 MCs and 38 UCs; SLFP - 10 MCs and 30 UCs; CP - 1 MC and 2 UCs; LSSP 2 MCs and 6 UCs; JVP - 2 MCs and 3 UCs; NSSP - 2 MCs and 1 UC; MEP - 1 UC; DWC - 1 UC; TULF - 2 MCs and 5 UCs and ACTC - 1 MC and 3 UCs.

THOUGH INDEPENDENTS have been virtually eliminated in parliamentary elections, they have continued to be a force in local elections. In more recent years, under the old system of voting, winning Independents have generally tended to join one of the major parties which was strong in the local body. How they will fare under the proportional representation system on or party or joint (Independent) lists is difficult to anticipate, but most political observers do not think that lists of Independents will make much headway in the forthcoming local elections — except where Party lists have been made up of unpopular nominees or unworthy candidates unable to inspire confidence or win votes.

There is no doubt that the UNP is well organised and is geared for the election everywhere except in the Jaffna Peninsula. The SLFP and the Left Parties continue to be in disarray organisationally and politically (they have not put forward any concrete alternative programmes), and it will be interesting to see how much more than the traditional bedrock support they have will come to the polls because of the high prices and the existing discontent against the UNP.

✘ ✘ ✘

LETTER

BATTICALOA

Sir,

The Batticaloa man, who has two Cabinet Ministers and a Deputy Minister in the Parliament of Sri Lanka, ought rightly to be proud of the treatment meted out to him. Certainly he should be proud of his Ministers and his Deputy Minister. He ought also to be reasonably happy about his District Minister, who, by his deeds, has qualified himself to be one with them, for he has served in the capacity of District Minister in all true earnest, and had been to one with them in all questions concerning Batticaloa's progress.

But there is one snag, and that is this question which is not clear: How is it that three of Batticola's most pressing needs—urgent development programmes—already set out, the three grand projects, namely: 1. The Batticola Law Courts, 2. The Valayiravu Bridge on which work is still in progress, but at snail's pace, 3. The UDA Town restructuring project—the Bazaar Front—have been brought to a dead halt and suffered to go on jogging like Rocinnate, Don Quixote's immortal steed of fiction? A pertinent question, is it not?

The Manmunai bridge is another agriculturally oriented development programme that is more or less hanging fire. At the recent Referendum hustings the ruling party's catchers have not proved to be bumpers, due, perhaps to indifference and apathy shown in the successful completion of these development programmes. It is now the hope of the Batticola man—for hope springs eternal in the human breast—that work on all these projects will be restarted in all true earnest and the programmes completed with the least delay.

K. Kanapathipillai

Batticola
2.5.83.

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FILM FOCUS

More On Gandhi

Your columnist has been on a few New Year rounds visiting friends and relations and it was a revelation that on a ratio of one in every household of four, the "Gandhi" film had been seen by them in video cassettes. This "illegal" circulation had spread to such an extent, that when the National Film Corporation succeeds in its negotiations to screen this internationally acclaimed smasher on our screens, it might as well have become a back number to our movie goers and weaken the box office returns for the costly investment. The only redeeming feature could be, that this film with the Mahatma swaying the masses with his fiery speeches in his younger days on public platforms and embarrassing—even infuriating the Whites, and more docile with maturity in the land of his birth were sequences that could have been gathered more effectively only on the cinematic screen and not even on the largest T.V. set. In other words the wider reflector for a film of this magnitude, where the people around the Mahatma were always in focus would contribute most for audience participation to imbibe its highlights to the brim. That it being what it would be, let us now round the impressive awards this film has claimed over E. T. (Extra Territorial) at the 55th Academy of Motion Pictures arts and

sciences ceremony in Hollywood. It was adjudged the best and the best directed film for 1982. Sir Richard Attenborough receiving the relevant Oscar for the latter achievement—while actor Ben Kingsley was given the best award in the role of Gandhi. The other awards were for best cinematography, editing, original music, special sound visual effects and the best scenario of the year. These Oscars have effortlessly tossed the box office value of the film sky high, so much so that it could remain an alltime perennial.

In the absence of local screening of this film, which would have been nectar for your columnist for a comprehensive review, let us record in a nutshell, what the Indian "Hindu" has to say about this film. Its columnist divides the portrayed biography into three periods—his years of separation in South Africa and the initiation after the train incident of Maritzburg, his subsequent return to India as the apostle of non-violence and latter period presenting Gandhi's finest hours. *Hindu* records further that "it is not just incidental that the best moments in the film are those where the spoken words are minimal. There are at least two such momentous scenes. When the ailing Kasturba quietly dies on Gandhi's lap in Yerwada Jail, there is a poignant lull. The shot stays awhile on the window frame, beyond which in the soft sunlight, the branches sway lightly with a soft breeze and the chirpings of birds, the only sounds that break the silence. The shot then shifts to Gandhi, his wife still on his lap, his face averted slightly from the camera, his spectacles glinting in the light seeping into the room, the hint of an inconsolable tear behind them. Truly a moment of ineffable sadness and truth—only a film can capture in all its intensity. The other sequence is the one that highlights Gandhi's historic Dandi march, as he sets out from his Ashram". And T. N. Murari, a journalist and novelist based in New York states that "Men make their own luck. Attenborough did. He searched and found Ben Kingsley Without him the film would not exist. He is Gandhi on the screen. This film is for those who wish to witness a heroic life. He was not cheap melodramatist. He shook the world. He forced an empire more colossal than Rome to bend its knee". And let us now patiently measure in time the vacuum that will last before we see this masterpiece (which other countries have already honoured) on our local cinema circuits.

SAMUGANIMI MA SEMIYANI (Sinhalese): A star studded story of an honest cop, that did flounder somewhat by amateurish direction, although the story in hand was promising for a beginning, to peter out tamely at curtains. The glamour of the uniform and the handsome countenance of the police officer, an officer in charge (Tony Ranasinghe), catches the straying fancy of a blue stockinged belle of the village (Malini Fonseka) who spurns her school day love, to take the hand of the O. I. C. in marriage, even before

he settles down in his new station. A stickler for duty and discipline, according to Departmental orders, the cop lays down the law firmly and steers strongly against corruption that beckons, till he is physically crippled, while chasing a bunch of crooks To steal a march over his testing moments, strolls in the well to do cad of the village (Joe Abeywickrama) with a lustful glint in his eye and slick talk, posing as a good samaritan. He pays the price of his folly, and how it is for you to see for in the film. But for the individual efforts of Joe, Malini and Tony the film would have collapsed in the ocean of emotion that it set out to portray. And why the heroine of the story had to be "killed" in the "dock" even before justice overtook her remained a mystery — perhaps to pamper those moviegoers who survive by the tears that films could jerk out, as part of their entertainment. The redeeming feature was that the hard life of policeman is honestly portrayed. An overrated film handled in a hurry, with an eye at the box office only.

VANDI CHAKKARAM (Tamil): To the surprise of *Film Focus* this film directed by K. Vijayan, did not live up somehow to the citation it did receive as the third best South Indian film in 1981, at the annual awards ceremony. The story is centred around the reformation of an extortionist's (Sivakumar) daily life style by one (Saritha) who loved him but not his ways. He however repents and turns to living as a carter toils for his coins by the sweat of his brow, but not for long as his past (life) overtakes him. Perhaps the dignity of honest labour that the film portrays won itself the rating — yet the roles of both Sivakumar and Saritha lacked depth. Sivakumar, a fading actor looked tough only by lighting his fags and strolling around town for his supper did not impress, but there were glimpses of acting prowess in Saritha who is today an actress very much in demand, taking on a variety of roles, with ease. The late Surulirajan limped physically in his role to turn on the laughs. Fair filmfare for a dull and dreary evening.

James N. Benedict

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POEMS

JUNGLE LOVES

*The supple swaying
Of a snake-like vine,
Which clasps, so lovingly
The giant Mara bough.
These are jungle loves.*

*The drugging perfume
Of the lotus blooms,
That float upon the surface
Of liquid crystal pools.
These are jungle loves.*

*The gold-brushed tiger pelt
That meets a startled glance,
The blue-shot glory
Of a peacock's dance.
These are jungle loves.*

*The hard brown earth,
The slim green mana grass,
The waiting silence,
Of the heavy brooding hours,
These are jungle loves.*

*They call to me
And mingle in my blood,
They snare me
To those secret places—
Bind me to
The Jungles
That I love.*

Lorraine

KANDY

*The tropic skies were blue and bright,
The stars they were twinkling at night—
The stars they were diamonds at night:
In the hill city it was moonlight.
Beauty serene covered the night;
The pleasant lake shimmering with light
Queen Venkatra Renga beheld such a sight
Imbuing the lake beauty with delight
In the island grove in the moon-lit night.*

*The lake city was such a fine sight
The lights they were on walls bedight—
The lights they were on rows bedight
With palaces, temples, Audience Hall might,
Sri Wickrema Raja Singha held them alight
With elephants and dances on occasional night
Displaying, pagaentry and pomp all in height
It was paradise enough with such a sight
In that fair ilse of Lanka that night.*

Victoria Joseph

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April 25 - May 1**DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS - PAPERS
PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO**

DN—Daily News; *CDM*—Daily Mirror; *EO*—Evening 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; *RP*—Riviresa; *DK*—Dinakara; *EN*—Ealanadu; *Is*—Island; *DI*—Divaina; *IDPR*—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, APRIL 25: A tight security net including an armed services stand-by alert, will be thrown over Colombo on May Day when the political parties are expected to make a special effort to display a show of strength in view of the by-election and local elections. The four-month drought in Walawe is reported to have completely destroyed all subsidiary food crops—*DN*. Hotel accommodation, meeting hall facilities, entertainment and recreational opportunities, sight seeing tours and shopping will be both in quality and value, equal to the best the delegates have ever had at any PATA Conference when they meet in April 1984 in Sri Lanka—*CDM*. Several new projects for the production of basic chemicals and the processing of minerals mainly for the export market have got underway in Sri Lanka with assistance from the National Development Bank. Effective English tea hing programmes will be introduced in the country's technical colleges, the Ministry of Higher Education has decided. Packeted meat will be available for sale in the city's meat stalls shortly; the one-kilo packets will cost the consumer 50 cents more than the current prices—*SU*. The prevailing drought has created a serious water shortage in a number of hospitals in the outstations; health authorities fear that if the present weather conditions prevail for a few more weeks, the patient care services in the hospitals would be affected—*EO*. The National Supplies Corporation of Libya the sole importer of that country, has expressed surprise at Sri Lanka's refusal to export tea to Libya despite the Government -professed policy of encouraging private sector participation in exports. The Sri Lanka government has rejected the draft agreement proposed by the Voice of America (VOA) to expand its facilities here; the agreement "impinges on the security and sovereignty of Sri Lanka", highly placed government sources said—*IS*.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26: IGP Rudra Rajasingham yesterday told his DIGs to keep a sharp eye on the possibility of Northern terrorist groups trying to establish themselves outside the Jaffna district. Sri Lanka will not debar Taiwan, Israel or South Africa from a major international conference on tourism

