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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	1
— <i>Whither The Left?</i>	
EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK	2
— <i>MC & UC Elections</i>	
PANADURA	3
— <i>P.R. Anomalies</i>	
GANDHI FILM	6
<i>Tribute, Not History</i>	
FILM FOCUS	7
— <i>Miracle of Love</i>	
SRI LANKA CHRONICLE	9
— <i>May 16 - 22</i>	
FOREIGN SCENE	11
— <i>Afghan Reality, Indian Ocean, UK Poll, Arms Control, Middle East, Nuclear, Hitler</i>	
AGRICULTURAL DIGEST	17
— <i>Agriculture in SL (1) US Farms, Plant Habitat, Pyrethrum, Earthworms</i>	
FOCUS ON THE VILLAGE	22
— <i>PM on Gramodaya Plan to End World Hunger</i>	
SPORTSCOPE	25
— <i>Lakspray Trophy, Sharjah, Chronicle</i>	
CONFIDENTIALLY	28
— <i>Opposition Dilemma</i>	

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ON THE COVER we have a picture of a land on which trees and other vegetation have been eliminated. What is worse is that the land so cleared has not been put to any productive use — no doubt because the peasant settler did not have the capital to obtain ground water and embark on profitable cultivation. The solitary hut stands as a sentinel of man's unplanned quest for "development" in a hurry. Such wasteful attempts to use land have left many scars on this land. Concerted efforts are now being made to stop this kind of destruction of the country's natural resources. But there are many other aspects of life and living in this island that have begun to cause even greater concern among thinking people. One of them centres round the virtual elimination of what is regarded as "leftism" from the political arena. Every parliamentary democracy needs a strong Opposition to make it work. It is not enough if the Opposition is strong in numbers. It must be strong in ideas as well. And ideas have generally come from dissident or radical groups. And, it is a fact of history that such ideas have acted as catalysts for change. Whether in Vedic or in Roman times, whether in the era of Mandarins or the Caliphs, new ideas induced change that led to transformation. In Sri Lanka, in the era of adult franchise, starting with the Donoughmore Constitution, new thinking in politics, economics and culture have come from the dissident radicals. Most of them were educated in Great Britain in the years after the Second World War. Into the moribund stagnation of the fossilised world of British colonialism went these new missionaries from the London Schools of Economics imbued with Fabian methodology and fired by the thirst of political, economic and social emancipation. Some of them claimed they were inspired by the Marxism of Stalin, some by the revolutionary logic of Trotsky, and others, a little later, by the Thoughts of Mao Tse-tung. This conglomerate of radicals, called "Leftists" by most people, insisted on organising themselves in different parties proclaiming different versions of revolutionary ideology as the true gospel of Karl Marx. Nevertheless, they provided the ideas for the tumultuous political changes from 1935 to 1977. The UNP and the SLFP absorbed their ideas and generally acted on them. But the Leftists were not able to win majority popular support to form a Government, and a many of the Left led by the LSSP and CP threw in their lot with the SLFP while a few led by Philip Gunawardena had coalesed with the UNP Government in period 1965-70. Whether the defeat of the UNP in 1970 was due to this unnatural coalition between Right and Left has not been determined by historians or political scientists but there is no doubt that the total defeat of the SLFP and the two Left Parties in 1977 can be directly traced to the 1970 SLFP-LSSP-CP coalition that failed and broke up in 1975. It is unfortunate that in the six years after, the Left has not been able to rehabilitate itself. Nor have new ideas and new concepts to meet the problems of the present times and the consumerist open economy ideology of Jayewardene's UNP been forthcoming. But what many observers have noted is that the Leftist hierarchy has not outgrown the panaces and slogans formulated and popularised by the pundits of LSE Fabianism of the thirties and forties. They also seem to believe that vitriolic rhetoric against capitalists, neo-colonialists and their local "running does" is all that was necessary to rouse the masses into revolutionary fervour and pave the way for a revolution. The recent elections hve shown that this Leftist bag of tricks, though it may have won them a few seats in the past, does not work any longer.

MC & UC Elections

Last week we examined the results in the 18 Parliamentary by-elections. These elections were on the old first-past-the-post electoral laws. In the 12 Municipal Council elections the seats were allotted on the basis of proportional representation. The Party or the group with the majority also had the mayor and the Deputy Mayor without any further election at a meeting of the Council. The same procedure was followed in the Urban Council elections.

The summary of the statistical details for MC elections are as follows: Registered voters 719,641; Votes polled 406,598; Percentage polled 56.50 and Votes rejected 3,200.

	Votes Polled	Per- centage Polled	No. of Seats	No. of MCs won
U.N.P.	218,018	53.62	120	9
S.L.F.P.	120,350	29.59	62	1
T.U.L.F.	19,587	4.81	36	2
Independents	26,291	6.46	15	—
J.V.P.	13,741	3.37	—	—
L.S.S.P.	3,353	0.82	—	—
C.P.	1,235	0.30	—	—
N.S.S.P.	551	0.13	—	—
A.C.T.C.	272	0.06	—	—

In the 38 Urban Council elections, the statistical summary is as follows: Registered voters 469,060; Votes polled 307,103; Percentage polled 65.97 and Votes rejected 2,378.

	Votes Polled	Per- centage Polled	No. of Seats	No. of UCs won
U.N.P.	152,534	49.3	187	28
S.L.F.P.	82,714	26.7	53	1
T.U.L.F.	18,367	5.9	45	5
Independents	35,581	11.5	50	5
L.S.S.P.	9,951	3.2	5	—
C.P.	5,427	1.8	3	—
M.E.P.	1,635	0.5	2	—
A.C.T.C.	222	0.07	—	—
J.V.P.	671	0.02	—	—
N.S.S.P.	1	0.003	—	—

It is necessary to mention that the average for polling for the Municipal and Urban Council elections was lowered because of the very poor polling in the 1 MC and 3 UCs in the Jaffna peninsula. For the Jaffna MC, the polling was 14.48%, in Pt. Pedro UC it was 1.05%; in Valvettiturai UC 2.05%; and in Chavakachcheri 15.46%. The polling in the Tamil

areas outside the Jaffna peninsula was the same as the polling elsewhere—Batticaloa MC 76.56%, Trincomalee UC 63.41% and Vavuniya UC 76.40%.

The Tiger Eelamites, who wanted the elections boycotted, used terror tactics in the Jaffna peninsula to disrupt the elections. They had shot dead two UNP candidates, and one UNP activist, broke up TULF meetings by sten-gun firing (in the air), threatened to all candidates who did not withdraw and had also engaged in isolated gun bouts some security units. On polling day they set off bombs at different (9) polling booths and towards the end of the day had tried to seize the ballot boxes at one booth and in the process killed an army man and injured other security personnel.

The Tigers obviously do not want any dialogue between the Tamils and the government and are opposed to the TULF acceptance of J. R. Jayewardene's offer of District Councils with enlarged powers to solve the Tamil problem through decentralisation and regional autonomy. Until Mr. Jayewardene came up with the concept of District Councils, the TULF and the Tigers were one in demanding a separate Eelam state. The TULF has still not officially dropped its Eelam slogan, but is willing to cooperate with the Jayewardene government to make the District Councils effective bodies in the Tamil areas.

The TULF participated in the general elections of 1977, the District Council elections in 1981 and the Local Government elections this year. Each time, the terrorists triggered confrontation by killing army men or policemen and provoking elements in the Sinhala Security Services to run amok. This serves their objective of keeping the communities apart to justify their two-nations theory. Intimidation and fear (terrorists kill all suspected of giving information to the police or army) has enabled them to have a free run in Jaffna.

The Government refused to cancel the elections in Jaffna in spite of the shooting and killing. The TULF had condemned the Tiger killing and called upon the people to go to the polls. They won majorities in the MCs and UCs in the Tamil areas. The result would not have been different even if the polling was normal. It is significant that the UNP is the only party which able to challenge the TULF in the Jaffna peninsula. The SLFP contested Trincomalee and Vavuniya UCs. *No Left party contested in the MC or UC elections in the Tamil areas. The UNP seems to be the only alternative to the TULF in the Tamil areas in the same way the SLFP seems to be the only party that can stand up to the UNP in the Sinhalese areas. The Left parties have to do a great deal of rethinking to see how they can win the confidence of the people in the Sinhalese as well as Tamil areas.*

The Opposition Parties have so far been slow to indulge in postmortems. Only the CP, as we said last week, has in a preliminary survey ventured to give three reasons for the defeat: (i) thuggery and intimidation by the UNP; (ii) the anti-unity attitudes of powerful sections of the SLFP and (iii) the disunity in the Left. The SLFP leader T. B. Illangaratne said the election "was a travesty of the franchise. It was not an election but a civil war".

It is true that the customary decision violence and thuggery were not absent, but it was not confined to the ruling party alone. Neutral observers however say that the thuggery and intimidation did not decide the outcome of the elections on May 19 and 20.

The LSSP has not issued a statement after the elections, but what it said when the anti-UNP no-contest agreement failed to get off the ground is relevant to an understanding of the LSSP view of the current situation. We publish below the report published in the *Daily News* on May 2 under the headline NO-CONTEST SPIKED BY SLFP RIGHT: "The Lanka Sama Samaja Party says that a 'resurgence of strong right wing pressure upon the leadership of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party has caused a breakdown of the negotiations for a nocontest pact among opposition parties'. A statement issued by Mr. Bernard Soysa, General Secretary of the LSSP, says that the LSSP negotiations with the SLFP ended on April 19, when the deciding committee of the SLFP took a firm stand on the seats to be allocated to the LSSP for the parliamentary by-election. 'With the failure of the effort to reach a no-contest agreement with the SLFP in regard to the parliamentary by-election, the LSSP is contesting only one seat—Kalutara' says Mr. Soysa.

"The LSSP is contesting the local elections under an independent symbol in two areas and under the Communist Party symbol in another. It is also contesting eight local bodies under its own symbol, the Key. Mr. Soysa says that though the LSSP in negotiations for the no-contest agreement has asked for Baddegama, Ambalangoda, Ratgama and Eheliyagoda, in the interests of unity, the party agreed to the Communist Party proposal that the LSSP and CP should confine their requests to two seats each, while the NSSP and the MEP should ask for one each. In particular, the LSSP yielded Ratgama (where the party has a strong traditional base) on the claim made by the CP, and Eheliyagoda on the claim made by the NSSP.

"In its approach to the question of elections, the LSSP was guided by the impelling needs arising from the present political situation in Sri Lanka, the statement said. The need to struggle against the consolidation of dictatorial power on the part of the UNP grew in importance after the referendum in December

last year. There is a need to defend the living standards of the people against intolerable economic burdens that are being placed upon by the UNP Government. There is also the need to defend the political rights of the people in the face of the systematic destruction of these rights. The agitation for the holding of the Parliamentary General Election in 1983 is part of the struggle against the consolidation of a dictatorship."

"The statement added: 'Recognising the need for the broadest mobilisation on these matters, the LSSP continued to call for united action both during the Referendum and afterwards. It was in this context that the LSSP approached the question of Government's proposal of by-elections and the local government elections. The LSSP gladly accepted the invitations first from the Communist Party of Sri Lanka and then from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party to decide upon common action. 'At the discussions called by the SLFP there was agreement on the principle that there should be a no-contest pact or arrangement among the anti-UNP parties participating in the elections'...."

But this statement had no impact on the voters in the one parliamentary by-election the LSSP contested or in any of the MCs or UCs the LSSP had put up candidates. People are no longer interested in learned theses on why there was no anti-UNP Front, or even Left Unity. Nor are they interested in ideological explanations of the "whys" and "wherefores" of the current situation. They want realistic policies, concrete programmes and realisable pragmatic solutions to the problems of the day which the UNP has not been able to solve or even deal with adequately.

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PANADURA

The Funny Side of P. R.

By W. L. Fernando

IN THE PANADURA URBAN COUNCIL elections held on May 18, the Chairman (or Chairperson as a morning paper had it.) Mrs. Dorothy Dharmage (UNP) contesting the Walana Ward in the Urban Council lost the Ward to her SLFP rival Mr. Lenin Fernando by 43 votes. But on the PR (Proportional Representation) Mrs. Dorotgy Dharmage, who lost the election in her Ward, was appointed to the Chair of the Panadura UC. This is one funny aspect of the PR. A person rejected by the voters of her Ward being elevated to the position of Chief Executive of the Local body. That is not all. Panadura has nine wards and consequently nine members. Of these

nine wards, Walana and Walapola have six members in the Council, two of whom, Mr. Lenin Fernando (SLFP Walana) and Mr. G. Weeraman (SLFP Walapola) were elected on the votes polled by them individually in their Wards while the other four, Mrs. Dorothy Dharmage (UNP Walana), Mr. Chandrasiri de Silva (Independent, Walana), Mr. Ranjit Fernando (UNP Walapola) and Mr. Rohana Soysa (UNP, Walapola) were chosen to the Council on the PR.

OF THE BALANCE, Mr. Obert Silva (UNP) won the Nalluruwa Ward and by virtue of the position held by him in the UNP list of candidates (he was second in the list with Mrs. Dorothy Dharmage as first) was elected a member although there were other UNP candidates who had secured more votes than Mr. Obert Silva in their respective wards. Mr. Cyril Salgado (Independent) won the Moderawila Ward while Mr. Pedrick (LSSP sitting member) who was first in the LSSP list was appointed a member in spite of losing his Ward Udahamulla. Incidentally all LSSP candidates had lost in their respective Wards.