scheduled to be held in Colombo in April next year, a high ranking Sri Lankan official said. US Secretary of State, George Shultz, arrives today at the start of a Middle East tour for crucial talks to revive a stalled regional peace process; on his first official visit to the Middle East he will meet in Egypt President Hosni Mubarak, Foreign Minister Kamal Hassain Ali and other senior officials.—*DN*. Employees in the private sector and state corporations will be entitled to a retirement pensions scheme very soon the Minister of Labour, Captain C. P. J. Seneviratne said yesterday—*CDM*. Sri Lanka is likely to grant citizenship to nearly 100,000 stateless estate workers of Indian origin who have opted to stay rather than be repatriated to India. Belgian Economic Affairs Minister Mark Eyskens said a consensus was emerging that without strengthening of the financial support mechanisms and resources flows to the developing countries, a sustained economic recovery in the industrialized countries was not feasible—*SU*. Earnings from products manufactured in the Greater Colombo Economic Commission reached a record of 121 million for the month of January alone, this year—*EO*. An epidemic of swine fever now raging in Sri Lanka is threatening to wipe out not only the country's domesticated pigs but also the teeming wild boar population of the jungles. The Ministry of Social Services has released over 18 million rupees for relief work in thirteen drought-affected districts Ministry sources said yesterday. A former member of the Colombo Municipal Council, Mr. Shelton Abeyratne and three others have been remanded in connection with an alleged theft of tyres estimated to be worth Rs. 38,000—*IS*. A sum of Rs. 3,500,000 has been collected to the Employees Trust Fund so far; twenty percent of this amount will be distributed among members of the Fund—*DP*.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27: Mexico has agreed to buy 1,000 tons of cinnamon, worth Rs. 100 million following talks between Trade Minister Lalith Athulathmudali and Mexican Trade Minister Hector Hernandez. Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel on Monday advised the Finance Ministry in Colombo that Belgian aid for the Moneragala district development project has been wrapped up; he told his officials that a commitment for Belgian aid totalling 353 million Belgian Francs had been obtained. Thailand's Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda said that he was stepping down from politics and would not accept another term; his shock announcement, made as Thailand's post-election parliament began its first working session, threw the country into uncertainty—*DN*. President J. R. Jayewardene has by gazette notification appointed 281 Assistant Returning Officers to assist in the mini general elections to be held in May 18.—*CDM*. A leading United States multinational will invest in a 20 million US dollar, electronic component manufacturing project in Sri Lanka., Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulath-

mudali announced yesterday. A second and more comprehensive survey is to be conducted shortly to ascertain the number of Indian estate labourers who have allegedly been settled illegally in the north and east by the Gandhiam Movement. In 1982, Sri Lanka exported goods to the value of 160.1 million Deutsche Marks (Rs. 1,489 million) to the Federal Republic of Germany—*SU*. The liberalisation of imports has led to liberalisation of quarantine regulations which has led to Sri Lanka being exposed to the introduction of foreign diseases, authoritative veterinary sources said. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party has decided to cancel its May Day procession; Mr. Alvai Moulana speaking on behalf of the SLFP May Day Committee said yesterday that it has been decided to "abandon the procession" in protest as the SLFP was not prepared to accept the government's choice of the place from which the procession should start—*IS*. Mr. R. Premadasa has sent a letter to British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher requested her to increase the quantum of the aid for the Victoria Project—*DP*. Strict security measures will be provided to those contesting the local government elections in the North—*VK*.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28: An early warning of a stringent economy drive in the 1984 budget has been sent out to the public sector by the Secretary to the Treasury Dr. W. M. Tilakaratna; he has stressed that application for new staff will not be entertained in 1984; the Treasury will disallow applications for new projects next year too, the Secretary said. In the last nine months of 1982, Air Lanka has succeeded in bringing down to Rs. 90 million its operating deficit of Rs. 266 million for the period April, 1 1981 to December 31, 1981. The prevailing drought has hit tea production this year and the April crop is expected to decline sharply from crop figures a year earlier, reports Eastern Brokers, the Colombo firm. Eight Gulf states menaced by a giant oil slick have failed for the third time to agree on how to cap shattered Iranian wells spewing thousands of barrels of crude a day into the waterway. The recession in many third world countries could deepen in the months ahead despite the beginnings of recovery in the industrial world, including the United States, development officials said yesterday—*DN*. The Defence Ministry is considering a proposal to ban the activities of the Gandhiam Movement in this country; this follows investigations that large amounts of money and other contributions to the Movement had allegedly been misused and evidently diverted to terrorist activity in the North—*CDM*. Night Duty for women workers will no longer be taboo from 10 p.m. Cabinet yesterday decided to relax existing restrictions in this regard official spokesman and State Minister Anandattissa de Alwis told a news briefing. A stock of anti-swine fever vaccine is to be flown down immediately from the Netherlands, as the use of swill from airlines

and hotels as animal feed is to be banned by the Minister of Rural Industrial Development. Two former United National Party Members of Parliament P. Sumathiratne (Habaraduwa) and D. E. Mallawarachchi (Kamburupitiya) face expulsion from the UNP—*SU*. Sri Lanka may be forced to devalue the rupee further to obtain urgently needed foreign assistance from the International Monetary Fund to support the balance of payments requirements and the country's development programmes, informed sources said yesterday—*S*. Onions grown in Jaffna will be exported to the Middle East for the first time on 2nd May 1983—*DP*. The University Grants Commission has announced that the date for making application for university admission will not be extended under any circumstance—*VK*.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29: President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday told India's External Affairs Minister Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao that he was going to solve the problem of the balance stateless persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka and to leave the matter to him; "I am satisfied with the approach the President made and the assurance he gave", Mr. Rao told the press at a briefing at Hotel Lanka Oberoi, hours before his departure for New Delhi. The Central Committee of the SLFP (Maithripala Group) has decided to offer its complete support to all SLFP (S) candidates at the forthcoming byelections and local council elections, the party's acting general secretary, Mr. Mahinda Senanayake, said in a press release issued yesterday. Third World countries yesterday called for an international conference to review the global monetary and financial system and seek reforms that would bring back prosperity; the declaration was made in a communique issued by the so-called group of 24 developing countries under the auspices of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Poland has protested to the United States over what it called slanderous and aggressive broadcasts by US radio stations as the authorities campaigned to prevent demonstrations planned by the underground for Sunday—*DN*. The present drought experienced in the island may have been induced by planting of Red Gum trees which dry up, the moisture of the soil—*CDM*. Tighter security measures have been introduced in the apron and runway area of the Colombo Airport Katunayake with the deployment of Sri Lanka Air Force personnel. Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao yesterday denouncing all forms of terrorism said that India did not encourage or tolerate acts of terrorism in any country, least of all in a neighbouring country. Government will effect a phased withdrawal of the Kelani Valley train service to minimise inconvenience to commuters, Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed said yesterday—*SU*. The Minister of Transport Boards Mr. M. H. Mohamed has issued a directive to Chairman of all Regional Transport

Boards to suspend hiring of buses for April 20 and May 1 to any political party, group or organisation; this year, transport of persons for the May Day rallies in state buses has been banned. The 1.5 million kilograms of tea catalogued for the safe on May 10, 1983 will be the smallest in over two decades according to John Keels Ltd. A comparatively new disease, almost as virulent as Cholera, is now gripping the whole country due to the prolonged drought, informed sources told *The Island*—IS. It is believed that several members of the Mannar Development Council who are members of the Tamil United Liberation Front have decided to resign from the Council—DP.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30: Although Sri Lanka's gross domestic product growth had slowed to 5.1 percent last year against 5.8 percent a year earlier the country's real per capita income was up 3.5 percent against the previous year's 2.5 percent, the Central Bank said in its 1982 annual report released yesterday. The Northern terrorists struck again yesterday, killing two UNP candidates standing for election to the Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri Urban Councils and the bodyguard of the ruling party's Jaffna organiser, Mr. K. Ganeshalingam. Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi today said India wanted close and harmonious ties with all its immediate neighbours and stressed that such a relationship among them should make the subcontinent a "very strong force" in Asia. President Reagan remains open to the idea of a summit session with Soviet leader Yuri Andropov provided it would have some prospects of achievement, a state department official said—DN. The Ministry of Justice has proposed the commissioning of Attorneys-at-Law to serve as temporary High Court Judges; this measure has been recommended as a proposal to ease the heavy backlog of cases that are piled up with various High Courts in the country—CDM. The armed forces in the north and east were last night directed to provide security cover for all UNP candidates at the local government elections. Overloading will not be permitted in private coaches; private coaches will not be allowed to carry more than four to five passengers in excess of their licensed seating capacity, Police said yesterday. A nominal increase in Sri Lanka's gross national product from 4.1 percent in 1981 to 4.9 percent in 1982 — which is below economic expectations — has brought a call for urgent corrective measures in the country's economy. A Rural Industrial Development Corporation with an initial share capital base of Rs. 500 million is to be set up shortly to provide industrial development loans to small scale industries at minimal rates of interest—SU. The UNP oriented University Students' Union has assured President J. R. Jayewardene at a meeting on Friday to rid the universities of ragging which is against Sri Lanka's culture and the national values, the secretary of the Union Mr. Anura Ratnayake stated in a press release—IS.

TRIBUNE, MAY 14, 1983

SUNDAY, MAY 1: All UNP candidates nominated to run for the Chavakachcheri UC elections withdrew their nominations yesterday in a surprise protest move against the Friday's shooting of Mr. M. R. Muttiah who headed the UNP list; there were 14 names on the list. One of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's closest confidants strongly hinted at a general election in June. A nine nation ministerial group of Nonaligned States is drawing up a campaign plan at New Delhi for lobbying the rich industrialized countries to promote third world economic views. Italy's politicians are convinced they face an election battle now that Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani's four-party coalition has resigned. Brazil and Mexico the world most indebted nations, said today they needed more money from the west to prevent a further worsening of their living standards—SO. Government Revenue had increased by 12 percent during the first two months this year but government expenditure had decreased by 25 percent; the revenue for January and February 1983 was Rs. 3,179 million compared to Rs. 2,841 million for the same period of the previous year—ST. The Government yesterday decided to evolve a series of military and political strategies aimed at stamping out terrorism in the North once and for all. Sri Lanka is to embark on a multi-pronged strategy aimed at attracting high technology industries, primarily American multinationals to invest in the country—WK. The two estranged factions of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party are expected to close ranks later this month when Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike and Mr. Maithripala Senanayake return to the country; informed SLFP sources indicated that the breakaway Maithripala Senanayake group would be admitted to the party without any conditions in keeping with the wishes of the party's rank and file. A Boeing 707 of Zambia's National Airways will zoom into the Katunayake Airport at 8.20 a. m. tomorrow (Monday) to create history as the first airliner from the African continent to touch down in Sri Lanka—IS.



SEVENTH SUMMIT
POLITICAL DECLARATION

S. E. & S. W. Asia

SOUTH—EAST ASIA | Reviewing the situation in South East Asia, the Heads of State or Government expressed grave concern over the continuing conflicts and tensions in the region, particularly as many of the States are members of the Movement of

Nonaligned Countries. They reaffirmed their support for the principles of non-interference in the affairs of sovereign States and the inadmissibility of the use of force against sovereign States. They warned that there was a real danger of the tensions in and around Kampuchea escalating over a wider area. They were convinced of the urgent need to deescalate these tensions through a comprehensive political solution which would provide for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, thus ensuring full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all States in the region, including Kampuchea.

The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed the right of the people of Kampuchea to determine their own destiny free from foreign interference, subversion and coercion and expressed the hope that through a process of negotiations and mutual understanding a climate conducive to the exercise of that right would be created. They also agreed that the humanitarian problems resulting from the conflicts in the region required urgent measures which called for the active cooperation of all the parties concerned. They urged all States in the region to undertake a dialogue which would lead to the resolution of differences among themselves and the establishment of durable peace and stability in the area, as well as the elimination of involvement and threats of intervention by outside powers. In this context, they noted with approval the efforts being made for the early establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in the region and called upon all States to give those efforts their fullest support.

SOUTH—WEST ASIA The Heads of State or Government noted with great concern the situation in South-West Asia and agreed that it carries dangerous consequences for the peace and stability of the region. They agreed that the continuation of this situation poses serious implications for international peace and security. In this context, the Ministers viewed the situation in Afghanistan with particular concern. They reiterated the urgent call made at the New Delhi Ministerial Conference held in February 1981 for a political settlement on the basis of the withdrawal of foreign troops and full respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aligned status of Afghanistan and strict observance of the principle of non-intervention and non-interference. They also reaffirmed the right of the Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour and called for a speedy solution to this vast humanitarian problem. To this end, they urged all concerned to work towards such a settlement which would ensure that the Afghan people would determine their own destiny free from outside interference and which would enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homes.

The Heads of State or Government expressed their appreciation for sincere efforts made in the

search for a political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan and extended their support to the constructive steps taken in this regard by the Secretary General of the United Nations. They regarded the discussions through the intermediary of the Secretary General as a step in the right direction and urged their continuation with a view to promoting an early political settlement of the problem in conformity with the ideals and principles of the Movement of Nonaligned countries. They called on all states to exercise restraint to avoid further endangering the peace and security of the region, and to take such steps as would lead to the creation of conditions conducive to stable and harmonious relations among the States of the region based on the nonaligned principles of peaceful co-existence, respect for sovereignty, national independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

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INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE

West Still Dragging Its Feet

United Nations: The UN ad hoc committee on the Indian Ocean ended what an Indian diplomat called another "exercise in futility" when it wound up a two-week session without finalising the date for the proposed conference on Indian Ocean in Colombo next year. As in previous sessions the western nations led by the United States maintained their position that the political and security climate had been vitiated by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and therefore, the time was not yet ripe for the conference. The nonaligned view that the committee should go ahead with setting the dates of the conference and discussing its agenda was endorsed by the socialist countries, but they felt that there was a lot of preparatory work that had to be undertaken immediately. They also suggested that the conference should take place in different stages, like, the European security conferences. Indian delegate T. P. Sreenivasan reminded the committee in vain that the recent nonaligned summit had urged the ad hoc committee to complete its preparations for the conference despite the unwarranted delays resulting from the attitude of some great powers, which had thus far prevented the completion of the preparations for holding the conference. During the two-week session the nonaligned countries reaffirmed their determination to continue their endeavour towards the attainment of the objectives embodied in the 1971 declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. They maintained that any manifestation of great power presence in the Indian Ocean area was a flagrant violation of the declaration issued by the UN General Assembly. Japan joined western powers in suggesting that the Soviet invasion of

Afghanistan had seriously damaged the trust and confidence among nations, which was necessary if meaningful agreement was to be reached on matters of security. The ad hoc committee is to resume its session in July next. The committee's membership has risen to 45 with the admission of United Arab Emirates as a littoral state.

The United States has claimed that its naval presence in the Indian Ocean enhanced the security climate in the region and inhibited otherwise potentially unchecked hegemonistic attempts. The claim came in the ad hoc committee on the Indian Ocean which is discussing topics relating to the proposed Indian Ocean conference in Colombo next year. US delegate David Adamson, also sought to justify the US naval presence on the ground that the right to peaceful use, transit and overflight of the world's oceans and seas by all nations was fundamental. He said naval forces operating on the high seas could not be considered "foreign" since those oceans by definition were international. In his view, removal of great power naval forces from the Indian Ocean would not only set aside a basic international right, but also create an opportunity for an even more dangerous military imbalance to the detriment of regional security. Mr. Adamson said establishment of realistic zone of peace in the Indian Ocean region must take into account all elements affecting the stability and security of the region. US did not deploy its "limited" military forces in the Indian Ocean region with the intention of using or threatening to use force in contravention of the UN charter. During the debate India had earlier urged the great powers to enter in to immediate consultations with the littoral states of the Indian Ocean in order to halt the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean and to eliminate from the ocean and to eliminate from the ocean all bases and military installations and disposition of nuclear weapons.

Indian delegate T. P. Sreenivasan told the committee that the Indian Ocean conferences would be an integral part of such consultations. He said the ad hoc committee should guard against any attempts to confuse the question of the zone of peace with the question of nuclear non-proliferation treaty and of nuclear weapons free zones. The idea of the Indian Ocean peace zone was distinct from these concepts and there was a separate forum for discussing them. Mr. Sreenivasan said the ad hoc committee had embarked on an 'exercise in self deception' by repeating a debate, which did not advance its movement towards the Colombo conference. It had thus created "a facade of movement" towards an understanding that did not exist. The ad hoc committee heard the Soviet Union express its readiness to sit any time without preconditions at the negotiations table to resume talks with the US on the reduction of military presence in the Indian Ocean. According to Chinese delegate Liang Yufan, the reason why

the idea of the zone of peace has not been implemented even after a lapse of 20 years since the initiatives were put forward lay in the super power "rivalry for hegemony in the region and their military expansionist activities there". The Soviet Union is offering to start cutting back its "limited military presence" in the Indian Ocean if steps are taken to turn the region into a "zone of peace". Soviet delegate Vladimir V. Shustov says. Mr. Shustov made the offer in the UN Special committee on the Indian Ocean this week. He suggested a rollback of foreign military presence in the region to 1977 or 1978 levels. The UN General Assembly established the Indian Ocean committee in 1972 to promote the carrying out of its 1971 declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The panel has been bogged down for years in fruitless efforts to agree on guidelines for a conference on that subject. Its latest target is to schedule the conference in the first half of 1984. Mr. Shustov said the zone of peace could include either the littoral countries those directly on the Indian Ocean or both the littoral countries and those further inland, but added that "it might be preferable to work initially from the first option".—UNI & PTI.

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ARAB PETRODOLLARS

Moving East

Bahrain: Arab money managers are looking East for a potentially more profitable home for some of their billions of petro-dollars. With their oil output slumping because of the world glut, Gulf States are turning to East Asia and Australia partly to diversify investments traditionally held in the United States and Europe, according to bankers and economists. But Gulf investment managers are also seeking countries with high-growth potential when the world economic recovery begins they said. The Asia and Pacific basin countries will have growth considerably in excess of Europe and United States for the next ten years. Kuwait Asia Bank's General Manager, John House, predicted. Bankers stress that only a small portion of Arab petro-dollars are moving east. But this means big business. Given that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries members mainly the Gulf States are estimated to hold up to 400 billion dollars in investable reserves. The most tangible sign of increasing Arab interest in Asia is an influx of Arab banks to financial centres such as Singapore and Hong Kong.

Kuwait Asia is a leading bank channelling funds from the Gulf to Asia. Last week is raised its capital to 100 million dollars from 30 million to finance new branches and ventures in the region. Arab Bankers and financial advisers, traditionally familiar with the economies of the West, knew little about the east until about three years ago when the West

slid into recession. The bankers said that while part of the new surpluses generated by the Gulf states would be invested in the east, they did not predict funds being withdrawn from the West. Only financial markets in the United States and Europe have the size to absorb the vast sums the Arabs have invested a Kuwaiti banker said. "But we are thinking about putting a small percentage, perhaps a tenth, of our new money into Asia", he said. Kuwait has an estimated 75 billion dollars of reserves at present, generating about seven billion dollars a year of interest. Private Arab investors and Government finance ministers are looking for investment opportunities in major Asian countries. Bankers said Malaysia for example was seen as attractive because of its wealth of natural resources and because its Muslim population had religious links with West Asia.

Singapore already has a host of Arab Bank offices, including the big Bahrain based Arab Banking Corporation, with its one billion dollars of capital. Economists to estimate the 13 OPEC countries has a current account balance of payments deficit last year because of falling oil output down to about 16 million barrels daily from a 1979 peak of 31 million. The position looks even bleaker this year because of the five dollars a barrel cut in the OPEC reference price last month, the bankers said. But very rich Gulf States such as Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, which would probably remain in surplus this year would be the main spenders in the east, they said. Saudi Arabia has already invested fairly large sums in Japan with the yen seen to be the country's third most important investment currency after the dollar and the German Mark. The appearance of institutions such as the Kuwait Asia Bank and Arab Banking Corporation also illustrated a relatively new trend in the Arab world to manage financial surpluses directly, rather than through foreign banks.—PTI.

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VOA EDITORIAL

Principles and Pragmatism

Washington, April 29: Our policy in El Salvador, enunciated by President Reagan in a speech to Congress April 27, is a mixture of principle and pragmatism. We have to be practical about the impact of a leftist guerilla takeover in El Salvador on our vital interests in the region. Two-thirds of all our foreign trade and oil goes through the Panama Canal and the Caribbean. At least half our supplies for NATO would pass through the area in a time of European crisis. We simply cannot be indifferent to what happens in Central America: our lifeline to the outside world—and thus our national security—is at stake. Indeed, as President Reagan noted, "the national security

of all the Americas is at stake in Central America." So we are helping the elected government of El Salvador in its attempt to deal with the leftist insurgency there. Some of our aid is military most of it is economic. We are helping the government of El Salvador to train and equip its army. *Today* because of our assistance, it is a more professional army—one that is better able to deal with the military threat posed by the insurgents and one that is under the control of the elected, civilian government. We are also helping to develop the economy of El Salvador. Today, with our assistance, the government is carrying out a program of significant land reform that has the strong support of the population. It is this popular support that connects the principle with the pragmatism in our policy. We believe in democratic government. We believe the people of El Salvador should be permitted to choose their own government without threat from an insurgent movement whose slogan in last year's election was "Vote Today, Die Tonight". *We intend* to keep faith with the 80 percent of the electorate who refused to be intimidated and voted in the election. And we are certain that, with adequate assistance, they will prevail. As one of the voters told the guerillas: "You can kill me, you can kill my family, kill my neighbours, but you can't kill us all." We have strategic interests that are affected by what happens in El Salvador to be sure. But we also have a strong sense of what is right. It would be shortsighted of us to ignore the practical consequences that would flow from a victory by the Leftist insurgents. But it would be an abdication of our basic principles for us to ignore the wishes of the Salvadoran people, by allowing those who use violence to triumph over those who would preserve in a truly democratic revolution—USIS.

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CENTRAL AMERICA

Reagan Faces Setbacks

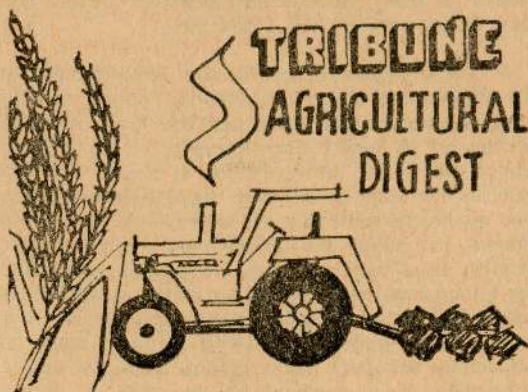
Washington: President Reagan's request for 60 million dollars in additional military aid for El Salvador was cut in half by a House of Representatives sub-committee. Four strict conditions were set for allocating the other half. In recommending a 30 million dollar allocation by a 7-5 vote the foreign operations sub-committee of the House ways and Means Committee demanded (1) An unannounced international Red Cross visit to Salvadoran prisons; (2) The release of political prisoners and the quick enactment of an amnesty law; (3) An investigation, based on US Federal Bureau of Investigation finding into the murder in 1980 in El Salvador of four North American nuns; (4) The naming by the US Government of a special envoy who will try to get all factions in El Salvador's guerilla war to take part in free elections. The administration of President Ronald Reagan had asked to transfer 60 million dollars in credit to El Salvador from funds already allocated to other

countries. This procedure allows for funding without approval by both branches of Congress. But the House Foreign Operation sub-committee has a virtual veto power.