Thus we have the peculiar position in Panadura where two Wards in effect are represented by six members while four Wards virtually have no representation at all. Another peculiar position in Panadura is that of the nine members in Council only four have been returned by their own votes while five are appointed on the PR. The four elected members are Messrs Obert Silva (UNP Nalluruwa), Mr. Lenin Fernando (SLFP Walana), G. Weeraman (SLFP Walapola) and Cyril Salgado, (Ind. Moderawila). The five members appointed on the PR are Mrs. Dorothy Dharmage (UNP, Walana) and Messrs Chandrasiri de Silva (Ind. Walana), Ranjit Fernando (UNP, Walapola), Rohana Soysa (UNP Walapola) and Pedrick (LSSP Udahamulla). The four Wards with no representation in the UC are Pattiya, Town, Uyankela and Wekada. All these Members as well as others who contested the various Wards live in their respective Wards and in their election manifestos issued individually as Party nominees gave an indication of what they propose doing for their respective Wards if they are returned while the sitting Members gave in addition a list of what they had done for their respective Wards during their term of office.

The peculiarities mentioned above may not be confined to Panadura alone. There may be similar instances in other local bodies as well and it is well to ponder whether the PR system as it stands today is not undermining democracy and should not be amended. The results of the Panadura UC given below will show how the PR has reduced democracy to a mockery.

Ward No. 1—Walana: Mr. Lenin Fernando and Mr. Vettasinghe (SLFP) 492 votes, Mrs. Dorothy Dharmage (UNP) 449 votes, Chandrasiri de Silva (Ind) 319 votes and Nimal Chandrasiri (LSSP) 70 votes:

Ward No. 2—Pattiya: Malsiri de Mel (UNP) 386 votes, Herbert Perera Sirimanne (SLFP) 293 votes, Sirilal Silva (Ind.) 292 votes, LSSP no candidate 70 votes.

Ward: No. 3—Town: Kusum Geeyanage (UNP) 620, Churchill Satursinghe (SLFP) 432, Indra Fernando and Ratnasiri Fernando (Ind.) 418, Thompson Perera (LSSP) 130 votes.

Ward No. 4—Uyankela: Buddhadasa Fernando (SLFP) 557 votes, P. Pathmasiri Fernando (UNP) 515 votes, K. M. Fernando and Ranjit Fernando (Ind.) 378 votes, Cyril Jayasinghe (LSSP) 211 votes.

Ward No. 5—Moderawila: Cyril Salgado (Ind.) 613, Premalal Fernando (SLFP) 468 votes, Kulasiri Fernando (UNP) 436 votes, Dulson Fernando (LSSP) 347 votes.

Ward No. 6—Nalluruwa: Obert Silva (UNP) 500, Vijith Fernando and Kanil Silva (SLFP) 314 votes, Milton Fernando (Ind.) 236 votes, Gilbert Fernando and Lushington (LSSP) 224 votes.

Ward No. 7—Wekada: Mr. Manik Fernando (UNP) 397, SLFP no candidate 252 votes, Noel Fernando (Ind.) 242 votes, Piyasiri Fonseka (LSSP) 240 votes.

Ward No. 8—Walapola: G. Weeraman (SLFP) 711, Ranjit Fernando and Rohana Soysa (UNP) 426 votes, Ranjit Perera and L. W. Silva (Ind.) 210 votes, Jason Peiris (LSSP) 245 votes.

Ward No. 9—Udahamulla: Gamini Costa and Kingsley Fernando (SLFP) 700 votes, Martin Kuruppu and Deepthi Abeywickrema (UNP) 582 votes, Mr. Neil Perera (Ind.) 366 votes and Pedrick (LSSP) 243 votes.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We invite comments on the questions raised by Mr. W. L. Fernando. We would also welcome similar analyses about the results of elections on PR. The results of the Panadura Urban Council are as follows:

Registered votes: 18,919
Vote polled: 13,440
Percentage polled: 71.03
Votes rejected: 74

	Votes Polled	Percentage Polled	Seats
UNP	4,310	32.06	4
LSSP	1,762	13.11	1
SLFP	4,219	31.39	2
Independents	3,075	22.87	2

Chairman : D. S. Dharmage (UNP)
Vice Chairman : Y. S. H. D. Silva (UNP)

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ANOTHER PAK VIEW

'Gandhi' : Tribute, not History

By Ghazi Salahuddin

This article, from the Karachi journal "The Herald" April, 1983, is reproduced from the "Mainstream".

IF GANDHI IS GRACED WITH OSCARS, the credit goes to Sir Richard Attenborough. If it has left any scars, we have only our masochistic selves to blame. And both the Oscars and the scars have clouded our appreciation of a film intended basically as a tribute to a man and not as an argument in some resurrected political dispute. Typically the Pakistani response to the undoubtedly celebrated movie biography reveals more about our own ambivalence towards the freedom movement than it does about the 22 million dollar production, born of an Englishman's dream, dreamt for twenty long years. That it has come in the midst of a divisive debate on the ideology and concept of Pakistan has made matters worse. Thanks to VCR and the resourcefulness of Pakistani operators, Gandhi has already been seen by a large number of Pakistanis, at least in Karachi. Even on the mini-screen and with the video-cassettes in circulation being deficient in quality, the film makes a resounding impact. You are immediately impressed by its cinematic quality, its visual spectacle and the dramatic sweep of its characterisation of Gandhi. *But how does one relate to it as an experience ? The problem is that nobody in Pakistan—nor in India, for that matter—can approach it without some preconceived notions about what it should have been. We all have our own Gandhi to contend with. Sir Richard, on the other hand, offers us 'his' Gandhi which, come to think of it is*

how it should be...

THE MAIN SUCCESS of the film thus is that Sir Richard's version conforms in its essence to the popular international image of a unique mystifying

political leader of our times. Just as we respond to it in the context our present search for identity, the world has greeted this devout evocation of the prophet of non-violence against the flaming backdrop of violence wars injustice and a threat to the very survival of mankind. As Sir Richard said in Manila in early February: "Gandhi's teaching of mass non-violence could as well serve as the saving force in the holocaust we are facing." *Whether this approach is credible is not the point. It only shows that the film is intended as a message and to that extent it makes no claim to be historically comprehensive or a faithful illustration of events. It is in fact surprising that judging from standards set by biographical cinema Gandhi is remarkably authentic.* In trying to understand Gandhi two facts must be borne in mind. It is professedly intended to be a tribute and it is made for an international mainly western audience. It is wellknown that the inspiration was Louis Fisher's biography of Gandhi and when Richard Attenborough read it in 1962, he was "thunderstruck". And in the West, Gandhi has always been a magical figure. One thousand books have already been written about him in English—and the film has awakened a new interest which will lead to more interpretations. Martin Luther King Jr. greatly helped in promoting the image when he based his strategy on Gandhi's philosophy. Besides, human life is greatly valued in the Western tradition and Gandhi's non-violence irrespective of the subcontinental madness, evokes deep admiration.

IT WOULD BE FUTILE to debate why the character of the Quaid-i-Azam has not been portrayed in a more realistic or favourable light. Such comments ignore the reality of the Founder of Pakistan being almost the most prominent figure in the film after Gandhi. Luminaries like Nehru, Azad and Patel emerge as cardboard figures. There has been criticism in India that the film does not at all show such prominent actors in the freedom movement as Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. Ambedkar, Tagore and Rajaji. Even Vinoba Bhave, who inherited Gandhi's charisma to some extent, is absent. Cast in a fictional frame, the film also ignores some major events. This point was duly noted by the *New York Times* critic, who wrote: "Gandhi is least effective when it is dealing with historical events and personages, especially British personages...some of them come very close to being cartoons." But this has not kept the *NYT* review from calling the film "amazingly authentic." *There have been other omissions. The London Times had a write-up by Louis Heren who was the London paper's correspondent in India in 1947 and pointed to the "glaring omission" of not indicating the extent of riots in which at least one million people died. Yet Louis Heren said: "Those who see it will doubtless be inspired by this portrayal of a great man who, if not a saint, was more saintly than many in the Christian calendar." That is exactly*

TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1983

what the film has sought to project. With all this accolade, it may be conceded that Gandhi is not a great film in terms of cinematic creativity. Its script, by John Briley, lacks insight into the Indian mind and politics of that tumultuous time. Ben Kingsley as the central character has deserved all the praise but the great supporting cast has not made any remarkable contribution.

FOR A NUMBER OF OUR CHAUVINISTS, the portrayal of the Quaid has become the keyhole from which they have seen the film. There have also been suggestions that film on the Quaid be actively promoted. But if this desire is rooted in a search for truth, are we really capable of accepting anything explicitly truthful in personal terms about our leaders? That, I believe, is an issue that should not be associated with a discussion of Gandhi. After all, there can be other films about Gandhi and his times and about other leaders. This one had its reasons for having been made. It would be well to remember the preface to the film, which said: No man's life can be encompassed in one telling. There is no way to give each year its allotted weight to include each event each person who helped to shape a lifetime. What can be done is to be faithful in spirit to the record and try to find one's way to the heart of the man"



GANDHI FILM

Sound Investment For India

NEW DELHI: India is getting a return of 33 to 48 per cent of the profits on its investment of Rs. 6.5 crores in the British actor-producer, Sir Richard Attenborough's film 'Gandhi'. The total investment in the film is about three times the amount. The Union Information Ministry feels that the runaway success of the film has borne out the Government's wisdom in investing in a film produced by an Englishman and answered all criticism about preferring a foreigner to an Indian. The decision has helped raise funds in the U. S. and Europe. From screening the film in India, Western Europe, the U.K. and the Americas, where the Government of India has common distribution rights under an agreement with Sir Richard, India will get a third of the total collection. Columbia Pictures shares the distribution rights for this area. In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where India has the distribution rights and the State-owned National Film Development Corporation is arranging to screen the film, India will get 15 per cent over its one-third share.—Hindu

FALLING OIL PRICES

Hit Gulf Development Plans

Beirut: Gulf nations, squeezed by falling oil prices, are sipping billions of dollars off ambitious development plans and facing the risk of social upheaval. The Arab oil boom, which began less than a decade ago, started to fade in early 1981 when the oil surplus emerged and reduced the Gulf's share of world oil trade. The economic outlook for the Gulf has been further clouded by OPEC forecasts that its base oil price could stagnate through this year and next at 29 dollars a barrel — five dollars less than the 13-nation cartel charged before March 1983. Saudi Arabia, the OPEC's largest exporter and the linchpin in the conservative Gulf since the 1979 Iranian revolution, has not been immune to the impact of falling oil revenues. King Fahd's budget for 1983-84 calls for a ten billion dollar deficit because of the need to sustain 75 billion dollars in spending on roads, schools, hospitals and running the government. But he cut the kingdom's municipal budget by 27 percent to five point six billion dollars from 7.7 billion dollars. The financial cuts coincided with the resignation of the head of the Saudi Arabian Monetary agency, the country's Central Bank. The Saudi Information Minister whom King Fahd publicly criticised also stepped down. The reasons behind the resignations were not revealed.

Beirut newspapers said the Kingdom's officials reacted with anger to press reports of deeper political problems. The officials made no public comment except when Riyadh radio recently called Arab reports of a coup attempt a "mean fabrication". But Saudi authorities, who recently imposed a new decree requiring individuals to register firearms, have arrested suspects accused of attempted subversion or corruption, according to newspaper and radio reports. Kuwait's loosely controlled stock market crashed last month, leaving the Government with investors claims of over 91 billion dollars. Kuwait already was wrestling with a steady slide in oil income from 19.5 billion dollars in 1980 to an estimated eight billion to nine billion dollars last year. Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have more than halved their spending and other Gulf countries outside OPEC like Oman and Bahrain are not far behind. Most financially strapped Arab Governments are contemplating taxation where little or none existed, repatriation of thousands of Arab and Asian immigrants and cutbacks in social welfare services — measures that could rock internal tranquility. The OPEC — a political grouping of Arab oil producers that has no power to set prices — estimates its members face a 71 billion dollars shortfall in revenue this year after a 47 billion dollars loss in 1982-PT/

A Miracle Of Love

That the Television media could telecast excellent and exclusive films with heartwarming themes, without frequently falling back on video cassettes of films for cinema screening, was brought home very forcefully a few days ago when on the *Rupavahini* programme was one of "Love" eminently fit for our times, when the fabric of family life is coming apart. This menu had many families glued to the set, and struck a warm chord of rethinking and renewal in family unity. The story revolved around a little child, the only son in a closely knit family of five, who became a pathetic victim, from birth, of a rare disease, termed "Olicism". The symptoms of the malady became evident to the parents, by the child's odd behaviour pattern, and medical opinion held ruthlessly against a cure, recommending the victim to an institution for rehabilitation. The scene was thus set for the blooming out of a tenacious dedication of unreserved affection, well within the family circle, to have a go against discouraging odds, to redeem the child towards normalcy. While the even tenor of their lives were shattered, and left in traumatic pieces, the experiment of love began. To do so initially, was to establish a communication between two worlds, one normal and the other silenced of all sound for the child was stone deaf, and quite oblivious to all around him, except his peculiar rocking habits, with the stunting of all faculties for a child of his age.

The film surfaced a rare quality of love, determined to penetrate the doomed world of the patient, and all this was attempted in a quiet room of the house, far removed from its normal furniture, fittings and added distractions. Quite steadily and patiently, every member of the family attempted to enter the world of the little one, and draw him out of shelled darkness. It was an uphill task but the labour of love went on to bursting point, while disappointments and setbacks there were many. Their collective "net" of love eventually won back their child, and doctors had no answer or an explanation for the cure that was wrested over drugs, sleepless nights, tears and a firm believe in divine providence. There could have been no doubt that this humane story steadied the lives of many Sri Lankan family groups, set meaningful ideals and steadied their goals at a grass roots level. *Rupavahini* deserves praise for selecting this telecast for family viewing hours and this column would even request an "encore" of this particular story, as it was a perennial, for all ages

And while on this subject this column has noted with regret that certain Tamil film telecasts, that were not shown locally before as these were frowned

upon by the censors are being televised uncut. One such was "Valvu En Pakkam" with an incestuous theme and a corresponding dialogue that had family groups blushing, a few weeks ago. Even the children were left confused at the double entendre and the barnyard norms that unfurled before their eyes. Are these telecasts being sieved through the censors? If not why, is the poser that this column places before Rupavahini, with the best of intentions.