Congressional Democrats denounced President Ronald Reagan's Central American policies as a formula for failure "leading to" a dark tunnel of endless intervention. American dollars alone cannot buy military victory. Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut said in the televised speech billed as a Democratic response to Mr. Reagan's address to a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate. "Instead of trying to do something about the factors which breed revolution, this Administration has turned to massive military buildings at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars", he said. "Its policy is ever increasing military assistance, endless military training, even hiring our own paramilitary guerillas. This is a formula for failure and it is a proven prescription for picking a loser. The American people know that we have been down this road before—and that it only leads to a dark tunnel of endless intervention". Mr. Dodd said Mr. Reagan could not blame Congress that "things were not going well in Central America". "We have given him what he asked", he said saying that 700 million dollars in economic and military assistance had been delivered or was on its way to El Salvador since Mr. Reagan took office." He also charged that the Administration is "backing sure losers" by supporting rebels against the leftist government of Nicaragua who, he said, are the remnant of the regime of deposed dictator Anastasio Somoza. Mr. Dodd urged the Administration to "use the power and influence of the United States to achieve an immediate cessation of hostilities in both El Salvador and Nicaragua" and to work for negotiated political settlement throughout the region.

Earlier defending his Central American policies at the joint session, Mr. Reagan said "the national security of all Americans is at stake in Central America, if we cannot defend ourselves there we cannot expect to prevail elsewhere. Our credibility would collapse, our alliances would crumble and the safety of our homeland would be put at jeopardy". Observers pointed out that only nine times in the past quarter of a century have American Presidents gone before a special session of the Congress. Even as President Reagan was speaking to the Congress, demonstrators under the auspices of the Committee of Solidarity with the people of El Salvador, carrying placards like "fight poverty, unemployment, not Nicaraguan people", chanted. The President is not getting the right advice. The President sought congressional approval for the full reprogramming of funds for key current economic and security programmes so that the people of Central America can hold the line against externally supported aggression. He said that the Administration was asking for "on

behalf of Freedom in Central America was so small, so minimal—considering what was at stake. Explaining the American attitude towards the government of Nicaragua, the President declared, "we do not seek its overthrow. Our interest is to ensure that it does not infect its neighbours through the export of subversion and violence".—PTI.



A NOTE ON

Peradeniya Pachyderms

We publish in this issue, the concluding part of the article "The Composition of Local and Imported Citrus Fruit" by Dr. A. W. R. Joachim and D. G. Panditsekere from an issue of the "Tropical Agriculturist" in 1939. The first part of the article appeared in our issue last week.

We have published in the *Tribune* in the last one year several articles from "The Tropical Agriculturist" from the 1920s, 1930s and even in the 1940s and 1950s. We have not found much that merited reproduction from the "Tropical Agriculturist" in more recent years which would be of interest to the layman and the ordinary farmer. (We have however often published pieces from the cyclostyled bulletin issued by the Department of Agriculture called "Research Highlights"). Except for the small mercies coiled out in the "Research Highlights", it is almost impossible to know whether Department is doing anything comparable to what was done in the earlier period.

There is no doubt, as we have often pointed out, that Agriculture, especially Research (in practically all fields except paddy), has fallen into a sad state. Officers, trained at state expensive as experts here and abroad, seem to be concerned only with perks and foreign scholarships as stepping stones to lucrative jobs in the international employment network. "The Tropical Agriculturist" dated July 1980 was released only a few weeks ago and it was after a superhuman effort that a friend was able to trace a copy for us. We shall review the (1980) number of

the "Tropical Agriculturist" shortly. We shall also pursue an investigation of the behavioural pattern of some Agricultural Officers and experts who not only continue to live in a dream world of their own but also regard all others as lesser beings in all matters including agriculture and whose views should be dismissed with light-hearted banter. ("Don't read books on plant diseases and pests—if you do, you won't plant anything" etc. etc.).

A highly placed expert in the Establishment at Peradeniya has written a letter to *Tribune*, making fun, interspersed with snide remarks, about an article written by "A Special Correspondent" in the *Tribune* about the JEDB Citrus Project in Bibile. We will publish this letter in full with appropriate comments and queries to show that the lofty pinnacles on ivory towers in which the Pachydrems of Peradeniya flourish have been bane of Sri Lanka's agriculture for a long time now. The writer of this letter, whose rhetorical outbursts against some of the shortcomings of the inner workings of the Department made in apparently scholarly papers before learned scientific societies, have appeared in the *Tribune* during the last three or four years. That he should rush into a controversy in which he was not directly involved and where departmental angels will not dare to tread is only a reminder that the Peradeniya Establishment regards itself as an exclusive club which no outsider is entitled to question—only those inside have the right to scratch each other's backs or tear each other's limbs apart.—*Editor*

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FROM "THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURIST" IN 1939

The Composition of Local and Imported Citrus Fruit (2)

By Dr. A. W. R. Joachim and D. G. Panditte-sekera

THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS of the samples are presented in four tables. I and II show certain characteristics of and analytical figures for, local orange and grapefruit samples and III and IV the corresponding data for the imported samples. In these tables the samples are classified, where possible, into sub-groups according to variety, country of origin and nature or parent tree i.e., whether graft or seedling. When discussing the data comment will only be made on any sub-group comprising at least six samples. In Table V the analytical data of the samples examined are summarized, while in table VI, the corresponding data, obtained

from the literature, for citrus fruit of various countries are furnished.

ORANGES : An examination of the tables I and II indicates that (1) there are considerable variations in the analytical composition of different samples of both imported and local oranges. A wide range of variation will be apparent in the case of every constituent determined. To take a few examples, in regard to juice percentage, the range for local fruit is 35.4 to 63.0 and for imported fruit 26.9 to 62.2 for total solids the corresponding ranges are 8.2 to 12.7 and 9.2 to 11.9. The range is widest with the solids/acid and sugar/acid ratios and narrowest in the case of the pH values. The flavour also varies from sweet to sour through mildly sweet, mildly tart and tart; (2) considered as a whole, the average composition of the local samples is not significantly different from that of the imported samples; (3) The lowest solids/acid ratio in the case of the local samples is 8.3, a figure which is higher than the standard set for Californian fruit. All the local samples examined are, therefore from the standpoint of maturity, up to export standard. Of the imported samples, only one has a ratio less than 8, but even this, from Rhodesia, would pass the standard adopted in its country of origin viz., 6.5. All the samples are well above the New South Wales standard; (4) The average vitamin contents of both imported and local oranges are quite high, being respectively 52.3 and 49.6 mgm. per 100 ml. of juice; (5) There is no appreciable difference in the average analytical composition of local fruit from grafted and seedling trees. Of imported fruit, Navels are significantly superior to the Valencias in vitamin C content and (6) There is a fairly close correspondence between the total solids/acid and sugar/acid ratios and flavour; but this is more noticeable when the data for any particular sub-group are compared.

GRAPEFRUIT : A study of the data of tables III and IV shows that (1) As with oranges, though to a lesser degree, there is an appreciable variation in the composition of individual samples of both local and imported grapefruit. Thus the juice percentages and total solids/acid ratios vary from 30.5 to 55.2 and 4.6 to 8.9 respectively in the case of the local fruit, and from 32.5 to 45.3 and 4.4 to 9.5 with the imported fruit. (2) The average vitamin C values sugar contents and maturity ratios of both the imported and local grapefruit samples are lower and the acidities higher than the corresponding-figures for the orange samples; (3) The local samples, on the average, are not significantly different to the imported samples in analytical composition; (4) There is no significant difference between the average analytical composition of the Marsh's Seedles samples and that of the other varieties, grouped together.

GENERAL DISCUSSION : On examining the data of Table VI, which shows the analyses of representative samples of oranges and grapefruit of various countries, it will be found that the local samples of oranges and grapefruit compare very favourably in analytical composition with the fruit grown elsewhere. The general conclusions arrived at from a comparison of the analyses of local and imported citrus fruit are thus confirmed. In other respects, however, there are striking differences between local and imported oranges. Many of the local orange samples are inferior to the imported fruit in such characteristics as colour and looseness of rind, facility of peeling, character of rag, seedlessness etc. Artificial colouration by means of ethylene does not often produce the typical colour in local oranges. These defects are probably the effects of the warm, continuously humid climate and are less marked in local fruit grown in the cooler dry districts e.g. Welimada. Most samples of local grapefruit on the other hand, are in every respect of the standard of, and some even superior to, the fruit imported into the Island. When the colour is lacking, artificial colouration can easily be resorted to with excellent results.

SUMMARY : The analyses of 62 samples of local and imported grape-fruit and oranges have indicated that locally grown oranges of good quality compare favourably with imported fruit in analytical composition. Many of the local samples are, probably because of climatic conditions, inferior to imported fruit in such characteristics as colour, thickness of rind, facility of peeling, character of rag, seedlessness etc. Most samples of local grapefruit, on the other hand, are in every respect equal, and in some cases superior, to imported fruit, local Citrus fruits have a very similar composition to fruit grown in other countries.

(The Tables Referred To In The Article Will Appear Next Week)

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CASHEW STEM-BORER

Longicornus Beetle

By K. Kanapathipillai.

Should one chance upon a Cashew tree with resin-weeping scars on the stem, then one can be sure and certain that the tree had been attacked by the larvae of the *Longicornus Beetle*. Exuding from the scar or scars is a viscous substance a confused mixture of chewed up "sausage and mash" of the bark, sapwood and resin. At the start, the clear crystalline resin which hangs in glass-rod-like effusions, streams out of the scars. Then the resin spreads all over the surface

of the bark forming firm sheets of gum. Should you dig into one such scar with a skewertipped steel prod, you are sure to be rewarded for your labour with valuable information as regards the life cycle of the cashew pest — the *Longicornus Beetle*. To commence with, you probe through, what might appear to be, a straight tunnel, that runs along the surface of the sap wood — mostly cambium — that lies underneath the bark, of which the outer surface is rough and cracked and gnarled; the inner zone sappy and juicy. It is merely a surface scar — so you conclude.

But you are mistaken. Appearances are often deceptive. As you go on probing, you find to your surprise, that the tunnel branches out now fan-wise and now feather-wise, the branching tunnels ending blindly. The main tunnel goes on and on, deeper and deeper into the wood, forming a maze. The tunnels are not empty hollows. They are compactly stuffed with the chewed up magmatic exudation. The disposition of the tunnels points to the fact that the larvae had gone on blindly chewing their way instinctively turning in one direction and then in another, into the juicy resin-rich bark and at a later stage had eaten deep into the sap wood. These tunnels are labyrinthine, and appear to have been so designed as to mislead any insect eating bird, like, for instance, the curious woodpecker which I have seen haunting these trees. The tunnel boring it would seem is of immense survival value. This pattern of boring helps the larva in its struggle to escape the search of the woodpecker. If you are lucky enough to get a fairly big stem far gone into a condition of being pest-ridden, the tunneling would have gone deep down into the root system as well. Once this stage has been reached by the pest, the plant begins to show signs of being badly affected by the pest. The leaves now turn pale, wither and fall; and the branches and twigs dry up. Now the pest attack has evidently gone beyond remedial measures.

THE VILLAGE FOLK sprinkle the tree with charmed water. But all their efforts are of no avail. The plant is now as dead as a door nail. But the pest is in an infective stage. The larva is now full-grown. It is about 7 cm in length; pearl-cream in colour, possessing very powerful mouth parts. It comes to a resting stage. It is not clear as to how long the larval stage lasts — perhaps a year or even more. Here I speak under correction. If you can saw across the stem, and then saw it lengthwise, you can bow come upon the pupal stage — a tucked up pupa encased in a thin egg-like shell, 3 to 4 cm in length. If you are lucky enough you may chance upon a fully matured pupa, and even a half-awakened adult beetle, neatly packed in some soft tissue membrane. The adult is about 7 cm long; rust brown in colour, with pin spots; the two antennae are apparently segmented, much longer than the

sender body. The mouth parts are very formidable biting instruments. The legs: segmented and armed with powerful clawed hooks that enable the beetle to hold fast to the barks of trees.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES: (a) keep the plant beds absolutely free from any litter; (b) sawed or cut ends of branches should be smeared with tar; (c) stems of plants from one to five years old, should be sprayed with some insecticide during the season of the maximum ascent of sap and growth— March to May. Remedial measures: (a) Clean all scars in the stem; take out all the chewed up magma and the larvae. Cover the scars with tar. Fill the holes with cement and tar; (b) If it is too far advanced to mend, destroy the plant, dig up its roots; burn it; (c) weekly inspection of the stems of young plants is a must and (d) plant *Euphorbia tirucalli* and *Ipil* in between the cashew seedlings.

What are the future prospects of this industry ?

1. It is a long run project, and is likely to provide permanent employment to 100,000 persons — mainly women and children in the Batticaloa District on a strip of land that is about 50 miles in length and two miles in width; (100 sq. miles; 64,000 acres. This area can be planted with say about 1,200,000 cashew trees, with tinter crops of *Ipil* *Ipil* and *Euphorbia Tiruccalli*, *Eucalyptus* and *Casuarina*. **And what does all this mean ? Bad lands get a green cover timber and fuel wood is made available In 10 years the income from the Cashew nuts and oil will improve, and bring an income of six million rupees or more. Besides about 100,000 persons — women and teenage children can be meaningfully employed and rural poverty wiped out.**

The Longicornus has inspired us to, think big in these lines. Why not act up to our precepts? The information on this subject had been obtained from the observations made and investigations carried out by the Rural Science students of the Ramakrishna Mission Shivananda Vidyalaya, under my direction, at the two Cashew experimental projects: The Ramakrishna Mission Cashew growing project 15 acres in extent — Kalladi Uppodai, Batticaloa.

2. The E. R. Thambimuthu and Lappa pioneer cashew experimental project: 25 acres in extent at Araipattai — Palaimunai (year 1939). This is an environment-oriented study, made amply meaningful by student participation.

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A GOLDEN YELLOW FLOWER

Yielding Rich Oil

SUNFLOWER the hardy annual with large showy golden yellow flowerheads, is a very good oil yielder compared to the many other oilseed crops. An acre of this crop can yield as much as 160 kg oil, while groundnut which closely matches sunflower, gives about 148 kg of edible oil, from the same area. *Highly drought tolerant in nature, sunflower is a short duration type, and has the special advantage of more out-turn in a short span of time. Being a crop of high flexibility and low investment, this excellent oilseed crop holds a lot of promise for the small growers, especially those in the semiarid zones.*

SUNFLOWER OIL, rich in vitamins A, B, D and K, is a high quality cooking oil of universal acceptance, and it is recommended as a safe oil (polyunsaturated and relatively cholesterol free) for heart patients, by doctors. It finds other uses in paint, varnish and soap industries. The matured seeds are sometimes eaten as dessert, either raw or roasted. The seeds can be made into flour which can substitute partly for wheat in preparing bread and other bakery products. Sunflower oilcake is a good livestock feed, and the plant stems can be made into good paper and the stalks into chipboards. From the flower, yellow dye can be extracted.

Sunflower varieties that are in vogue in South India are: K. 1, with a duration of 85 to 90 days and 38 to 40 per cent oil content. EC-68415, having a life span of 90 to 95 days and about 40 per cent oil; K. 2, maturing in about 75 days. Morden, which comes to harvest in 70 to 75 days; and SUF-2, a dwarf variety from TNAU, which grows, upto 70 cm in height and yields in about 65 days. Sunflower has very wide adaptability and can be grown in all types of soils with good drainage facilities. But it cannot stand alkaline and saline conditions.

THE CROP RESPONDS very well to manuring. About 25 cartloads of farm yard manure is normally incorporated in the soil along with ploughing. For crops raised under irrigated conditions, a fertilizer schedule of 87.5 kg urea, 375 kg super phosphate and 67.5 kg muriate of potash per hectare is recommended. The dry crops require only half as much is applied for the watered ones. After thorough land preparation, the seeds, pretreated with captan or thiram at 2 gm. per kg seeds, is sown following a spacing of 30 cm between plants for tall types, and 22.5 cm for dwarf varieties. Normally two seeds per hole is practised, and the seed rate for irrigated crop

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works out to 12.5 kg per hectare and under dryland conditions the seed requirement for a hectare will be about 25 kg. It is always better to test the germination percentage before using the seeds, and best results can be got by using seeds of 90 per cent germination.

THE IRRIGATED CROP is raised during July, September and January, and in drylands sunflower is sown in July and October seasons. For sowing in the drylands, it is better to soak the seeds for 10 to 12 hours in water, and dry them under shade just before sowing, in order to ensure uniform sprouting. If grown under irrigated conditions, the first watering will commence soon after dibbling the seeds; it is repeated on the third day of sowing for better establishments of tender seedlings. Subsequent irrigations follow once in every 10 to 12 days. Great care should be evinced to keep the soil moist during flowering and seed-setting stage. Gap filling, thinning and weeding are some of the important cultural operations, prior to harvesting. manual pulling out of undesirable vegetations from the field twice — once between 20 and 25 days after sowing and another after 45 days of growth will be sufficient to keep the crop weed-free.

BY SPRAYING Endosulfan (at 2 ml/litre of water) and Dithane M 45 (at 2 gm /litre water) on 30 th and 45th day of the crop, it can be well protected against major pests and disease. A very important field operation that will lead to complete filling of the heads with seeds, is hand smearing of the individual flower discs. A gentle rubbing with soft muslin cloth bag of each flowering head, between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on alternate days for about 10 days will ensure effective pollination, proper seed set and increased yield up to 25 per cent. *Installation of beehives at one hive for every hectare of crop will also help in uniform setting of seeds. In addition very high quality honey can be got out of the hives.* Flowerheads are harvested, when the undersides turn yellow, and after drying them properly, the seeds are extracted. The yield varies with varieties. On an average 1,250 to 1,500 kg of seeds can be expected from an irrigated crop of one hectare, and about 750 to 900 kg from that of dry crop. Well dried seeds, with less than 7 percent moisture, can be stored for upto 8 months any deterioration to the germinability and quality. —*Hindu*

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MI 273 (M) SEED

Improved Dwarf H 4

The National Seeds Committee has decided to "resurrect" seed production of MI 273 (m) for issue to farmers in areas where rice production is

not assured of irrigation and where climate factor and moderate management does not permit farmer to cultivate the improved Big varieties. MI 273 (m) is a dwarf mutant of H4 — the first hybrid developed in Sri Lanka. It was produced at the Maha Illuppallama Research Station and released in 1971. *It had all the desirable characteristics of H4, namely: wide adaptability to climate and soil, red rice, and non shattering. In addition, it was reskstant to the blast disease, and by virtue of its erect, dwarf habit, it had a much higher yield potential.*

MI 273 (m) however was subsequently with— drawn from the list of departmental recommendations as superior varieties were produced in this age class. It had been decided to reissue this variety, because of the continuing popularity of H4 in the Badulla District and certain parts of the Northern and Eastern Provinces where inadequate rainfall and irrigation do not permit the successful cultivation of other improved varieties. MI 273 (m), which will be known in future as H4 Dwarf Mutant is expected to replace H4.—*Research Highlights.*

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NEW GERMAN TYPE

Seed Drill

IN MANY TROPICAL COUNTRIES bullock-driven seed drills are used for sowing seeds. Unfortunately this appropriate implement is not used widely in India. This is an ideal one for dryland small and marginal farmers. *A German type of seed drill has been found to have some interesting advantages over the indigneous type of seed drill.* This seed drill was imported from Switzerland to the Siddanabavi Farm in Hubli district of North Karnataka. The method of operation of this drill is very simple.

Parts and functions The seed drill has a seed hopper with a capacity of 12-15 kg. where the seed is loaded prior to operation. At the base of the hopper are seed regulators, which are geared to a fly wheel. As this fly wheel rotates, the gears and the seed regulators move in such a way that seeds pass through the slits and are conveyed to the delivery arm. The delivery arm is made of iron which ploughs into the soil. There are nine such tubes in this particular drill with a distance of 25 cm to 30 cm between each. The depths at which the seed can be sown is adjustable.

BEFORE OPERATING THE DRILL on the land the seed rate must be adjusted. The drill has a facility, which actually controls the rate of seed passing through the delivery tubes. The seed rate for ass

particular crop which is known to start with is set, then sufficient seed is filled in the hopper and the fly wheel given one full rotation, thus bringing seeds behind the slit leading to the delivery tube.

Adjustments are made until the area covered by one rotation of the fly wheel is almost equal to the amount of seed required for that particular area.

This Seed drill has nine seed-sending delivery tubes/tynes each at a distance of 25 cm from each other and at the ground level. If in any crop the distance between rows is 25 cm, then all the nine slits can be used thereby nine rows can be sown at a time, but if the distance between two row of the crop is 50 cm x 50 cm alternate slits are opened covering the slits with a shutter making sowing in five rows. Depending upon the crop and the distance between the rows, the slits are utilised. The number of rows sown is directly proportional to the distance between the rows.

The whole arrangement is fixed on an iron frame which has guiding colters in the front and the movement of the drill from left to right is controlled by a linear handle operated manually behind the front. It is drawn by a pair of bullocks and the drill is fitted with a meter which roughly records the area covered.

If this implement is locally manufactured the cost would come to only Rs. 3,500/-. Since this is a bullock drawn implement it can be widely used in the rainfed areas of our country.

R. Bhakther Solomon and
G. S. Shanthakumar.

FOCUS ON THE VILLAGE

WHAT IS

Sarvodaya ?

Anyone who has travelled round the rural countryside in Sri Lanka will see Sarvodaya units and establishments in every part of the country. There were a few months ago, very nearly 5,000 of them in every district of the Island. The number, according to reports, is increasing. Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne founded the Movement and we publish this week the speech he made when he received the King Baudouin Award last November. This is to enable readers to know the basic motivation underlying the Movement.