SANGILI (Tamil): Directed by C. V. Rajendren this coloured film is yet another chapter in the South Indian film scene right now, where the supremacy of Maestro Sivaji Ganeshan is being challenged for the crown, by the younger Kamalahasan who has been referred to as the actor out to dethrone the older rival. Yet Sivaji holds his own in this "Guru" styled film and revels as always — although rather heavily so in the scope that dual characterisations offer him, to give off his best. He roles a duty conscious police officer, Inspector Saravanan, who pays with his life, a victim to the villany of a cunning king of the underworld (Nambiar), who finds him a painful thorn on his side. The Inspector General of Police (Sundararajan), whose son the deceased inspector was, is hardpressed, although in grief to find a substitute in secrecy, to follow up the killer gang and confuse their ranks. He plunges without hesitation for a "double" in all physical respects in "Sangili", a ruffian and a rowdy already in jail for a capital offence. The rehabilitation reformation and recasting of Sangili to cut into a Police Officer's uniform, takes a good slice of the story and has its lighter moments too. And once again the chase for the gang is on, which is for you to follow in the many ferociously action packed sequences that follow. A fierce confrontation between Sivaji Ganeshan and his son in real life, Prabhu, is the piece de resistance of the story, while a teaser spins a valuable clue in the word LION and the numeral 17. The film is well photographed, with Sivaji Ganeshan at the helm with his acknowledged cool and classy histrionics. vivacious Sri Priya provides the love interest, the late Surulirajan, the laughs, Sundararajan his versatility particularly in unformed roles and Nambiar, the veonmous villain that he has been for many years now. All the ingredients for entertainment are spread out with a fiery finesse in this gilt edged production, which one should not miss.

ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK (English): An Embassy Pictures John Carpenter release which aces ahead of our times by a decade and a half (1997), where the visitors and the vanquished run around with more sophisticated weaponry in

their slow march to an Armageddon perhaps. In this year of "disgrace", Manhattan (USA) has been walled up into maximum Security prison, while New York proper is teeming with hoodlums of all hues, rearing for violence and all that is ugly in life. Quite paradoxically, the Statue of Liberty overshadows the whole scene, as the American President — a rather denigrated personality — is held hostage for a heavy ransom. Efforts get under way to release him and the whole exercise becomes a business proposition with the hero (Kurt Russel) coming to grips with a villain behind the scenes (Lee Van Cleef). Frankly this film was not only out of depth but also out of step for our times, which perhaps resulted in the cinema getting gradually depleted before curtains. Your reviewer however held his "nods" to the end, as the sequences overlapped often, and made his escape leaving an assessment of the film to crystal ball gazers, prophets and patriarchs of the future!

James N. Benedict.

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PAKISTAN

To Finance Film On Jinnah

Dubai, The Pakistan Government has decided to finance a film on Mohamed Ali Jinnah, the Karachi daily *Dawn* has reported, Imitating the Oscar-winning Indo-British film on Mahatma Gandhi, the Federal Cabinet has said the canvas of the Pakistani film should be enlarged to cover the entire history of the formation of Pakistan. The *Dawn* yesterday said that the film could be named "Struggle for Pakistan" or "Struggle for Homeland". It said the idea for the film had been mooted by the Pakistan Information Ministry, which has assured the cabinet members that "professional efforts" would be made in collaboration with a foreign film company on producing it. The paper said the Pakistani Information Ministry was in touch with a British company, "Signet" for the proposed collaboration. It said that efforts would also be made to locate a film-maker such as Sir Richard Attenborough, who made "Gandhi" and also a Pakistani scholar dedicated to the study of the life of Jinnah " as Sir Attenborough was to India and to Gandhi".

—UNI.

POEM

SHADOW & SUBSTANCE.

*This is the shadow
These city monsters
Made of steel and glass.
Within whose walls
We live —
The rushing of
Those shining limousines
Carrying their burdens
Of the idle rich
To feasts and obesity.*

*This is the substance
These rustic homes
Of mud and thatch,
Whose sunwashed walls
And cool dung floors
Spell 'Home'
These strolling bullock carts
The carters' songs
Resounding round
The red, red market roads.*

*The shadow hides
The substance,
Greed and lust outweigh
Those simple wants.
What is the choice? —
The harshness
Of a thousand neon lights,
Or warm sweet scents
Of silver moonlit nights.
The shadow or the substance —
City wants
Or, Life lived free.*

LORRAINE.

MAKE

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May 16 - 22

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; RV—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IS—Island; DI—Divaina; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, MAY 16: The relatively short by-election and local election campaigns end at midnight today with the political parties holding their winding-up meetings before the May 18 poll where about a fourth of the country's voters are eligible to vote. Eleven more TULF candidates standing at the Jaffna Municipal Council elections withdrew yesterday for personal reasons; this brings the total number of TULF withdrawals to 19. Legislation will soon be introduced to control the sale of bacon, ham and other pork products in supermarkets and other sales points, a spokesman for the Animal Production and Health Department said. China, Indonesia and Singapore have endorsed an overture by Thailand's foreign minister to visit Hanoi contingent on a pullback of Vietnamese troops out of artillery range of Thai Kingdom, the *Bangkok Post* reported today. Britain is expected to press its demands for budget rebates on the final day of a European Community Foreign Ministers' Conference today diplomatic sources said—*DN*. Banks granting loans to rural farmers — a subject which has come under severe scrutiny recently — are finding it difficult to recover the monies; last year of the total of Rs.119.7 million granted in loans only a little more than half has been paid back—*CDM*. Air Force helicopters will be on standby to carry out reconnaissance flights and service personnel will be deployed to provide security to northern voters seeking to exercise their franchise at the local government elections on Wednesday. A CID inquiry was launched yesterday morning in Nuwara Eliya to ascertain whether a group of northern terrorists had planned a major strike against government installations in the area—*SU*. One hundred and ten complaints of political clashes and intimidations connected with the by-election and local authority election campaigns due to end tonight have been received by Police headquarters during the last three weeks; the bulk of the complaints have been received from the South and the Sabaragamuwa provinces where election fever has been hottest—*IS*.

TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1983

All the candidates who were standing for the Urban Council election for Point Pedro have written to the Commissioner of Elections stating that they are withdrawing from the contest—*DP*

TUESDAY, MAY 17: The government has decided that in future new areas of commercial activity will be left almost entirely to the private sector; the Export Development Board and other agencies, particularly the state-owned banks will be geared to help the private sector in this role. Syrian and Palestinian pressure on Lebanon rose sharply as President Amin Gemayel's government prepared to sign a US-backed agreement this week for the withdrawal of Israeli invasion troops. The Soviet Union retains such tight control over its new missile bases in Syria that the Syrian Defence Minister has never been allowed to enter them, *Time* magazine reported on Sunday—*DN*. The army and police will be guarding all 69 polling booths in the local elections in the Northern province—*CDM*. The withdrawal of Iraq, Sri Lanka's third largest buyer from the Colombo tea auctions has caused ripples of concern in several quarters; Iraq which bought heavily at the auctions until three weeks ago, has withdrawn due to severe balance of payments problems and because it has found that the balance of trade between the two countries is heavily in Sri Lanka's favour. Two partners of a foreign employment agency have been taken in by the Police for questioning on a complaint of fraud involving 30 million rupees—*SU*. The World Bank said today its affiliate, the International Development Association has approved a 50-year, 23 million dollar credit for a project to improve agricultural production in Sri Lanka; the IDA credit includes 10 years of grace; it will be interest-free, except for minor yearly charges, the Bank said in a statement—*EO*. Militant elements stepped up their campaign for a boycott of the Northern local body elections by distributing two leaflets requesting the people to reject elections and refrain from voting tomorrow. "I do not know what will happen in 1989; there may be another Referendum, but the decision for that will be taken by the leaders who will be in power then", said Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, concluding the campaign for the by-elections at a meeting held in Mahara yesterday—*IS*. D.I.G. R. Sunthralingam made a request through the *Virakesari* that the public should not believe meaningless rumours—*VK*.

WEDNESDAY, MAY, 18: Voting in the by-elections to 18 Parliamentary seats and in the elections to local bodies in 20 of the 22 districts begins at 8 a.m. with some 2,250,000 voters going to the polls. A State of Emergency will come into force at the close of the polls at 5 p.m. today, a government announcement said. Sri Lanka's ceramics industry got a big boost with UNIDO's approval of Rs. 22 million technical assistance project to be implemented by the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation. The United States and the

Soviet Union resume talks at Geneva on medium range nuclear missiles in Europe, with both Sides accusing each other of holding up progress. Karnatak chief Minister Ramakrishnan Hedge won the Kana-vaukapura assembly seat convincingly to strengthen the Janata Party rule, but the Congress (1) retaliated when it retained the Yelburga seat and was poised to annex the Porbander Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat in Sunday's by-elections—*DN*. Nearly 2.2 million voters are eligible to go to the polls today to elect their representatives to parliament and to their municipal and urban councils. Security forces yesterday thwarted attempts by terrorist groups in the north to scare away residents so that they may not turn up to vote at today's elections. An international business expert said yesterday Sri Lanka offered great opportunities to multinationals seeking to invest here and its investment promotion strategy stood out as an excellent example to even countries like Indonesia and Brazil. M. D. H. Jayawardena, MP for Kaduwela is expected to resign his seat in Parliament this week—*SU*. Two security plans involving around 20,000 police officers and security personnel were put into operation last night to ensure law and order during and after polling for the 18 by-elections and 46 local government elections. The Opposition leader Mr. A. Amirthalingam's son A. Bageerathan and three other youths were arrested by the Wellawatte Police on Monday night and released yesterday afternoon; the youths had been in possession of documents which they are alleged to have been trying to get printed as leaflets; a detailed examination of the documents showed that they were inoffensive in nature—*IS*. Ballot boxes for the four local body elections in the Jaffna District were taken under strict security by the police and army—*DP*.

THURSDAY, MAY 19: Polling was negligible in the Point Pedro and Velvettiturai Urban Council elections with only 115 voters out of an electorate of 10,928 voting in the former area and 184 out of 8,972 voting at the latter. The UNP finished comfortably on top in local elections countrywide yesterday winning 34 out of 46 councils declared; the TULF won seven councils in the North and the East while independent groups won four contests; only Ratnapura went to the SLFP. Australia announced it would cut immigration by about 10 percent in the coming financial year, placing emphasis on family reunions and refugees, immigration minister Stewart West told the Federal Parliament. Vietnam seems to have launched a new diplomacy with a positive response to a Thai call for Vietnamese troops in Cambodia to withdraw 30 Kms from the Thai border, diplomatic observers in Hanoi said yesterday—*DN*. Students from rural areas who have been awarded Grade V scholarships and are now studying in city schools have begun to leave these schools; this is mainly due to the students not being able to adjust to the environment at these schools in the city which are in contrast to rural

schools—*CDM*. Jaffna and its environs appeared like a ghost town yesterday as polling at the Jaffna Municipal Council elections and elections to two Urban Councils — Chavakachcheri and Point Pedro began amidst pressures on the people by clandestine group called the "Tigers" the elections; polling was very low in all areas while shops in the normally teeming Jaffna bazaar were closed; government offices and schools were paralysed as the attendance was very low. A soldier was yesterday gunned down at a polling booth in the Nallur electorate reportedly by armed youths styling themselves "Liberation Tigers"; another soldier was injured seriously and two policemen wounded in this encounter, Police said—*IS*. In a clash between two groups at Buthpitiya in the Mahara electorate one person died of gunshot injuries—*DP*.

FRIDAY, MAY 20: The United National Party won 14 of the 18 parliamentary seats at Wednesday's by-elections, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party 3 and the Mahajana Eksath Paramuna 1; this victory rounded off its success at the local government polls where it won 34 local bodies out of 46 contested. The Cabinet agreed to a proposal by Minister Cyril Mathew for the expansion and modernisation of the Ceylon Leather Products Corporation factory and tannery at Mattakuliya. The Department of Animal Production and Health has launched a mass vaccination program to combat the swine fever now fast spreading in several areas along the western, coastal belt. Six Gulf Foreign Ministers hold further talks in Riyadh to review the outcome of visits by two of them to warring Iran and Iraq and the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement. More than 60 developing countries, many faced with chronic debt problems start two days of talks with the European Community today which could be crucial for the future of their special trade relations.—*DN*. A proposal to establish a unified legal service for some of the departments under the Ministry of Justice is under consideration. For this purpose representatives from the relevant departments have been summoned to ascertain their views—*CDM*. An uneasy calm prevailed in the trouble-torn northern town of Jaffna where columns of smoke continued to rise from smouldering buildings bearing stark testimony to a night of fury; the fires that raged have died out, but conditions are yet to return to normal. Eighteen new MPs elected at Wednesday's parliamentary by-elections will take their oaths at an unscheduled session of Parliament on May 25. Government is to set up specialised committee to monitor ongoing projects undertaken by the ministries, to ensure that losses are kept at a minimum—*SU*. India has sent 75 kilo- grams of Masoor dhal seeds to Sri Lanka at the request of the government; efforts will be made to grow Masoor dhal here in a bid to save at least part of the Rs. 262 million in foreign exchange spent

TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1983

in importing 14,000 tons of this variety of dhal every year—*EO*. Hundreds of people who had fled their homes at Kandarmaddam on Wednesday night returned yesterday morning only to find the houses gutted; the majority of those affected were living down Old Road, Arasady and in several by-lanes between Palaly Road and Point Pedro Road. The Cabinet decided that foreigners would be permitted to work in Sri Lanka only if their services were absolutely necessary; this decision was taken on a recommendation of the Minister of State Dr. Anandattisa de Alwis; a special monitoring unit is to be set up for the purpose—*IS*.