A very large number of people are full of praise for the work done by Sarvodaya that cuts across racial, communal, linguistic, religious and caste barriers to bring about the cultural, moral and economic regeneration of youth in our rural areas. **Tribune** is also aware of concerted criticism directed at the Sarvodaya Movement made by certain quarters in his country. A **Tribune** Special Correspondent will examine some of these in the context of the work actually done by Sarvodaya. An attempt will also be made to evaluate Sarvodaya and its place in rural Sri Lanka, in the contemporary era.—Ed.

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VISHVODAYA through

Vishvadana

By A. T. Ariyaratne

It is with a deep sense of humility and renewed faith in the goodness of humanity that I stand before you this august assembly to accept the King Baudouin International Development Prize. I consider this to be an occasion where honour and recognition are being bestowed by the Foundation upon all those humble or prudent individuals and groups who have accepted the Sarvodaya Thought and pursued the Shramadana Action to build up a more humane society. Therefore, this memorable occasion is a moment of joy not only for me but equally also for several thousands of brothers and sisters who tread the Sarvodaya path. On behalf of all of them ranging from the humblest people in the backwoods of Sri Lanka to discerning people of advanced societies who gave them fraternal cooperation, I wish to thank the Foundation most sincerely for selecting me to receive this prestigious award.

In the words of my Supreme Teacher The Revered Gautama Buddha, who dwelt in North India during the sixth century BC, "Mind is the forerunner of (all evil) states. Mind is chief; mind — made are they. If one speaks or acts with wicked mind, because of that, suffering follows one, even as the wheel follows the hoof of the draught-ox". Then the Exalted One continues with a second stanza which means "Mind is the forerunner of (all good) states. Mind is chief; mind-made are they. If one speaks or acts with pure mind, because of that, happiness follows one, even as one's shadow that never leaves." The lesson we learn from this teaching is that if we can put our mental faculties right then everything else in the world would be put right. **Looking at our human society dispassionately, you will bear with me when I say that in spite of the great affluence and marvels of science we see around us, most human beings are**

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unhappy. Some do suffer due to their excessive indulgence in the pleasures of the senses. Others suffer because they lack the basic needs for a decent life. Yet others suffer due to hierarchical violence imposed upon them by the way their societies are structured or from wars and strife imposed upon them by opposing religious, ethnic or ideological confederates. The government of the world have generally failed to show a way out of this sad impasse. But governments are formed of human beings. If governments have failed then we have to acknowledge that as human beings there is much for us to do. If we are to succeed in our endeavour we have no choice but accept the importance of rebuilding man his immediate family, his community and probably his whole environment. This is a great and difficult task fraught within immense challenges but I do believe that there is no easier way. Such a human reconstruction effort has to be sustained locally as well as globally in its thought as well as its practice. The motivation for such an endeavour has to be derived from very powerful reflection relevant to the times we are living in. It should have a unique appeal to the affluent and the deprived in our world so that together they may search for and march towards a common goal of real happiness.

The supreme thought that we have chosen in order to march towards that happiness is *Sarvodaya*. Sarvodaya is a word coined by Mahatma Gandhi. "Sarva" means All: "Udaya" means Awakening. Therefore Sarvodaya means the *Awakening of All* — the awakening of the entire humanity as individuals, families, rural and urban communities, national societies and as inhabitants of the one and only planet in which all of us live. What is Awakening? If I apply it to myself, the human being, it is a three dimensional integrated process that should take place in my personality. *Firstly*, I must continuously awaken myself to the real nature of my own psycho-physical entity called my personality. Who am I? What is the path leading to my supreme happiness? Is it through increased greed, hatred and ignorance within me that I can find happiness or is it through a process of gradual decrease in these three-fold defilements? *Secondly*, how do I awaken to the realities of society with all its complexities? what should be the nature of the moral, cultural, social, political and economic environment which will help me to awaken my personality to the fullest? *Thirdly*, how do I awaken myself to the realities of my natural environment consisting as it does of land, water, air and sunshine and various living beings including the plant kingdom? *If I succeed in getting my personality to awaken in this three-fold dimension then I believe that I am on the path to happiness which will help my inner life to be in harmony with the outer world.* The acceptance of the thought of awakening of all or Sarvodaya motivates one to work not only for one's personal well-being but also

for the well-being of all other human beings. It even extends further. One has to safeguard the purity survival and sustenance of one's environment. Truth Non-violence and Self-denial become living tenets in such a person's life. Why do we as individual, need such an unassailable value system? Because we need strong personalities in the world who would be guided by such value systems if we are to develop the sense of faith needed to survive as a species on this planet. We have always to remember that we are living in a world where greed in man is manifested in wide-spread extremes of poverty, hunger, squalor and disease, where suspicion and hatred among nations are manifested in the swelling stockpiles of armaments in rich and poor countries alike and where organised ignorance is manifested by the mountains of propaganda and counter propaganda material distributed the world over in order to force one's sectarian views down the throats of others. *The type of human being we need for the world today is one which has the courage to reject these dreadful systems of organised evil which have made us decivilized, we need the type of leadership which will strive to rebuild a new man who has the strength of character to organise the good that is in all of us. This new man in turn shall rebuild our human society and a new human civilisation on more abiding values.*

THE SARVODAYA SHRAMADANA MOVEMENT is determined to build a new man and a new society. In Sri Lanka we started this process by enabling human beings to come together to share their time, thought and energy for the awakening of all. This process of sharing is called Shramadana. We selected several of the poorest of the poor villages in Sri Lanka and while living and working with the villagers together we evolved a series of concepts and a methodology to improve their quality of life by their own efforts. Self reliance, Community Participation and a Planned Programme to satisfy their basic human and community needs were three important ingredients in this self-development process. Sarvodaya defines development as an awakening process. An ever increasing accumulation of goods and services created to feed greed in man is not development. On the contrary development is an awakening process taking place within individuals, families and communities in which their needs are first satisfied without polluting the mind, poisoning the body, destroying the ecological balance, violating the cultural boundaries, widening prevailing disparities or demanding human nature. Development in a true sense should enrich people both materially and spiritually so that qualities of sharing, brotherhood and peace ennobles all people. **The Sarvodaya Movement in Sri Lanka has grown in stature in its 25 years of existence. The participation in its programmes of thousands of people from all walks of life and from all parts of the world has enabled it to**

attain its present strength. Today the Movement is active in over 5,000 villages in Sri Lanka alone. People in these Sri Lankan villages belong to different religious, ethnic, linguistic and political groups. Building a Nation is Building its People. People mean infants, children, youth, mothers, farmers, workers, elders and other adults. Nobody can be excluded, not even the infirm and the disabled. Sarvodaya has designed a development process so that all categories of people are enabled to participate meaningfully in their own development.

I must mention here with a sense of gratitude the contribution made by the people of Belgium through the National Centrum of the 11-11-11 campaign and the World Assembly of Youth towards the promotion of our Movement. This was the first ever international contribution our Movement received. Later NOVIB of the Netherlands, Friedrich Naumann Stiftung of West Germany, Helvetas of Switzerland, OXFAM (UK), OXFAM (Canada), OXFAM (America), World University Service (Canada), International NGO Division of CIDA (Canada) NORAD (Norway), UNICEF, WHO, ATI (Washington), HKI (USA) IDRC (Canada), Ford Foundation and ITDG (UK) and several other individuals and groups helped the Movement at various stages to reach its present level of development and credibility. On this historic occasion it is equally fitting that I should refer to the Belgium youths who came to Sri Lanka and worked for the Movement and participated in its activities. They blazed a new trail in international development cooperation where the need for building psychological bridges between our countries was recognized. Today volunteers from over 30 different countries are working shoulder to shoulder with our workers in the Movement. With this ceremony at which I receive the King Baudouin Award for International Development in presence of Your Majesties our mutual concern for the people of our two countries and our commitment for a new world order are further cemented and strengthened. In our Sarvodaya terminology I wish to call such a friendship "Vishvadana" which means Universal Sharing. If in your country people suffer due to the ill-effects of an over industrialised technological civilisation such a situation should become the concern of us in Sri Lanka too. By the same token if people in my country suffer due to an international system of economic or political exploitation such a situation would no doubt receive your concern too. With mutual respect and understanding we should be able to help each other to overcome our problems by a process of universal sharing.

I do not like the word aid in vogue today. It has a connotation which demeans the giver as well as the receiver. On the other hand a process of sharing the best in our Cultures for the mutual benefit of human awakening towards peace and happiness ennobles

both parties. No country in the world could lay claim to what they have achieved as the outcome of their own exclusive endeavour. *Universal Sharing or Vishvadana should invariably lead to Universal Awakening or Vishvodaya.* Universal Awakening is not a distant or illusory ideal. It is with you and me here and now. What we call "I" is only a continuously changing phenomena of the five aggregates, namely, of form, feelings, perceptions, mental formations and consciousness. These make up the sum total of all human existence. We should not pre-suppose that there is an "I" as distinct and separate from the "world". In reality "I" and "world" are part of the experiences which arises because of consciousness. Through mindfulness of the arising of phenomena we can liberate ourselves from the illusory conjuring of the mind. The first, second, third and even fourth worlds of which we are talking are all illusions of our mind. Apart from our consciousness, these worlds do not exist. Therefore let us look at our own minds and try to observe how universal we are. The more I develop a universal consciousness, to that extent I am free. Only true freedom leads to true happiness.

Universal consciousness awakening — Vishvadoya — and universal sharing — Vishvadana — have to develop and progress hand in hand. The one cannot develop without the other. Without progress in both there will never be an end to suffering, suspicion exploitation, strife, wars misery. *Let us not wait until North-South and East-West dialogues succeed. Let us radiate from our minds and hearts a universal love towards the entire living world. Let every single one of us take a personal responsibility and make a personal commitment to eradicate hunger, of a fellow human being somewhere on this planet, to bring shelter to a family exposed to sun and rain, to help self-development of a community of people who are denied their fundamental human rights and last but not least bring joy of living and mental peace to millions of human beings who are spiritually starved.* This is what I meant at the beginning of my address when I spoke about putting our mental faculties right. This personal commitment on our part will extend itself to our families, groups, institutions and governments so that we become active participants in liberating a universal process where cases that lead to suffering are removed from this earth. When the causes are removed the effects will not be there. This is the true joy of living. The Sarvodaya Sharmadana Movement is committed to strive towards this universality. Its target groups are drawn not only from the materially impoverished but extends to the spiritually starved as well. The recognition you have given this Movement reaffirms our faith in the efficacy of our thought and actions. The monetary award you have given will go into a common fund to help and encourage individuals and small groups in Sri Lanka and elsewhere who

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selelessly work for harmony, development and peace among human communities. I appeal to all concerned human beings, families and institutions, to make a commitment to strengthen this effort. I appeal to all government, of the world and their leaders to invest more of their time and resources to rebuild a new world on the solid foundations of personality, family and community reawakening.



DELPITIYA PROJECT

Small - Scale Conservation Farming

This systematically laid out, high income generating "forest garden" with a total of 3,606 plants per hectare is novel in many respects and is probably the only one of its kind anywhere in the tropics.

Land-man ratios are fast declining with increasing population. Per capita availability of arable land today is about 0.25 ha. It is vital that these small holdings should be developed into more viable units of production by maximising cropping intensity without damaging soil fertility. At the same time, the escalating costs of fertilizer, fossil energy and firewood make it imperative that this be achieved in such a way as to provide a balanced plant-animal-human relationship. **The UN-FAO assisted Delpitiya Project**, developed by the Research Division of the Minor Exports Crops Department in the Kandy District has all the characteristics of such a ecosystem, despite the high intensity multi-species cropping program that has been adopted. Although this project has been developed specifically to meet the demands of small farmers in the wet mid-country, it is a model that could be adopted to marginal farmer settlements in other agro-ecological regions. "Conservation Farming" is a topic that is much in vogue today. In the circumstances, a brief account of the Delpitiya Project and its potential for adaptation as a system of conservation farming will not be out of place in this publication.

FOREST GARDEN The Delpitiya Project was started on one hectare of abandoned tea land in 1978. It is based on the principle of the *Kandyan Forest Garden*. These Gardens are planted with several crop species (even up to 17). But owing to indiscriminate planting, combined with a wrong choice of species leading to mutual competition for air, light and plant nutrients, very low returns are obtained. *The Delpitiya researchers* substituted a planned threeter or storey stem of mutually supporting crops instead: fourteen crops in all, giving total population of 3,606 plants per hectare. The crops are coconut, arecanut, jak, breadfruit, mango, avocado, papaw, bananan, lime, pepper, clove,

nutmeg, robusta and San Ramon coffee. They were selected on the following criteria: (1) that they should provide the several needs of the family for food, cash fuel, timber and livestock feed; (2) that they should be of different heights and canopy sizes, so as to permit as large a plant population as possible without adversely interfering with air space, solar energy and photosynthetic activity; (3) that they should include shortgestation crops to sustain farmers during the initial years of establishment; (4) that they should require only minimum tillage to maximise soil and moisture conservation.

CROPPING PATTERN The entire one hectare was pegmarked at 8 ft. (2.4m) intervals. Large holes (2½ sq.ft.) were dug 40 ft. (12.2m) apart for the tall trees: coconut, jak, breadfruit, mango, avocado, nutmeg and clove. Smaller holes half this size were dug at 8 ft. (2.4m) to accommodate the other medium-size crops, except San Ramon coffee. San Ramon is s dwarf type, planted 4 ft. (1.2 m) apart in the row to form the lowest tier or storey in this crop community. The existing grass cover was left undisturbed, except for occasional slashing to keep it under control. The position of the crops is shown in the accompanying diagram.

Pepper and coffee (Vars. Pannyur, Kuching, Robusta and San Ramon) flowered in the second year, yielding from the third year onwards. Other crops take longer to mature. It is still too early to determine whether the tall crops once they reach maturity, would shade out and adversely affect the production of those beneath them. Researchers however believe that this need not happen if proper canopy training is adopted. For instance, if the lower side branches of Jak, mango and clove etc. are removed, they should allow enough light to penetrate the lower strata without unduly affecting their own productive capacities. The estimated net annual return from one hectare of such a multi-cropping system at full production (20 th year) is about Rs.45,000.

OTHER ADVANTAGES : In addition to the high income potential, there are other desirable agronomic features that must be considered: (1) leaf fall and residue from the vegetation are left to decay on the soil surface and add to the organic matter content; (2) grass and weed growth can be repeatedly cut and used for mulching the plants; (3) expensive soil and water conserving measures such as terraces and trenches, are not necessary because the tree canopy prevents any serious beating action of the rain, and the grass surface checks soil erosion and facilitates moisture retention; (4) loppings of gliricidia live supports (used for pepper), jak and other trees may be used along with grass to support — 2 — 3 milch animals; (5) adequate quantities of firewood can be picked from the plantation.

FUTURE OUTLOOK Taking all these factors into consideration, there is a strong claim to devote more research to developing systematised crop communities of this kind. If the new concept of agro-forestry can be introduced into convention cropping programs, there should be a greater possibility of converting existing marginal small farms into ecologically balanced and economically viable units of production having all the advantages of conservation farming.

—Research Highlights. No. 12



SPOTLIGHT

Lessons from the Australians

Greg Chappell's Australians have come and gone and in doing so they have given us a clear assessment of the standard of our cricket and what must be done for its improvement and progress. The Australians, in thrashing us by an innings and 38 runs in the only Test match played at the International Stadium at Asgiriya, underlined the fact that we are still a long way off from the temperament for five-day Tests. We did better in the first two one-day encounters, but sadly rain intervened to spoil the other two games. Sri Lanka therefore won the One-day series by two matches to nil. With Sri Lanka just about to take wing to England for the Prudential World Cup Competition, these two victories against the Triangular Champions should stand in good stead when contesting for the World Cup.

The Australians on arrival made it known at a Press Conference that they were not going to take any of the matches here lightly. They were going all out for victory in every game, laying special emphasis in winning the Test match. Sri Lanka led admirably by dashing Duleep Mendis jolted the Aussies in the first one-day game winning it easily and then showed that their first victory was not a mere flash in the pan, by also taking the second one-day game. But the Australians took sweet revenge at Asgiriya by hammering the daylights out of the Sri Lanka team. In this Test the Australians showed us what Test cricket is all about, the correct approach, how

different it is from instant cricket and the way it should be played.

They won the toss and their batsman from Wessells to Boder showed how to build up a big total. Chappell the skipper who is a master tactician when it comes to captaincy realising that Sri Lanka were playing two leg spinners, blunted Sri Lanka's tactics by sending in his left handers against this type of bowling. However Chappell batted in his accustomed position at number four. The Australian batsmen were in no undue hurry. There were five days of cricket to be played. They had a good look at the bowling, before breaking out into the stroke play that they are renowned for and the way they set about it, there was no doubt that they were looking for a huge total in an endeavour to force a win if possible by an innings. And that is what they achieved.

Centuries by Wessells and Hookes highlighted the Australian innings. Good knocks also came from Chappell and Alan Boder. Everyone of the Australian batsman in their score of 514 for 34 declared showed immense concentration. And naturally one thought that the Sri Lanka batsman too would follow suit when it came to their turn. But this was not to be and Dennis Lillee who is renowned for his frightening burst with the new ball captured two wickets in his first over to give the knockout blow. And the batting never really raised its head from that stage. However, the best batting from Sri Lanka's point came on the morning of the third day when skipper Mendis and young Ranatunge got together. From 44 for 4 they took the score without further loss to 65 at the end of the second day.

Continuing on the third morning they really tore into the Australian bowling and hit it to all parts of the field with effortless ease. Both Mendis and Ranatunge were going stroke for stroke and there was a time when these two batsmen were averaging two fours an over. It looked more like a one-day game than a Test match! But the scheming Chappell was biding his time for he knew that this type of batting is too good to last. The crowd was delirious with joy and were cheering Mendis and Ranatunge on to greater heights. But then the end came when the first to go was Mendis who lofted a ball to Hookes who was judiciously placed at deep mid off for that specific purpose.

With the dismissal of Mendis went Sri Lanka's chances of saving the follow on. Ranatunga however carried on regardless and after reaching the nervous nineties he cocked up a ball to be taken at silly mid on. With the dismissal of Ranatunga a rot set in and Sri Lanka were all out for 271 and Chappell had no hesitation in asking Sri Lanka to bat a second time. Bruce Yardley the Australian off-spinner

fighting his deliveries well and varying it bowled intelligently to take 5 for 88 in 25 overs. Yardley always a trier well deserved his reward of five wickets. Sri Lanka following on ended the third day in a good position at 71 for 2 and with the next day being a rest day, one expected a determined batting effort by the batsmen when play started on the fourth day, of the match.

Night watchman Rumesh Ratnayake and opener Sidath Wettimuny saw Sri Lanka without further loss in the first and also took their partnership to 61 when a foolish run out saw the dismissal of Ratnayake. Ratnayake played a ball to a fielder near the square leg umpire and set off for a run. Wettimuny responded and then sent back Ratnayake who failed to make his crease and was run out by yards. With the dismissal of Ratnayake a rot set in and Sri Lanka all out for 205 leaving Australia victorious by an innings and 38 runs with a day to spare. Young Ratnayake was once again among the runs and in scoring 32 lofted Hogan for a huge six over mid wicket. Thus a game which was scheduled for five days ended before tea on the fourth day.

Here again it was lack of concentration by the batsmen that brought about the downfall of all the Sri Lanka batsmen. Most of them were out to irresponsible shots and not one of them made an effort to stay for long at the wicket. Concentration is something our batsmen are not going to learn unless we change the format of our local cricket tournaments and increase the days of play from three to five. In the Sri Lanka second innings Sidath Wettimuny was very unlucky to miss a well deserved century. He was bowled while at 96 by a ball from Hogan which kept low. After the resounding victory, the Aussies were looking forward to beating Sri Lanka in the final two one-day games at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground and squaring the one-day series. But this was not to be as rain ruined these two games to give Sri Lanka victory by two matches to nil in the one-day series of matches.

The final one-day game would surely have produced a decision had the Cricket Board been a little more thoughtful. After the previous day's rain had soaked the ground, a strong sun had dried up the ground and the wicket that was covered was fit for a prompt start. But the surrounding area of the wicket was still wet and this prevented play starting on time and the original 45 over match was reduced to 35 and play was only possible at 12.15 p.m. Had the Cricket Board planned with better anticipation and purpose for this game they could certainly have got the areas close to the wicket also covered. The game would then have been played and a decision arrived at.

But after the Australia batted for 19.2 overs the rains came down and with the umpires too not showing any initiative to inspect the wicket and start play a good portion of the time was lost. After the organisers officially called off the game, the Aussies consented to send down the quota of overs they faced and Sri Lanka chasing 124 runs for victory did well to get there in the final over. Brendon Kuruppu in racing to an unbeaten 74 made sure of his place in the squad for the World Cup in England.

After the match it was sickening to hear remarks cast at the umpires when they walked up to receive their awards at the conclusion of the final one-day game. These remarks surprisingly came from the VIP enclosure. If the VIPs could behave in such an ungainly manner what can one expect from the spectators in the stands? Mr. Gamini Dissanayake President of the Cricket Board who has done much not only for the game, its finances and its image must instruct his officials that those under the influence of liquor should be shown the door on such occasions.

The Sri Lanka squad to England has been selected and ALLROUNDER is surprised at the selection of Granville de Silva and Susil Fernando. The team is sadly lacking in an off spinner. And in this aspect we wonder why Oshadie Weerasinghe was not included. Weerasinghe, in addition to his clever off spin bowling is also a sound batsman with the ideal temperament for instant cricket. So his leaving out cannot be understood. Except for skipper Mandis, Roy Dias, Somachandra de Silva and Ranjan Madugalle the others are all greenhorns and it will be interesting to see how they will fare in the tension charged atmosphere of instant cricket. The squad: Duleep Mendis (Capt.), Roy Dias, Sidath Wettimuny, Susil Fernando, Ranjan Madugalle, Somachandra de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunge, Asantha de Mel, Rumash Ratnayake, Vinodhan John, Guy de Alwis, Atula Samarasekera, Brendon Kuruppu and Granville de Silva.

ALLROUNDER.