SATURDAY, MAY, 21: The election day tension in Jaffna which climaxed with the killing of an army corporal, followed by several houses and shops being set on fire, has now subsided, Government Agent Devanesan Nesiiah said yesterday. Sri Lanka's gems and jewellery will now get top billing in Europe with the first fashionable jewellery centre to be opened in Colombo by a European firm. A Lebanese envoy heads for Iraq and North Yemen today as President Amin Gemayal strives for Arab support for a US-backed troop withdrawal agreement with Israel which is presently blocked by Syrian opposition. The Republican-dominated Senate defied President Reagan last night and approved a 1984 budget plan calling for higher taxes to cut mounting deficits; Reagan has vowed to veto bills including major taxes over the next two years saying taxes could harm the economic recovery; his critics argued that deficits are a greater threat—*DN*. The trouble-torn northern capital of Jaffna, which was rocked by polls violence this week appeared to be returning to normal yesterday. Sri Lanka has successfully negotiated a larger export quota in the controversial Multi-Fibre Agreement with the United States agreeing to permit a six percent annual growth rate on the export of garments from here over the next five years; this agreement which was signed in Colombo last Tuesday will cover the period from 1983 to 1988. Internal Security Minister T. B. Werapitiya announced yesterday that legislation is to be introduced shortly to restrict the sale of certain drugs in a bid to wipe out drug abuse in Sri Lanka—*SU*. A special three-member committee of government officials has been appointed to rehabilitate the victims of Wednesday's violence in Jaffna while another twelve-man special unit of the police has been set up to inquire into the incidents of violence and arson which occurred on that day. The TULF in a statement issued yesterday has called upon the Government to withdraw the Army from North and work out a political solution to the Tamil problem.—*IS*.

SUNDAY, MAY 22: When the "Aid Sri Lanka Club" meets in Paris in June 16 the Sri Lanka delegation led by the Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. Ronnie de Mel will seek aid up to 550 million US dollars (Rs. 18,100 million); this sum will include

£ 30 million for the completion of the Victoria Project and 100 million US dollars for the down-stream work of Project of the Accelerated Mahaweli scheme. At the annual Aid Consultations held from the 17th to 20th May in the Department of External Resources the visiting Netherlands Delegation led by Mr. W. Kulft, Coordinator South-East Asia Development Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign affairs pledged a sum of DFL 39 million (Rs.312 million) as grant assistance to Sri Lanka in 1983. Special security measures will prevail at all examination centres in Jaffna during the forthcoming GCE (A) examination—*SO*. The monthly contribution to the Employees Provident Fund has reached a record Rs. 102 million indicating an unprecedented rise in employment since the UNP regime took office; the average monthly contribution to the Fund during the period 1975 to 1978 was Rs. 35 million. Lankan's first ever fully equipped container terminal will be inaugurated on Tuesday May 25 at the Port of Colombo by the Minister of Trade and Shipping ;Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali. Two fishing trawlers from Taiwan named "Cnub Yeun Yong;" and "Del Nan;" were taken into custody by the Trincomalee Customs yesterday as they were about to sail out of the inner harbour; the trawlers on interception were found to be carrying contraband and gems to the value of Rs. 9 million—*ST*. A deadly diarrhoeal disease has been raging over the past two months in the hill country while the health authorities who kept the epidemic under wraps make feeble attempts to bring it under control. Immediate changes are to be effected in the management of the Sri Lanka Transport Board; this follows urgent negotiation the Finance Ministry had with the World Bank in Washington following a threat by the Bank to stop financial assistance to the Board—*WK*. A liquid nitrogen plant imported by Ceylon Oxygen Ltd. from Singapore at a cost of Rs.54 million last year has been lying idle for the past six months, company sources said. The TULF will call upon the Government to appoint a commission to investigate the incidents of violence which occurred on Wednesday in Jaffna and its environs—*IS*.



INDIAN OCEAN

More Militarisation

Moscow, May 16: The establishment of CENTCOM by the United States is an unprecedented step in the history of international relations, aimed at exerting

military pressure on independent Afro-Asian countries K. Subrahmanyam, Director of the Indian Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, made this observation addressing Soviet scholars at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Answering questions he said that the establishment of CENTCOM would be tantamount to India setting up a similar command to exert pressure on Latin American or African nations. Besides he said American military presence is aimed at supporting anti-democratic regimes, as was the case in Iran. Commenting on Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean, Subrahmanyam said: "I think the forces of the USSR are not in any way comparable with the US naval forces in the Indian Ocean". He stressed that the United States has in the Indian Ocean groups of aircraft carriers and also military bases where means of delivering nuclear weapons are deployed. India is seriously alarmed by the steady buildup of American military presence in the Indian Ocean.

TOUCHING UPON prospects of establishing a peace zone in the Indian Ocean, he expressed the opinion that Washington was doing all to prevent this. It annually allocates vast sums to expand and re-equip its military bases in the Indian Ocean not in order to declare it a zone of peace. Mr. Subrahmanyam noted that New Delhi is deeply concerned about American military deliveries to Pakistan, for they cannot be spearheaded against any other neighbouring nation except India. American support for regimes unfriendly to India is also of great danger to it. During the 1971 crisis, it took the American aircraft carrier "Enterprise" more than five days to enter the Bay of Bengal, while at present it can reach Bombay three days after it leaves the American base in the Indian Ocean, observed the Indian expert. Subrahmanyam said, referring to US Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick, that when solving the problem of financial assistance to India Washington counts how many times New Delhi has voted against the American stand in the United Nations. "That is why," he pointed out, "many countries hold more resolute anti-Washington stands at Nonaligned meetings than in the United Nations". On the results of the 7th Nonaligned Summit in New Delhi, Subrahmanyam noted that India's main mission in the Nonaligned Movement remains the struggle for universal peace, arms reduction, disarmament, and trust among states.

Meanwhile a TASS despatch from Nicosia dated May 13 reads: "An international seminar which has begun in the capital of Cyprus today will discuss the American 'Central Command' the arms build up in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Persian Gulf and the effect of these factors on the Arab-Israeli conflict". The seminar is attended

by more than 100 representatives of international and national organisations and Parties, including a Soviet delegation. Opening the symposium, Omar Halifa Al-Hamdi, General Secretary of the Standing Secretariat of the Pan-Arab People's Congress, stated that the CENTCOM, which had attached to it the infamous "rapid deployment force", is a weapon of direct military intervention of the United States in the internal affairs of independent countries. "That organisation", he stressed, "is posing a threat not only to countries in its zone of action but to peace all over the world."—APN.

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AFGHANISTAN

The Current Reality

By Sumit Chakravartty

On April 27 Afghanistan marked the fifth anniversary of the April Revolution of 1978 whose legacy is being carried forward by the Babrak Karmal Government despite the complex situation in that part of the world. The following writeup is prepared from excerpts from the writer's book 'Dateline Kabul: An Eye-Witness Report on Afghanistan Today' to be published shortly by Eastern Book Centre, New Delhi.—Editor.

THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION within Afghanistan, as between the Babrak Karmal Government and the rebels aided by outside forces shows a significant improvement in recent months. The Karmal Government's improved position in the military field is best revealed from the fact that out of 295 district headquarters in the country the Afghan and Soviet soldiers are currently in effective control over 211 of them, while in the rest a see-saw battle is raging. Without the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan synchronising with Babrak Karmal's assumption of office as the President in December, 1979, this development would not have been possible. At the same time, it is worth nothing that in some of the recent actions the Afghan armed forces have come to play an increasingly prominent role. This was particularly seen in the major operation in the strategic Panjasher valley—planned in April, 1982 and launched after two months—in which the Soviet role was confined to commando actions, the actual offensive having been undertaken by the Afghan armed forces themselves.

Since the middle of 1981 there has been a marked shift in the military situation in favour of the Karmal Government all over the country. It would be incorrect to attribute this solely to the Soviet presence although it is true that the Soviet military contingents did

provide the necessary support. The point to note is that the tide began to turn slowly with the return to the country of a large group of Afghans—both party and military cadres—following intensive political and military training in the Soviet Union. According to one well-informed source, as a result of this development the Afghan armed forces' strength reached the figure of 60,000—a considerable increase from the level of 10,000 to which it had declined towards the last days of Hafizullah Amin. With the Kabul Government in a better military position than before, the Afghan leaders have disclosed that the rebels at present are avoiding direct confrontation with the Afghan army and Soviet troops. Their operations today do not give the impression of organised guerilla activity and are instead taking the form of sporadic terrorist violence. The terrorist activity has surfaced in Kabul city, mainly at night, as rebels have sought refuge in the Afghan capital in the wake of successful Afghan-Soviet operations in the provinces. The consequences of such activity need not be minimised; at the same time, potentialities of the rebels need not be overestimated, because their actions are basically in the nature of the desperate bid to gain some publicity abroad.

IN THIS CONTEXT, one needs to guard against Western disinformation. Western propaganda has repeatedly stated that the Soviet Embassy in Kabul was attacked several times this year. This is a pure fabrication. There is not a single scratch on the building. Only one solitary Afghan sentry was standing on guard before it when this correspondent passed by it several times during the day. Inquiries from official and non-official Afghan as well as diplomatic (including some Western) sources revealed that stories to this effect were mere figments of imagination mainly of a special brand of American and British mediemen sitting in faraway Islamabad. Ever since he assumed power Babrak Karmal has initiated a series of moves aimed at what he describes as 'national reconciliation'. It was in keeping with this approach that in the very first days of his rule, Karmal announced a general amnesty, released thousands of prisoners rotting in Amin's prisons, appealed to clergymen, hazrats mullahs, religious scholars and tribal leaders who had left Afghanistan in the aftermath of Aminist repression to return to the country and assured that their confiscated properties would be restored to them if they did not work against the country's interests. Later Karmal repudiated and revoked all measures taken during Amin's rule against the principles and tenets of Islam. He also ensured in letter and spirit "full freedom to practice Islam as a sacred religion for Moslems and freedom of religious rites in case of other faiths according to law". The flag of the country was changed to a tricolour reflecting Afghanistan's national traditions as well as historic past. A joint jirgah of Pashtoon tribes and members of major

nationalities was convened in Kabul in May, 1981; this assembly decided to assist the Government in setting up a jirgah of Nationalities and Tribes under the auspices of the newly established Ministry of Tribes and Nationalities. What is more, the participants at the Jirgah elected delegates to the founding Congress of the National Fatherland Front that took place in June 1981.

Over 900 representatives of all classes and sections of the Afghan people participated in its deliberations. Although the concept of such a Front was not alien to Afghanistan, for the first time such an authoritative, representative and effective body of mass organisations and religious institutions was set up to coordinate all efforts of the country's patriotic forces at building a new and prosperous fatherland, thwarting the designs of outside interventionists. Besides mass organisations like those of the trade unions, women youth, peasants cooperatives, writers, artists and journalists, the NFF included such religious institutions as the High Council of Scholars and Clergymen. Representatives of minority communities like Hindus and Sikhs were also drawn into it. Although Dr Saleh Mohammad Zeary, the first Secretary of the PDPA, was elected Chairman of the Front, numerous non-party personalities were elected to prominent posts, in the leadership of the Fatherland Front. One of them was Dr. Mahmud Habibi, whom this writer had the opportunity of meeting in Kabul. Dr. Habibi, who is the Vice-President of the Afghan Journalist's Union, was formerly the Minister of Information and Culture in the early seventies.

A MAJOR TASK in a country suffering from back-breaking poverty and ignorance is to launch a crusade against illiteracy. Before the April Revolution of 1978, as many as 98 per cent of the male population were illiterate. After the Revolution a drive to eradicate illiteracy did begin but some of the overzealous members of the 'Khalq' (People) faction of the PDPA (led by Taraki and Amin) in their enthusiasm to enforce compulsory education among the parched women fold antagonised large sections of people to the detriment of the Revolution itself. The present Government has taken steps to remove the element of compulsion in the sphere of adult education, and women are being encouraged to voluntarily join literacy courses. This has shown results far beyond expectations. In 1980 the Government had fixed 500,000 as the target of illiterates to be enrolled in the literacy centres. The actual figure reached 515,000, and these students were enrolled at 28,000 centres. In 1981 the number of centres was raised to 30,000 while the number of students went up to 550,000. All this despite the outside powers' blatant interference to destabilise Afghanistan through rebel activity. In the first six months of 1982 the figure recorded a further and substantial increase: as many as 632,000 students of

all age-groups were attending literacy classes at 38,000 centres. Many of the teachers have lost their lives facing obscuratist fanaticism in several rural regions of the country.

Against the background of Western refusal to help Afghanistan in the hour of its need, it is noteworthy that at least UNESCO and UNICEF are still providing financial assistance to literacy programmes in Afghanistan, although the quantum of aid has been reduced from seven to four per cent. Asked about the kind of help India could provide in this sphere, Dr Zafar Zai heading the General Agency for Literacy Campaign welcomed any help that could meet their acute shortage of printing machines, exercise books, pens and pencils. It is of exceptional importance that the present Government is conducting negotiations with several rebel groups in different areas including Kabul. And in many cases as a result of settlement, counter-revolutionary elements are laying down arms to support the Government. Abdur Rashid, a counter-revolutionary captured in Panjsher told this correspondent that a large number of rebels were keen to return to the side of the Kabul administration abandoning the path of counter-revolution. Why? "Because our Government is an Islamic Government whose activities conform to the teachings of our Prophet Mohammad," he said slowly in a voice that did not betray any trace of turoted language. —*Mainstream*.