* * *

SPORTS CHRONICLE

April 25 - May 1

MONDAY, APRIL 25: Black Square Sports Club entered the Final when they beat Negombo Youth Sports Club by one goal to nil in their Semi-final in the Police Invitation Football Tournament at the Police grounds yesterday. The visiting Singapore National Hockey team defeated the Sri Lanka State Services Hockey team by 1 goal to nil in the opening

match of their tour here at the CCC grounds yesterday. Colombo University emerged Athletic Champions in the Inter-University Games at the Colombo University Grounds yesterday; Colombo with a squad of 145 men and 23 women athletes totalled 168 points; Kelaniya was second with 139 points (40 and 99) and Moratuwa third with 90 (65 and 25). Sri Lanka were fighting hard to save the Inaugural Cricket Test against Australia after being forced to follow on at the Asgiriya Stadium yesterday; Australia 271 and Sri Lanka 71.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26: Hotel Ceylon Inter Continental retained the Christian Mader Trophy when they beat Hotel Lanka Oberoi by two wickets in the second annual Limited Over cricket match on the MCA grounds on Sunday - Hotel Lanka Oberoi 93 all out in 45 overs and Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental 97 for 8 in 45 overs. Stanley Fonseka (77 with 14 fours) helped Sri Lanka Central Transport Board defeat Salt Corporations and enter the Semi finals of the Nationalised Services D Division Cricket tournament; SLCTB 208 for 9 in 65 overs and Salt Corporation 165 all out. Renown SC defeated Old Bens 2—1 in a V. A. Sugathadasa Memorial Cup Knockout Tournament match at Police Park yesterday. Sri Lanka's Captain Duleep Mendis hopes his team can save the Inaugural Cricket Test against Australia which will be continued at the Asgiriya Stadium today. Australia 514 for 4 declared and Sri Lanka 271 and 71 for 2.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27: The Sri Lanka Hockey Federation President's Under 23 team defeated the Singapore National team 2—nil after being one up at the short break yesterday at the CCC grounds. M. Ratnavel won the Contract Bridge Association's individual player event held over the weekend at the Federation Headquarters. When Kandy Greens Cricket Club played its 100th match Kanchana Fernando scored 156 not out and was associated in an opening stand of 169 with skipper Mervyn de Silva; Kandy Green CC 267 for 7 wickets declared; The Rest 198. Western Australia's Bruce Yardley and Tom Hogan spun Australia to an innings and 38-run win over Sri Lanka in the Inaugural Cricket Test played at Asgiriya Stadium yesterday: Australia 514 for 4 declared and Sri Lanka 271 and 71 for 2 continued.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28: Muditha Pussella (92) with 9 fours) and Bandula Gunaratne (78 with 7 fours) helped Sri Lanka Police College to 270 for 7 when bad light stopped play at 4 p.m. in the Police Cricket Tournament Final against Police Headquarters at Police Park yesterday; the match will be continued at 10 a.m. today. Sri Lanka Davis Cup Player—Arjan Perera won a Double at the Colombo Tennis Championships concluded at the SLTA courts at Greenpath on Tuesday; he won the Men's singles title with a hard fought 6-4, 7-6, 7-6 victory. Dharmaraja College Kandy won both the Senior and Junior

Championships trophies (Boys) at the inter-school athletic meet conducted by the Senkadagala Education Circuit and held at the Bogambara Stadium, Kandy recently. Richmond College and Southlands Balika emerged overall champions in the Galle District Circuit Athletic Meet held at the Galle esplanade recently.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29: A fine 136 (one six and 16 fours) by B. Batcho and a half century S. Savundranayagam helped Sparklink Travels trounce Hotel Taprobane by 173 runs in a limited over cricket match played on the Bloomfield grounds; Sparklink Travels 264 for 3 in 37 overs and Hotel Taprobane 91 in 36 overs. A good bowling performance by M. Binduhewa (4 for 25) and two splendid batting displays from S. Gunawardena (51 not out) and A. Weerasinghe (78) enabled State Timber Corporation defeat Ceylon Petroleum Corporation by 8 wickets and become Nationalised Services C Division cricket champions at the Colts grounds, Havelock Park; Petroleum 145 all out and Timber 157 for 2. Bingiriya Madya Maha Vidyalaya dominated volleyball, netball and elle tournaments when they won nine titles at the Bingiriya Circuit meet held at Saranankara MMV grounds recently. Mrs. Ethel Perera and Mrs. L. P. NI Singham won the monthly Duplicate Contract Bridge women's pairs event held recently at the Women's International Club.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30: Royal opened their 1983 rugby season with a crushing 45 points (5 goals, 3 tries and a penalty) to nil win over Wesley at Havelock Park yesterday after leading 13-0 at half time. Full back Chandrasiri put over four penalties and goaled a try as Army beat Police by 18 points (a goal and 4 penalties) to 13 points (a goal, a try and a penalty) in their Clifford Cup rugby match Galle Face, yesterday; army led 15-4 at the breather. Sri Lanka won the 45-over One Day International Series against Australia when rain forced the Third International to be abandoned as a draw at the SSC grounds yesterday; Australia put into bat by Sri Lanka scored 194 for five at 39.2 overs when rain washed out play for the rest of the day.

SUNDAY, MAY 1: Colombo University with an overall tally of 121 points emerged Champions with Kelaniya (91 points) 2nd and Moratuwa (87 points) 3rd place at the Inter-Varsity Games concluded at Thurston Road yesterday. Saunders skipper H. M. Mahinda-Palitha booted three goals to pilot Saunders to their second win over Ratnam in a fortnight in the Police Invitation Soccer Tournament second semi-final at Police Park yesterday; Saunders beat Ratnams by 3 goals to one. Sri Lanka's cricketers showed that they were more suited for instant cricket than Test Cricket when after the final limited over game was officially declared as a draw yesterday on the SSC grounds

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as a result of rain reducing play time, they made a gallop to victory when the Aussies sportingly consented to carrying on playing for the sake of the spectators; Australia 124 and Sri Lanka 125. A painstaking century by Ravi Shastri and 98 runs from Captain Kapil Dev helped India to a commanding score of 457 today in the Fifth Test against the West Indies: India 457 and the West Indies 23.

NOT IN SRI LANKA ALONE

IT COST RS. 4 TO PRODUCE AN EGG IN GOVT. HATCHERY

MADRAS, May 2: Incredible though it may seem, the cost of production of an egg in the Government-run mini hatchery at Abishek-
apatti, was Rs. 3-65 during 1976-77. If the cost of staff and wages of workers was included it worked out to Rs. 4.05, the 23rd report of the Committee on Public Accounts (CPA) of the Tamil Nadu Assembly presented during the recent session revealed. The Agriculture Secretary, who appeared before the committee, had no satisfactory answer for the high cost of production. The CPA recommended that the Agriculture department effect necessary cost analysis periodically to ensure that the hatching centres worked economically.

Govt



Notice

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

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 (1)

Reference No. LD/A. 653

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No: 241/8 of 21. 04. 1983

SCHEDULE

Situation : Karamada village - Udunuwara
Gangapalatha Korale Minor
Division-Udunuwara D.R.O's
Division-Kandy District.

Name of Land : Berawadeniyawatta

Plan & Lot Nos.: Maha 2389 Lot No. 1

The Kachcheri.
Kandy, 18th April, 1983

K.B. Wijekoon
Assistant Government
Agent
Kandy District

TRIBUNE, MAY 14, 1983

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Airport (Swine) Fever

IS IT NOT TRUE that the portage and luggage trolley "problem" at the Katunayake International Airport revealed in this column in the issue of April 2, 1983 (Vol.27, No.27) has been dramatically solved overnight? That embarking air travellers now find a very large number of trolleys (literally several dozens) stacked up at the entrance of the terminal building? That the official "porters?" do not seem to have any access to them on their own? That as soon as passengers have done with the trolleys inside — at the ticketing counter — airport staff immediately wheel them back to the place at the entrance for use by passengers? That the situation at the disembarking end of the airport seems to have also improved for the better? That trolleys are now available in plenty at the place where the luggage is discharged on conveyor belts? That what is most heartening is that the "porters", who until recently only served white-skinned tourists and big travel agents, now seem anxious to be seen serving Sri Lankan and other brown-skinned travellers? That it is not known what brought about this welcome change but there is no doubt that it took place sometime after the piece entitled *Airport Scandal* appeared in this column? That we are not prone to pat ourselves every time we score a bull's eye — there have been a countless number in the many years of our existence — but even if it was only a coincidence it is something to be talked about?

IS IT ALSO NOT A FACT that Katunayake Airport has been in the focus of news recently — this time bringing a far greater national disaster than was caused by a few recalcitrant porters? That on May 5, the *Daily News* published a very small news item with an insignificant headline — *Outbreak of Swine Fever* — with a report: "The slaughter of pigs and sale of pork products have been banned in six districts in Sri Lanka following an outbreak of swine fever, the Rural Industrial Development Ministry said. The Ministry said the disease was probably brought into the country from aircraft garbage used as swill. Veterinary officers are visiting farms in the affected districts to destroy sick animals and ensure proper disposal of carcasses". That at the end of April Rupavahini in its news had an alarming "lead" story of *Swine Fever* that was raging in this country? That to the credit of *The Island* it must be said that it was the first paper to make a front page story about this disaster that has overtaken the country? That in its issue of April 26, the paper had splashed on its front page the headline: **ENTIRE PIG POPULATION THREATENED: SWINE FEVER RAGES IN SRI LANKA** and reported: "An epidemic of swine fever now raging in Sri Lanka is threatening to wipe out not

only the country's domesticated pigs but also the teeming wild boar population of the jungles. Health authorities say that the disease is not harmful to humans but has accounted for the lives of thousands of domesticated pigs in the urban and suburban areas such as Colombo, Kalutara, Gampaha, Puttalam, Kandy and Galle Districts According to informed sources the disease, which was never known in this country hitherto, had been introduced via the Katunayake International Airport where refuse food from incoming planes is removed by a contractor as animal feed for a farm. This refuse was the source of the infection, the sources said. Normally, in other countries, such refuse is incinerated at the airport itself. Sources say that the refuse is still not destroyed at the airport since there is no incinerator. The disease had broken out in a piggery, one of the biggest in the country. It is alleged that the outbreak of the disease had been kept secret for some time. A spokesman for the Veterinary Services refused to comment on the outbreak of the disease. Health Ministry officials were not available for comment at the time of going to press." That *The Island* on the next day had pointed out that: ". the Director General of the FAO had cabled many countries including Sri Lanka that African Swine Fever had spread to many countries through left-over food from aircraft and that left-overs should be properly disposed of. Informed sources said that veterinarians of the Government Quarantine Office as well as Veterinary Surgeons' Association had warned the Government of this danger, of the possibility of swine fever spreading from food left-overs dumped by aircraft at the Katunayake airport. Yet food left-overs from aircraft had been permitted to be taken away for a farm as animal feed and this precisely had led to an outbreak of the disease. Veterinary sources indicated". *The Island* said further "that the introduction of Swine Fever could cost the government a heavy outlay — as much as Rs. 10 million a year for the vaccination of pigs. Each pig would have to be vaccinated to bring about effective control." That whilst the country must be thankful for the "warnings" given by the Veterinary Surgeons Association, the question must be asked why the Veterinarians (either in the government or in the private sector) did not spot the Swine fever early enough for proper action to be taken? That investigations reveal that it began to sweep certain farms towards the end of 1982? That it had been kept secret? That it is also known that whilst veterinarians regularly publish such warnings on a variety of matters (after each annual general meeting), they go to sleep thereafter (or depart on foreign scholarships)? That readers of *Tribune* will recall stories about veterinarians in the government sector who are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. bureaucrats five days a week and that if an animal is ill or an epidemic rages outside the stipulated hours it is the kingdom come for the animals and the country?

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