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BRITAIN

Century's Dirtiest Poll

By Gordon Schaffer

THE GENERAL ELECTION here will be the most bitter and probably the dirtiest this century. The reason is that the Conservative and Labour parties advocate diametrically opposed policies in both home and foreign questions. In the fifties and sixties when the right wing was in control of the Labour Party, the cynics invented the term 'Butskellism' indicating the virtual alliance between Hugh Gaitskell, Labour leader, and R. A. Butler, Conservative leader who stood in the centre of the party. This attitude continued even when Labour regained power after thirteen years of Conservative rule, with Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan as Prime Ministers in succession. The last election was described as a contest between Twedledee and Twedledum, the identical characters in Alice in Wonderland.

Mr. Thatcher changed all that. She ignored, sacked or intimidated all in the party who advocated more moderate policies—'wets' as she dubbed them.

Lord Carrington, the one member of the Cabinet powerful enough to exert a restraining influence resigned and virtually disappeared from public life in protest against the Falklands (Malvinas) invasion. She pursued her monetarist policy in spite of opposition from the powerful Confederation of British Industries. The steadily mounting unemployment figure, nearer 4.5 million than the officially admitted 3.25 million, left her unmoved. The accolade for business achievement was given by the government to firms who succeeded in cutting costs by sacking workers. Meanwhile, every workless man or woman on the official register cost 6,000 pounds a year.

THE LABOUR PARTY inevitably puts the issue of unemployment in the centre of its programme. It plans to make massive investments in services like transport, housing, health and in industries which have been starved of financing by the Tories. Organisation of the economy will be on the basis of a 'national economic assessment', which will take account of all factors, with the ultimate aim of "bringing about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of the working people and their families". In this context, wages and all incomes will come into the picture. The anti-trade union legislation of the last government will be replaced. Will this be enough to bring the majority of the working class behind the Labour banner, for undoubtedly, many workers back the Conservatives last time? the Conservative believe they can count on support from many out of the majority who are still in work and who are tearfully clinging to their jobs.

IT IS ON THE ISSUE OF Disarmament that the most acute division between the parties exists. And this is the biggest departure from 'Butskellism'. I have outlined Labour's programme for the elimination of British and American nuclear bases, cancellation of Trident and for measures to restore detente in previous articles. Support for these policies stretches far beyond the ranks of traditional Labour supporters. Can they be won over so that they vote for the only party that can put such a policy into effect? There are signs that Mrs. Thatchers peremptory and often insulting rejection of repeated disarmament proposals by the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact is losing her support even from Conservative ranks. This is even more true of the wild statements of President Reagan, which Mrs. Thatcher makes no effort to repudiate.

Unlike any previous election, the majority of the electors today accept that their country would perish in a nuclear war. They would endorse the Labour declaration that "the overriding task for Britain and the rest of the world is to draw back from the nuclear abyss". The Conservative answer is to harp ceaselessly the Soviet threat: backed by figures about

Soviet armaments, which everybody knows are manipulated to serve Thatcher's logic.

It is also known that a Conservative victory will be taken as endorsement for the installation later this year of the Cruise missiles and the consequent escalation of the arms race. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, which has plans for demonstrations throughout the country, is questioning all candidates about their attitude to nuclear weapons and other peace organisations are also planning similar action. For the first time, in an election, the majority of the church leaders and many professional groups have taken a specific stand against nuclear weapons. Will the Labour Party be able to win all these sections behind its policy? Will it be able to take the message to the electors on the doorsteps and in the streets?

IT IS AT THIS POINT that the role of the media comes into the picture. The Conservatives can count on support from virtually all the newspapers. The sole exceptions are the *Daily Mirror*, which offers luke-warm support to the Labour Party, the Communist *Morning Star* with its pitifully small circulation and the *Guardian*, which while critical of the government gives most of its backing to the Alliance of Liberals and Social Democrats. Television and radio, while legally bound to keep a balance between the candidates, consistently spread the anti-Soviet propaganda and harp on the divisions between Left and Right in the Labour Party. *Within hours of the announcement of the election, commentators were talking of the danger of a run on sterling and the fears of the city financiers that a Labour government will stop the freedom to send money abroad.* It is likely that if there are signs that the Labour Party is narrowing the gap between it and the Conservatives in the opinion polls, a financial panic will be created. This is not a new tactic. In 1931, the then Finance Minister declared on the Monday before the election that the funds of the post office savings banks had been used to finance the unemployed. Actually all money for the unemployment fund had been voted by parliament, so the source was irrelevant. But millions thought their savings were in danger and it lost the Labour Party an estimated 100 seats.

THE LABOUR PLEDGE to withdraw from the EEC is already being used to create fears of more unemployment, although there is little evidence to support the contention. On the other side, Mrs Thatcher faces criticism because of her failure to secure the promised return of the considerable sums she claims Britain has overpaid. At the moment, opinion polls are said to show a Conservative lead sufficient to give Mrs. Thacher a comfortable majority. The betting is 4:1 in the Conservative favour. But there are several factors which make an estimate on the mere counting of heads unreliable. In the

North and particularly in Scotland, Labour is gaining ground. The Conservative strongholds are in the South. Thus a percentage swing will not be uniform. Nevertheless, it is estimated that the Conservatives tend to win twenty seats through the re-drawing of the constituency boundaries, against which the Labour Party protested. What will be the effect of the Alliance? A year ago, their leaders were talking of forming the next government. The prospect now is that they will hardly hold on to their present strength in the House, for a good number of the Labour MP's who went over to them will lose their seats. The Liberal wing will probably do better than the SDP. The Alliance is more likely to take votes from the Conservatives than from Labour.

The task of the Labour movement, the peace movement and all progressives is to bring the urgency of the issues to the people. Many fear that another four years of Mrs. Thatcher's government will gravely damage the prospects for peace and will usher in a period of unparalled social unrest.

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VOA EDITORIAL

Arms Control

Washington May 17: Today following a seven week recess talks on reducing intermediate nuclear weapons, are resuming in Geneva. Intermediate-range nuclear weapons are not designed to travel from continent to continent. But their range is nonetheless long. The European continent and other neighbours of the Soviets and their allies are vulnerable to intermediate range missiles like the Soviet SS-20s. On the European continent a balance of weaponry has for many years served as a deterrent to war. But during the 1970s the Soviets began to deploy new warheads on the recently developed mobile SS20 missiles. Since in the late 1970s the US deployed no new intermediate range missiles and indeed withdrew one thousand war heads. The new Soviet deployments altered radically the delicate balance of forces. As a result the NATO alliance agreed in 1979 to deploy new intermediate-range missiles late this year, in sufficient numbers to restore parity. But that isn't all the NATO countries agreed to. They also agreed in a historic "two-track policy" to begin arms control talks with the Soviets at the same time that they prepared to deploy the new missiles. Then in November 1981 President Reagan proposed to the Soviets that all intermediate-range weapons be eliminated from both arsenals.

Recently in a new proposal for an interim agreement he proposed that both sides at least cut back their arsenals to equal levels. These

proposals are part of a long tradition of US-initiated arms control measures. As early as 1946 — in the aftermath of the terrible destruction of the Second World War and when the nuclear age was still in its infancy — the US offered the Baruch Plan. It proposed that all countries — including our own — be prohibited from making atomic weapons and that an international authority be created to conduct any atomic research that was even remotely dangerous. The Soviets rejected this plan. But although the United States could not prevent the development of today's deadly nuclear weapons, the goals of arms control and disarmament became a fundamental part of American foreign policy. At first when we proposed the current talks on intermediate-range arms control, the Soviets refused even to consider talking of NATO decided to deploy the new missiles. But now they are talking — and, we hope, seriously because every step towards realistic, verifiable nuclear arms control is a movement towards lasting peace — not just for our two countries and our allies but as the whole world knows, for everyone else as well.—USIS.

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U.S. VIEW

Middle East

Washington, May 18: Achieving peace in the Middle East is a slow and painstaking process. Even small steps forward do not come easily. Significant progress is all too rare. The agreement between Israel and Lebanon for Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanese territory is a real step forward. How significant it will be in the long run depends largely on the attitude that is taken by those who are not party to the agreement. Israel has agreed to withdraw all its forces from Lebanon within eight to twelve weeks. That is about how long it would take for an orderly withdrawal of the Israeli army under any circumstances; in effect, the Israelis have agreed to get out of Lebanon as quickly as is practicable. But Israel has acted on the understanding that its forces are being withdrawn as part of an overall withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. Lebanon now expects the Syrian and PLO forces currently in Lebanon to leave the country along with the Israeli troops. That is why we regret Syria's initially negative reaction to the agreement and hope the discussions between Lebanon and Syria that are only now starting will prove successful in the end. And we obviously and emphatically reject the comment made by Yasser Arafat that a new war is required to solve the Middle East problems.

It is hard to see how a new or guerilla action could possibly help the Palestinian people. Violence has been Arafat's policy for ten years. It surely has not

advanced the Palestinian cause. A new war would also be terrible for the people of Lebanon—people who have already suffered more than their share of terror. It is worth emphasizing that the Lebanese parliament unanimously—unanimously—approved the withdrawal agreement with Israel. Any attempt to undermine that agreement would hurt the Lebanese most of all. For four months, we worked with the Israelis and the Lebanese to achieve this latest step towards peace. For three weeks US Secretary of State George Shultz personally met with both sides to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion. It is time for the PLO to stop obstructing peace. And it is time for Syria to join the effort to achieve peace by withdrawing its forces from Lebanon.—USIS.

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TOTAL N-WAR

2.25 Billion Immediate Victims

Geneva. A World Health Organisation (WHO) report estimates that about half of the world's population of 4.5 billion would be "immediate victims" of an all-out nuclear war. The report, prepared by an International Committee of 10 scientists and released recently, listed the potential toll of 1.15 billion dead and 1.1 billion injured in outlining the worst of three grim scenarios which it said "do not include the extreme views". It warned that the chances of injured survivors receiving any medical attention are "next to nil" and voiced doubt that "even a comprehensive civil defence policy would reduce significantly the number of casualties." Compiled from various studies, the all-out scenario described in the 151 page report assumes that 10,000 megatons of nuclear bombs "are exploded all over the world, 90 percent of them in Europe, Asia and North America." The report says that a war with smaller, tactical weapons totalling 20 megatons and limited to military targets in central Europe would claim about 9 million dead or severely injured with the same number of people suffering less serious injuries. "Even if the attack is aimed only at military targets, the civilian casualties would out number military casualties by 16—1. In the third scenario, which supposed that the houses of Parliament in London were the target of a single one-megaton bomb — 80 times the explosive power of the A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima — the report lists 1.8 million dead and 1.7 million injured as potential casualties. "London was chosen as an example, since its population matches that of Hiroshima when the increase from 12.5 kilotons to one megaton is taken into account."

TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1983

Authors of the report, submitted to the 159-national WHO's annual assembly, include scientists from the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain, Japan, Sweden, Austria, Venezuela, Nigeria and the Netherlands. The report said that after an all-out nuclear war, "devastation to the advanced economics of the world would be virtually complete... All of Europe, North America and the Soviet Union would be heavily targeted, and sources of oil gas, raw materials, shipping and industrial centres would be included in the destruction", it said. "Money, banking, investment, and all the trappings of advanced economies would disappear". The post war period would be marked by hunger and "millions would starve to death in the first few years". Smoke from huge conflagrations "could envelop much of the northern hemisphere" reducing the amount of sunlight reaching the earth's surface. "This darkness and cooling effect could persist for many weeks, directly impairing agricultural activity in the northern hemisphere if the war took place during the growing season... The report said it was "generally believed that no state in possession of nuclear weapons has embarked on an extensive civil defence programme that could protect a large part of the population—AP

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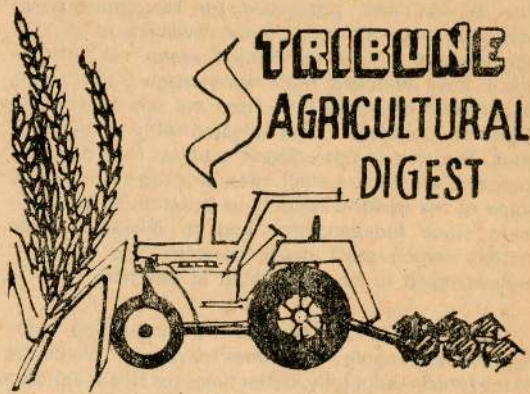
NAZI BIG SHOTS

Forged Hitler Diaries

Vienna, May 16: Nazi Hunter Simon Wiesenthal has said that he strongly believes that Nazi "big shots" living in Latin America made the faked Hitler diaries in order to boost *Der Fuhrer's* reputation in history. "I am pretty certain the Germans suspected to have had a role in the fakes, have nothing to do with them," Mr. Wiesenthal said. "They are not interested in white-washing Hitler, and West Germany, neo Nazis are just too primitive even for this kind of job". In a telephone conversation from his Vienna home, the head of the Jewish documentation centre told AP that he was certain Nazi war criminals who operated in Latin America in the final war years, "not only forged pound sterling notes". But they also forged documents and certificates of the International Red Cross Mr. Wiesenthal said, suggesting the same people "engaging in disinformation in 1943-44" were behind the Hitler diaries. Meanwhile, two of the West German magazine *Stern's* three chief editors resigned today in Hamburg following a Government disclosure that the 62 volumes of Hitler diaries it began to publish from 25th April were forgeries. A statement from the magazine identified them as editors Peter Koch and Felix Schmidt. The statement said *Stern* had become the victim of a hoax

TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1983

and that its examinations before publishing the purported Hitler diaries were found to have been inadequate. The West German Federal Archives in Koblenz and the West German Interior Ministry in Bonn officially announced on Friday that after careful examination of seven volumes of the 62 purported Hitler documents, it was established without doubt that they were forgeries.—AP.



Blossoming Shoots & Cankorous Growths

By Dr. S. N. de S. Seneviratne

Tribune recently (in Vol. 27, No. 32 pp. 15-16 and No. 33, pp. 2-3) had to point out to Dr S. N. de S. Seneviratne, Research Institute, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya, that in rushing to the rescue of a colleague who had told an audience at a Citrus Seminar (*vide Tribune*, Vol. 27 No. 29 p 5) that it was not necessary for ordinary farmers to read books on Pests and Diseases because if they did they would step planting, he was betraying the same intellectual arrogance which is the bane of technocrats and bureaucrats in this country. Dr. Seneviratne also referred to a paper parts of which had appeared in the *Lanka Guardian*. *Tribune* is the only paper that has with approval published (in full) the writings of Dr. Seneviratne on matters agricultural over the last three or four years. We are now publishing the full text of the paper referred to in seven instalments. Readers will find them useful and thought-provoking. This paper was presented at the Annual Session of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science in December 1982 at the invitation of the Social Sciences Section. The next instalment will appear next week.

Editor

FOOLS RUSH IN where angels fear to tread.
The terrain called social science is unfamiliar to me
and I am a stranger among social scientists. Was it

prudent to seek their company? Was my attempt an indiscretion? Yet, if I am not an angel, I am no fool either, and as luminaries without formal qualifications in social science have acquired fame and position by venturing into that field, I as a plant pathologist was persuaded to trespass on this hallowed ground. Thank you for the invitation to do so. *The subject area prescribed for me encompasses trends in Sri Lanka's agricultural development and the infrastructure of the agricultural sector.* A little of this I have watched from my vantage point in the Department of Agriculture, from my box seat in the Research Division, a seat infested with all kinds of bugs. The title of this address perhaps, has a pathological bias. What I shall attempt to do is to review some of the positive aspects in agricultural development since Independence and to discuss some matters which must cause concern, and which, I believe, need to be highlighted at this time.

WE LIVE in the present—a bright and prosperous era for some; hard times for others. We dream of the future—hopefully, better times for all our children with the resurgence of human values. Yet, in shaping the future, it is prudent to be guided by the indicators of the past, for there we have evidence of the application of an empirical science to achieve an abundant life and lessons to be learnt about how we might order the course of development in this country. *Looking back at the civilisations which flourished in the plains and from which we might derive our inspiration, the facts of life are evident.* People organised themselves in villages; there were closely knit communities. They accepted gratefully their endowments—land and sunshine and a seasonal rainfall—the seeds of the culture of discontent had not yet been sown. They used their ingenuity to build the irrigation tanks and sluices and channels to avail themselves of the resources with which nature had blessed them. **There were no aeroplanes in those days to fly to cities abroad in search of aid, the value of our national assets was recognised and appreciated. There were no foreign experts in those days, the local people used their brains to fashion the system by which water was to be stored and supplied for the irrigation of the land—the brain drain had not yet commenced. Local brawn constructed the dams and bunds and channels—the brawn export had not yet begun.**

The same human responses to the available resources sustained human communities in the natural occupation consistent with their character, agriculture. The interdependence and community bonds that this life fostered constantly reminded them of their shared humanity. So such words as *nekatha*, *kaiya* and *panguwa* were expressions of a culture which provided for warmth and fellowship in the affairs of men.

There was recognition of the appointed time, *nekatha*; a time for sowing, a time for harvesting. There was the chatter of the humans who congregated for these operations, *kaiya*. And there was the consciousness of sharing, *panguwa*. The community worked together, sharing in the responsibilities that contributed to the common good. There was warmth and affection the seeds of hate between man and man in this country had not yet been sown. And women played their part too—the trade in *kussiammas* and *Ayahammas* to West Asia had not yet been launched and females in the country not drawn to the service of tourists.

NO AMOUNT OF EFFORT is excessive to draw attention to the dominant position that agriculture had in the life of the country and which it must have in the future, if her people are to have a place in the sun. The image of agriculture has got blurred; much dirt has accumulated impeding vision. That image must be brought sharply into focus; the dirt removed.

It is of course true that growth and development from early beginnings did not progress uninterrupted. Internal wars and external invasions saw the rise and fall of kingdoms and the destruction and decay of flourishing civilisations. And in the course of time, the country was to attract the attention of European invaders—the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British. The colonisers in those days, like the multinationals and investors in these days, not come to promote the welfare of the colonised. They came to secure whatever advantage they could; to exploit the resources of the colonised. Then, as now, the chieftains who cooperated benefited from their collusion with the exploiters, while cruel blows were inflicted on the country and the majority of its inhabitants.

During the British occupation, major changes were to take place in the agricultural landscape. The British heralded the birth of a plantation agriculture. One of my acquaintances, that nasty pathogen *Hemileia vastatrix*, gave an early demonstration of the might of minute disease inducing fungal spores when the coffee plantations were devastated—a lesson for all time. The reverberations were felt in the stock market in Great Britain. The disease had cost Ceylon £ 17,000,000. However, the other plantation crops, tea and rubber in particular, were success stories of the British period. Unfortunately, the position accorded the plantation export oriented sector contrasted sharply, though understandably, with the lowly status accorded to the domestic agricultural sector in which the village peasants engaged themselves, primarily in rice farming and in the growing of other village crops, at best at subsistence level. The plantation sector was buoyant; its domestic counterpart dormant.

The colonial era was drawing to a close. The 1930s. And if a biblical reference is permitted, a sower went out to sow. That sower was Don Stephen Senanayake, patriot, if ever there was one, in independent Sri Lanka.

Next Week—D. S. Senanayake.

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AMERICAN FARMS

Secret of Success

By Lester C. Thurow

When discussing industrial policies—the idea that a cooperative labour, management, government strategy should be developed to remake American industries into world-class competitors—skeptics discount foreign successes (ancient samurai traditions) and ask for an American success story. Fortunately there is one—agriculture. *Agriculture is the industry where we now enjoy our greatest competitive advantage in world trade. Three percent of the labour force accounts for almost one-fifth of our exports and would account for much more if foreign markets were completely open to American products.* It is also the industry with America's highest rate of growth of productivity—a rate more than three times as high as that in the nonfarm business sector of the economy since World War II.

What Americans tend to forget is that American agriculture was not always a success story. In the 19th century, Russia was the largest grain exporter in world markets. From 1900 to 1940 agricultural productivity grew at less than 1 percent per year—with essentially no growth in the first two decades after the turn of the century. In the 1930s agricultural productivity was far below that in the rest of the economy. In comparison, since the 1940s productivity has grown at more than 6 percent per year. The shift from failure to success depended not only upon good soil, good climate and hardworking farmers—they were all there during the period of failure—but also upon an elaborate industrial strategy that depended heavily upon government cooperation and funds. The strategy began with research and development. The federal government put major amounts of money into basic agricultural research at our state agricultural colleges. The resulting research (new seeds, new procedures) was further developed at state experimental farms and then country agents roamed the countryside explaining the new developments, providing technical aid and attempting to persuade individual farmers, many of whom had been educated at those same agricultural colleges, to use the new discoveries.

TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1983

MAJOR INVESTMENTS were made in improving physical infrastructure. Reclamation projects led to massive increases in irrigated farming. The Rural Electrification Administration was set up to bring electricity to every farm in America, enabling enormous productivity gains through the use of electrical machinery. *Electrification was subsidized with low interest rate loans, and although most of us are not farmers, each of us has benefited by the low-cost agricultural products those infrastructure investments made possible.* Given the problems with farm finance, a plethora of new financial institutions—some public, some quasi-public, some private but with government loan guarantees — were developed. Federal crop insurance, export credit, the Farmers Home Administration — the list goes on and on. Many of those started with public money, like the REA are now self-financing.

Efforts were made to stabilize incomes and output with price supports and acreage controls. They had important effects, not just on the welfare of farm families, but on farm productivity. With more certainty about their incomes, farmers were willing to make heavy investments in new equipment. Banks were willing to finance that new equipment knowing that income to repay the loans would be there. Farm machinery makers could gear up for massive production runs — reducing unit costs — and make large investments in developing new machinery for what was a stable market. When farm incomes were more than cut in half from 1979 to 1982 after correcting for inflation, the heavy investment in productivity-raising equipment abruptly stopped with negative long-term consequences for agricultural productivity.

No one downgrades the hard work, skill and ingenuity of the American farmer — least of all someone like myself, with a long list of Iowa farmer uncles and cousins — but it took something more than the American farmer alone to make American agriculture into a world-class operation, just as it is going to take some more than the hardworking Americans to turn the rest of our economy around. In agriculture what started as a desperate effort to prop up a very large, sick industry in the 1930s ended as an industry that is the world's most efficient. There is no reason that the feat cannot be duplicated elsewhere. — Newsweek, May 16, 1983

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URGENTLY NEEDED

Habitat For Plants

By Mahesh Rangarajan

THOUGH the problem of disappearing species of wild life is mostly associated with tigers, whales, rhinos and other animals, it is the plants in peril

that evoke more cause for concern. At present, between 20,000 and 30,000 species of flowering plants are either rare or under threat. Only one out of ten higher plants has been studied by scientists. Many are being wiped out before their utility is documented. *Wild plants could be of use to science, medicine agriculture and industry.* Only 50 species have ever been cultivated for food on a large scale but over 80,000 are potentially edible. Some wild strains are amazingly hardy: Australian wild millet needs to be watered just once to give fodder. The Mexican *guayule* grows in desert country but gives a substance identical in chemical composition to natural rubber. The *tamanugo* tree of Chile can grow in saline soils where other plants would die out.

Genetic diversity within species may prove as crucial as diversity of species. In India, ecologists Madhav Gadgil and V. D. Vartak found excellent strands of ancient teak in two sacred groves in Pune and Yeotmal districts. Such relic populations may help breed resistance to pests among cultivated and help raise productivity. Five thousand rice species from southern and north-eastern India were screened to help combat the brown leaf hopper which devastated rice crops in South-east Asia. Every year, in America alone, such cross breeding saves millions of dollars every year by raising output.

Many of the world's threatened plants are found where the poorest people live. Six out of ten organisms are found in the developing countries. Tropical rain forests, for instance, cover less than a tenth of the world's land but are a vast storehouse of genetic resources with over two million and up to five million species of plants and animals. But conserving species demands investment. India spent over four crore rupees on establishment of nine tiger reserves. A comprehensive programme to protect and preserve vanishing plants would involve much research to locate where they are and what threatens them.

The money needed to save a wild plant habitat may be needed to build hospitals or get up schools for children. The long-term returns may count but short-term needs of people do matter. After all, plants are needed because people need them. The pace of habitat destruction, the prime threat to the world's plants is rapid. Every year an area of the size of Cuba, of tropical moist forest, is denuded. In one afternoon, a bull-dozer could wipe out an entire species for ever. At present threat due to illegal wildlife trade pales in terms of importance because whole communities of plants and animals are being wiped out.

In 1973, US botanists screened over 9,000 varieties of sorgum to locate pest resistant species

which they found in Ethiopia. The scientific manpower of Third World nations could be harnessed to fulfil such tasks before the developed world uses its control of knowledge to corner benefits of vanishing species. Right now, an estimated 40 lakh square kilometres of land are protected in over 100 countries. Such internationally recognized reserves need to double in size, say the world's ecologists. One estimate is that as many as one million organisms, most of them plants, could be extinct by the century's end. A race against time needs to be won if we are to save plants in peril. — *Patriot.*



TO BE GROWN IN SRI LANKA

Pyrethrum

PYRETHRUM (*Chrysanthemum Cinerariaefolium*) is very much valued for its potent insecticidal property. The dried flower heads contain nearly six chemical constituents which are collectively called "Pyrethrums". Now, the demand for pyrethrum as a pesticide is increasing in view of its low toxicity against mammals. Intensive research work on this crop has been taken up at the Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal, which is a regional research Centre of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University from 1975 onwards. This ICAR supported project on pyrethrum aims at isolating promising clones and standardising the horticultural practices for maximum return for optimum inputs.

In South India pyrethrum can be profitably grown in hills lying above 1500 and 2400 meters elevation. Such hilly places are available on Nilgris and Upper Lulney hills. Pyrethrum prefers a black loamy soil with pH ranging from 5.5 to 6.0. This crop does not tolerate water logging and heavy soils. Pyrethrum can be grown as a pure crop or as an inter crop in fruit Orchards. It is easily propagated by seeds. Seeds are sown in raised beds, prepared with rich soil mixed with powdered and well rotten farm yard manure. The seeds are sown at the rate of 55g. per bed with a size of 6m x 1m. The beds should be provided with a mulch of fern or straw. Germination commences in 8 days and are completed in 15 to 20 days. The seedlings are ready for planting in 2½ to 3 months. This plant can also be multiplied by splits from established bushes of 4 or 5 years. The seeds are normally sown in the month of March and April. The seedlings are planted in the field at a spacing of 45 x 45 cm on the contours. The monsoon months of June-July are ideal for planting the crop. Pyrethrum responds well to fertilizer application.

A fertilizer schedule with 20, 120 and 20 kg. NPK/ha/annum has been found to be necessary for maximum yield. Nitrogen has to be applied in two split doses, half at the time of planting and the rest three months after planting. The transplanted seedlings normally start flowering after 4 - 5 months and the flowers are picked at 10 to 15 days interval and are dried in the sun for 3 to 4 days and packed in gunnies. The stage of harvest affects the pyrethrum content of the flower. For maximum pyrethrum content, the flowers are to be harvested at the stage when 75 percent of disc florets are open. Under Kodaikanal conditions, the pyrethrum starts flowers in the first year itself and flowers throughout the year, unlike Kashmir where it starts flowering only from the second year of planting and that too during specific months only. In South Indian hills, maximum flower production coincides with summer months than the rainy months, the average pyrethrum content ranging from 0.800 to 1.020 per cent. The economic period of the plantation is 4 to 5 years if well maintained, after which the yield declines. Hence, replanting is recommended thereafter. Average yield of dried flowers ranges from 250 to 300 kg. per hectare.

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HYBRID

Tea Roses

HYBRID tea rose is a very valuable crop of high remuneration and aesthetic value. Lots of varieties with beautiful colours are very attractive. These roses do not root well in tropical climate, hence are propagated by T-budding on Edward and Briar rootstocks. To study their performance in coastal belts about hundred collections of these roses were introduced for cultivation in Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pondicherry, during the winter of 1981. Keen observation of the growth habit of these roses ever since the period of planting revealed that these roses suffer heavy damage due to the flower thrips *Rhipiphorothrips cruentatus* (*Heliiothripinae: Thripidae: Thysanoptera*) especially during summer months. The thrips feed on terminal leaves, buds and flowers by their lacerating mouthparts, causing crinkling, curling, browning, bronzing and shredding of affected parts. The infested buds do not bloom well and such flowers are small, crinkled and shed their petals profusely. The small pale whitish to brownish thrips are seen moving among the petals during morning hours. A study taken up on the control of this pest affecting the economic part of the plant, found that *Metasystox* (methyl demeton) 0.05% and *Anthio* (Formothion) 0.05% to be effective in checking the pest. The flower yield increased and also the size of the flowers was significantly

TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1983

larger. A fortnightly application of either of these chemicals alternatively can be of great use.

—Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pondicherry - 10.

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CENTRAL CHINA

Earthworm Raising

Zhengzheu, May 11. The earthworm research group of the Henan Society of Zoology is offering a training course on how to raise earthworms to 400 peasants from all parts of the province. The measure was taken following a groundswell of enthusiasm from local farmers, according to a spokesman for the group. Since March this year, his organisation has received more than 8,000 visitors and 2,000 letters inquiring about earthworm - raising techniques. In one agrotechnology meeting early this year, 6 million earthworms were solar exchanged. At present, the spokesman said, there are more than 4,000 earthworm farms in Henan province. Earthworms help aerate and fertilize the soil. They are also used in traditional chinese medical preparations.

— Xinhua

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RICE

Ultra - Short Duration

An ultra-short duration rice, with high yield potential, has been released recently by the Central Sub-Committee for Varietal Release. Coming to harvest in 70 days, under direct seeded conditions, the rice christened as 'Sattari' (CRM 13-3241), is a mutant derived from CR-113. The new rice, with short bold grains, has been developed at Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack, in the early '70's, and it has already been released in Orissa, according to Dr. H. K. Pande, Director, CRRI. A short statured type of 70 to 75 cm in height, Sattari can yield upto 3 tonnes per hectare, and it is ideally suited for direct drilling conditions practised in rainfed uplands. Mostly advocated as an emergency crop, when the main crop fails in the nursery or early planted stage, this variety of very short duration has been found to be particularly suitable for Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Assam. It can also be used as a direct sown catch-crop after kharif harvest.

—Kurukshetra

FOCUS ON THE VILAGE

PRIME MINISTER PREMADASA ON

Gramodaya

*To The World Affairs Council
of Los Angeles on April 4, 1983*

LET ME AT THE OUTSET express my thanks to the Management of the World Affairs Council of Los Angeles for providing me with this opportunity to say a few words about my country, Sri Lanka. I wish to thank all you distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen who are present here today at this luncheon. It is a pleasure and privilege to meet you and to have this dialogue with you. Sri Lanka is not a strange place for most of you. As you know earlier, 10 years ago, our country was known as Ceylon, I find that many of you are well acquainted with our part of the world. Some of you may have even visited our country. Through your contacts with Sri Lankan nationals resident in your great city, you may have acquired some knowledge of our country and the place it occupies in the world community.

I shall try in my brief remarks to paint in a few bold strokes, if I may, a picture of Sri Lanka which may give you some insights into a country, which is in some ways different from yours and in other ways, bears strong similarities to the United States. Sri Lanka is an ancient land. We have a recorded history which goes back over 2,500 years. The ruins of an ancient civilisation are visible in many parts of our island. After a long period of freedom in which the arts and culture flourished, we were, in the sixteenth century overtaken by the tide of European expansion. We were conquered by the Portuguese, the same intrepid sailors who discovered the New World, and were ruled by them for almost one hundred and fifty years. The Dutch followed and thereafter the British. So that for four hundred and fifty years until 1948, we were part of a colonial empire.

We emerged into freedom again in 1948 and since then have been striving both to improve the lot of our peoples internally, and to live in peace and friendship in the world community at large. Four and a half centuries under foreign rule have left a deep imprint on our economy and society. We have a modern commercial sector superimposed on our traditional rice economy. Sri Lanka became an important producer of Tea which we export to the

United States in great quantity, Rubber which is an important strategical import and Coconut products. We developed a plantation style economy which is still dynamic growing and has formed the basis for many of our new industrial ventures.

WE HAVE MOVED from the export of primary products to their processing and for any prospective investors here, the agro-based industrial field is something which should prove attractive. Socially too, the impact of western rule for such a long period of time was considerable. English is spoken widely throughout the country. This greatly assists tourist to our land who can feel at home and move with ease in any part of the country. Most of all, exposure to the West for so many years, has made our people sensitive to the needs and tastes of the West. That is why our people can so easily adapt to live in the West and why they assimilate styles of speech and living so easily. The Sri Lankan is an easy person to get on with and I think those of you who know Sri Lankans living in the States will agree with this remark.

There is also another similarity between us which I should mention on an occasion such as this. You too as a people were under foreign rule 200 years ago. You fought for your freedom and you won it. And now you preserve it through a form of Government which has stood the test of time. We too had a similar history. We are a Parliamentary democracy, holding elections periodically and governing with the consent of the people. We take special pride in the fact that in a world where increasing authoritarian and military rule seem to be the order of the day, the flame of democracy still burns brightly in Sri Lanka. We also believe in individual freedom, We believe in the enterprise of free men and our economic policies are fashioned on this premise that the State should provide the opportunity and the framework within which a man can earn his due reward through his own toil and labour. This I believe, is the American ethic too. We have found, as you have found, that it works. We believe that one of the purposes of the State should be to preserve and safeguard the freedom and dignity of every person who lives in it. All the major religions of the world, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam are practised freely by our 15 million people. One of the basis objectives of our policies is the creation of a society which is just and free. We try in all our endeavours to keep that ideal firmly in mind.

LET ME NOW TURN to some of the reasons which impelled me to make this present visit to your part of the country. I shall touch on broadly two topics. *One*, our present programme of *Re-awakening Our Villages*, and the *other*, *Our Invi-*

TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1983

tation To You, especially those who are of a business turn of mind, to come visit us and work with us in the development of our country. Sri Lanka is a country essentially of villages — of rural people. We have 20,000 of such village units and 80 percent of our people live in them. I know that the rural-urban proportion in the United States is quite different. But I also know that the values and life styles of the village are very close to the heart of the average American. Especially you in California are well known for your, frontier spirit.

We are seeking through the *Village Reawakening Movement* to remove some of the inequalities and inequities which exist between town and village. One of the concomitants of development is that by history, much of the wealth of the country has moved to the towns. Town dwellers have access to many of the good things of life. *We are trying to develop our villages so that people who live there too can live in decent houses, have nutritious food, drink good, clear water, educate their children, have access to health facilities and so on. At the same time, we want to do so., while maintaining and continuing those valuable village traditions of cooperation, self-help, mutual support and good neighbourliness which are such a distinct part of village communal life.*

THIS IS NO EASY TASK, as you would readily admit. But it is something that we have consciously been following as a basic policy in the last few years. We have a local term for this idea. It is **GRAMODAYA** — a word which comes from Sanskrit, one of the ancient languages of the Indian Sub-Continent. It means literally, the reawakening of the village—the dawn of a new life for all. It is important that the concept relates to the good life for All not for a few, not only for the majority, but for all I think that is one of the essential aspects of our movement. *The Gramodaya Movement rests on self-help and one of the pre-conditions of Government support to it is that there must be an effort by the community themselves to help themselves. We have set up almost, 4,500 Gramodaya units throughout the country.*

We have, like you, a great number of voluntary organisations in our country. We believe that the voluntary association of people in either specific or general interest groupings is an essential feature of a democratic society.

The right to meet together, to cooperate in achieving common goals, the right to express a point of view clearly and frankly, are all treasured rights guaranteed by our Constitution. Through the Gramodaya Movement, we have sought to give a new strength and infuse life into the large number of voluntary organisations active at the village level. In fact, we have identified as much as 35 voluntary organisations which are alive and

well in village society. They range from credit societies, youth clubs, youth farmer's clubs to religious groupings.

THE CHAIRMEN of each of these organisations join together to form the Gramodaya Mandalaya or Village Council. This was the traditional pattern of organisation in our Villages. We are hoping that the resurrecting this institution, so meaningful to our village dweller, we will be releasing new energies and a new dynamism throughout rural Sri Lanka. *Many of the Sri Lankans in this audience will be aware of this new Movement we have started. I personally wrote to every Sri Lankan living outside our country, informing him or her of what we were doing and inviting their support. I must tell you that the response we have had, has been extraordinary.* From all parts of the globe where Sri Lankans live, either as permanent residents or as temporary migrants, we have had a wonderful response. All levels, be it the professional doctor from America, the skilled worker temporarily sojourning in the Middle East, the permanent emigrant to Australia, all of these Sri Lankans have responded with a generosity which has surpassed all expectations. I believe they have been moved by the idea and they have been touched by the fact that an opportunity has been given to them to give back to their native land, and specifically to their own village, a little part of what their village and their country gave them.

LET ME END with a few words which will be of particular interest to you as leaders in the world of business here. Our Government which just received a mandate from our people for a further six year term of office has adopted a package of economic policies which makes our economy liberal, outward looking and growth oriented. In fact, we have an "open economy" providing an opportunity for innovation and enterprise and stimulating investment. Our growth rate in the past three years has been 6.8 percent in real terms. Several major foreign banks have opened branches in Sri Lanka. The inflow of private foreign investment within our Free Trade Zone, as well as outside, has increased in a dramatic manner. With the stable government we have, a climate of confidence has been created ideally suited to investment by both local and foreign investors. We offer many advantages on account of Sri Lanka's close proximity to the growing markets in the Middle East, Near East and Africa. We have available a

large pool of highly skilled workers. Our labour costs are relatively cheap. There are many raw materials suitable for industrial processing. I have brought with me some literature which you are welcome to have which will indicate the various concessions and attractions which Sri Lanka offers. I wish therefore to offer a warm welcome to any of you who wish to invest in Sri Lanka. You can be assured of a safe haven for your capital and a very reasonable return on your investment.

A Plan To End World Hunger

By Teuvo Lehti

A Staff Member of UNCTAD

Geneva: The continued existence of widespread hunger and serious undernourishment in the poor countries of the world is one of the worst failures of the global system, whether viewed morally, socially, economically or politically. That almost half a billion individuals in the Third World remain hungry, mentally and physically stunted and easy prey to fatal diseases despite the fact that globally all the needed food exists and techniques exist to produce still more, is a serious indictment of the human species' ability to organize itself. The indictment should not be levelled only against the present generations, for the problem of hunger is old. In fact to some extent we can congratulate ourselves. Production of food per person in the Third World has inched up since the last war despite the unprecedented population explosion. The absolute number of the hungry people has risen but the average nutrition levels in the poor countries are today no worse, and possibly marginally better, than they were in the 1930s. And thanks to greater national and international efforts, there have been no major famines in the last quarter century.

What has changed, then, is not so much the phenomenon of hunger as our perception of it. Hunger is no longer accepted as inevitable. Its elimination is increasingly considered the common duty of mankind. But it is because of this moral commitment and because of our knowledge that technically the problem can be solved, that its continued existence has become so shameful.

Common guilt, but probably also quiet feelings of guilt in the rich countries, have resulted in grass-root movements and public pressure on governments to do something about hunger. To a considerable extent the guilt feelings are justified. **Various policies of the wealthy countries are partly responsible for the failure to solve the problem. But that is not the whole story. The poor countries themselves are heavily to blame, and the long-term solution lies largely in their own hands.**

BECAUSE THE LATTER ASPECT of the problem is frequently neglected in public utterances on hunger, the declaration of the *United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's World Food Day Colloquium*, published on October 16 is important. The declaration is characterized by a qualified optimism about the technical means for overcoming hunger and the financial scope of the problem. It also displays a balanced portioning of responsibility of the rich and poor countries for the problem. *The Colloquium* was a blue-chip collection of people who ought to know. Of the 25 panelists, 15 came from the developing world and 10 were from the rich countries. Perhaps the most telling point of the statement is the way in which it gets to the essence of the problem — not inadequacies of research, investment, training or external assistance, though all that is important, but the lack of "political will to put first things first and give absolute priority to freedom from hunger". *Moreover, the greater part of the panel's prescriptions are addressed to the developing countries themselves. The declaration calls for higher priority to agriculture and sustained efforts toward greater equity in those countries. It asks Third World governments to define and review existing food policy goals and to provide sufficient resources to agriculture, adequate incentives to farmers, jobs and land for people to produce incomes, equitable access to land, credit and agricultural services, the people's participation in decision making and more.*

MUCH OF THIS, of course, flies in the face of the status quo that the rural and urban elite of most poor countries tend to prefer. The declaration thus poses some crucial questions about the validity of the currently revered growth models and the prevalent political directions in much of the developing world. **That does not mean the declaration spares the rich countries, it points out their retreat from multilateralism, the stagnation of their aid programmes just when aid is most needed and their failure to regenerate world economic growth. It also cites the protection that the wealthy nations give their own farm production, their reluctance to enter into price stabilizing commodity agreements and their refusal to renegotiate an international grain arrangement with both trade and food aid clauses.**

AND IT URGES ACTION on all those fronts. It also stressed that all nations have a common interest in finding a solution, both for its own sake and as a means of diminishing conflicts and generating a sound expansion of the world economy. It calls for a concentrated global effort to accelerate growth in developing countries, with high priority on food production and sustained efforts toward greater

equity. It is a cool and considered statement. But it is also a worrying one, exactly because it shows that the hiatus is not essentially technical or financial, but political in nature. For, to overcome, hunger the developing countries will have to make reforms that their monied groups as a rule do not like. And the rich countries will have to learn to deal with groups in the poor countries whose political hue some may not like. The wealthy countries will also have to adopt a far more forthcoming attitude on matters of trade and aid. Thus may look like a tall order for both the rich and poor. But the longer run cost of failure in this area is also likely to be high; expanding hunger, a continued drag on world economic expansion and intensified social and political conflicts in Third World countries, constantly in the danger of spilling over national boundaries and involving the super-powers.—*Development Forum.*



SPOTLIGHT

Cricket Mysteries- Lakspray Trophy ★ Sharjah Soccer - Mexico

IN ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING REVERSALS seen in the local cricket tournament for years, Bloomfield were awarded the Lakspray Trophy after a rescrutiny of the points table by the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka. Originally, and for nearly a month after the tournament was concluded, it was taken for granted by all cricketers and cricket fans that the Tamil Union Cricket and Athletic Club had won the trophy after a fiercely contested final where the Tamils were serching for points. The Tamils rightly obtained the points that were required in the final game against the Police. They made two well-calculated declarations and saw to it that the game ended with nearly two hours to spare with a convincing victory for them.

The Tamils got about obtaining the points according to the calculations on the points table published in the newspapers and uncontested by the Cricket Board Recorder. There were a certain number of points required by the Tamils in the final game against the Police and they went about getting it and had every reason to be tagged as the champions. But then, after about a month, the Bloom-

fielders who were runners up asked the Cricket Board for a rescrutiny of the points table, and hey presto, after the rescrutiny the Board awarded the Lakspray Trophy to the Bloomfielders.

Several questions now remain to be answered. One wonders why the Bloomfielders had to wait for so long before asking for a rescrutiny of the points table? What was the Cricket Board doing for so long after the tourney? Isn't it the duty of the Board to have declared the winners? Or should not the Board have stipulated a period of time for objections to be raised? Who in the Board is responsible for maintaining the points table? *Questions on the whole episode are many. Anyway the Cricket Board is in the best position to answer these questions.* Cricketers and cricket fans are of course intrigued. At the conclusion of the tournament the Tamils were apparent winners of the Trophy being .065 ahead of the Bloomfielders. But the rescrutiny showed that the Bloomfielders had finished .155 ahead of the Tamils. And so the Bloomfielders are the premier cricket champions for 1982/83. The Bloomfielders won the Trophy last year and the year before last.

At the presentation of the Lakspray Trophy by the sponsors Lanka Milk Foods (CWE) Ltd., at the Hotel Oberoi, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade and Shipping who was the Guest of Honour said that the Cricket Board must find ways and means of reawarding the P. Saravanamuthu Trophy so that the name of this great cricketer will not be forgotten. The Premier tourney saw the P. Saravanamuttu Trophy being replaced by the Lakspray Trophy. Mr. Athulathmudali said that the great P. Saravanamutru was his cricketing idol and was a great friend of his family. He said he would be glad if the Board evolves a system whereby the P. Saravanamuttu Trophy could be awarded once again.

The sponsors Lanka Milk Foods Ltd., hoped to see a new tourney drawn up by the Cricket Board whereby teams from the North, South, East and West could participate. Mr. Razik Zaroob, Chairman of the C. W. E. who clinched the sponsorship of the premier tourney for Lakspray said that a national tournament should give opportunities to cricketers from the rural areas to play for their districts or provinces. Even those working in a particular district can play for that district. "Then like other countries, Sri Lanka can draw its national cricketers not only from Colombo, but from the Provinces as well", said the Chairman. The awards were given by the Cricket Board President Mr. Gamini Dissanayake. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali and Sir Garfield Sobers presented the Lakspray Trophy to the winners — Bloomfield. Champions Bloomfield-- Lakspray Trophy and Rs.10,000; Runners up Tamil Union Rs. 5,000. Best Batsman, Charita Senanayake Rs. 1000. Best bowler, Jayantha

Amerasinghe Rs. 1000; Best fielder, Arjuna Ranatunga Rs. 500--; Best wicket keeper Rs. 250-- each Wayne Jansz and Noel Jayatilleke.

REPORTS reaching ALLROUNDER indicate that bright and sunny weather greeted the Sri Lanka World Cup Cricket squad on arrival Gatwick Airport in England. At the Airport to meet the team were George Mann, Chairman of the Test and Country Cricket Board, Sri Lanka's Deputy High Commissioner D. P. R. Rajapakse, V. Vamadeva, Sri Lanka's Trade Commissioner in London and Arthur Pinto, Sri Lanka's cricket Board representative in London. But what is surprising was that no other Sri Lankan was present at the Airport to greet the team. It is estimated that about 40,000 Sri Lankans live in Britain. Probably someone had blundered; that either the Sri Lanka High Commission or the Cricket Board representative by not giving enough publicity to the Sri Lanka team's arrival. Duleep Mendis the Sri Lanka skipper expressed confidence that his team would do well. He said every member of the team is in peak fitness and form. "If we play true to form we will certainly create a feset upws", said Mendis.

THE INAUGURAL ASIA CUP CRICKET TOURNAMENT to be held in Sharjah is certain to run into trouble as there are indications that Sri Lanka will object to the tournament being staged in Sharjah because the hosts are not members of the International Cricket Conference. Board President Gamini Dissanayake, who was in India recently was quoted in Indian Newspapers as saying "Sharjah is not a member of the ICC and so could not stage an International competition with ICC auspices. Mr. Dissanayake further said he would be taking up this matter with the ICC at the meeting in Lord's scheduled from June 28 to 30. Mr. Dissanayake also called on all top cricket nations of Asia not to be lured by money, but to view problems on merit.

Mr. Dissanayake further added: "The proposal to stage the tournament in Sharjah is untenable. Sharjah enjoys no cricket status in comparison with the three top nations India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Sooner could he agree to play in South Africa there could be a lot of money in it. Westerners would laugh at us if we sacrificed principles for the sake of money". After the Cricket Board of India hosted Gamini Dissanayake to lunch, discussions were held between Mr. Dissanayake and his Indian counterpart Mr. N. K. P. Salve on how to prevent any backdoor entry by South Africa into the International Cricket Conference. They also discussed the formation of a Federation of Cricket nations in Asia.

MEXICO WILL STAGE THE NEXT WORLD CUP FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT. This was the unanimous decision of the Executive Committee of the FIFA which met in Stockholm to name the venue

of the next World Cup tourney. Mexico thus becomes the first country to stage the World Cup tourney for the second time. They last did it in 1970. *Mexico were awarded the right to stage the World Cup overcoming competitions from the United States and Canada who made strong representations.* Joe Havelange, President of FIFA, said at a news conference that the Executive Committee of the FIFA had based their decisions on the findings of the Special sub-committee. He said that these findings were made known in March. The special sub-committee were satisfied that Mexico had answered all rules by March 14 which was the deadline. Subsequently an official inspection team went to Mexico but not to the United States and Canada.

Rafel Del Castillo, President of the Mexico Football Federation on hearing of the good news said: "We knew the rules were fulfilled. As a lawyer I was confident on this point. It is some help being a professional. In business, if you don't apply all the rules you don't get a contract." Gene Edwards, President of the US Soccer Federation: "To use a word like disappointment would be the understatement of the year." He added that soccer was the fastest growing team sport in the United States and they needed the World Cup because "our only drawback is the lack of international exposure for our young players".

Chairman of the US World Cup Committee had tried to persuade FIFA to postpone making a decision until after they had visited US facilities. "But obviously I presented our case with inadequate eloquence". Jim Flemming, President of the Canadian Soccer Association said his country's failure not to win the staging of the next World Cup would not mean a decline in the sport in Canada. "But it won't help either". He added, "A World Cup in Canada would have meant a tremendous momentum to develop the sport. In four years we could have done what others' take 10 to 15 years".

ALLROUNDER

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SPORTS CHRONICLE

May 16 - 21

MONDAY, MAY, 16: Nalanda A beat Isipatana by 117 runs in their Under 17 Cricket Tournament match played at Campbell Place yesterday: Nalanda A 251 and Isipatana 134. Saunders Sports Club defeated Negombo Youth SC 5 - 1 in a second round match of the V. A. Sugathadasa Memorial Cup tournament conducted by the Board of Control for Football at the Uyanwatta Esplanade Matara yesterday. Aslams beat Wellawatte Jaycees by 39 runs in a limited overs cricket match played at Rifle Green yesterday; Aslams 171 all out in 29.4

TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1983

overs and Wellawatte Jaycees 132 all out in 24 overs. Air Force were made to fight all the way before beating Havelocks by 13 points (a goal a drop goal an a try) to 7 (a try and a penalty) in a Clifford cup first round rugby match at Longdon Place yesterday.

TUESDAY, MAY, 17: Ports Authority edged out Insurance Corporation by 25 goals to 24 in a thriller to snatch the Netball Title in the Ministry of Trade and Shipping Sports Festival tournament played at Vihara Maha Devi Park; the tournament was sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka. M. J. Jayamanne (CWE) won the men's singles title in the carrom tournament of the Festival; he beat Nimal Gunasiri (Insurance) 29 - 8, 29 - 16 in the Final played at the Insurance Corporation Club Hall. In an all-Insurance Corporation Women's singles final Anoja Fernando beat Ranjini Perera 29 - 17, 29 - 20. Isipatana scored an outright win against Division 2, Group C cricket match played at Maradana. Zahira were all out on 94 and 77 after Isipatana declared at 197 for 3. A fine 52 with 8 fours by Sujeeva Randeniya helped Royal C beat Mahanama B by 20 runs in another Under 15 Division III Schools Tournament match at Reid Avenue; Royal C 139 and Mahanama B 119.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18: Zahira College defeated Maliyadeva by 12 points (3 tries) to nil in their rugby match at Maradana yesterday after leading 4 nil at half time. Lumbini MV opened their 1983 rugby season with an easy 27 points (2 goals, 3 tries and a penalty) to nil over Prince of Wales Moratuwa played at Havelock Park; Lumbini led 17 - 0 at half time. Mahinda College Galle pulled off a thrilling one-run victory over Rahula College Matara yesterday; Rahula 196 and Mahinda 197. Small Industries scored a thrilling 12 run victory over Colombo Municipality in the opening match of the Sri Lanka State Services A division knock out tournament match played at Vihara Maha Devi Park recently; Small Industries 190 in 39 overs and Municipality 178 in 39 overs. A swabuckling knock of 78 with four towering sixes and six fours in 48 minutes by Prabodha Kariyawasam, a veteran SSC cricketer and defiant 62 by Roshitha Perea helped Mackwoods SC to an easy 104-run victory over East-West Enterprises SC in their 40 over cricket match played recently. Mackwoods 175 for 6 in 40 overs and East West Enterprises 72 all out in 24.5 overs.

THURSDAY, MAY 19: Kegalle youths scored a 4 - 1 win over strong Sunny Mount Sports Club from Colombo in an exhibition soccer match played at the Kegalle esplanade last Sunday after leading 1-0 at half time. Mahinda House with 310 points became champions at the annual inter house track and field

meet of the Dharmaraja College, Kandy held at the Lake view grounds recently; Parakrama 175, Gemunu 162½ and Ananda 147½ were placed second, third and fourth. National Champions Armstrong Wrestling Club created history at the Open Wrestling Chamionships conducted by the Young Marians Wrestling Club Dehiwala by winning nine first places and five second places out of 12 weight classes in the Junior Division and also annexed the YMWC Challenge Shield for the fourth successive year. Rohana Marasinghe of Arunodays Youth Club completed a double by winning the 100 and 1500 metres events at the inter-youth club sports meet of the Kegalle electorate conducted by the National Youth Services Council.

FRIDAY, MAY, 20: Dharmaraja College Kandy beat Thurstan College, Colombo by 10 points (goal and 1 try), to nil in their annual inter-school rugby match played at Nittawela; in the junior match too Dharmaraja won 8 - 0. Senior Badminton team of Dharmaraja College, Kandy easily accounted for Anuradhapura Badminton Association team in both their matches during the four-day tour of Anuradhapura recently: first match, Dharmaraja beat Anuradhapura BA team 5 - 0; Second match, Dharmaraja beat Anuradhapura BA team 4 - 0. Wickremabahu MMV emerged senior boys champions and St. Jpseph's Balika MV senior girls champions at the Gampola Education circuit athletic meet held at the Wickremabahu MMV grounds recently; Jinaraja Boys MV (158 points) and Jineraja Girls MV (100 points) finished runners up in their respective sections. St. Peters beat Wesley by 10 points (2 goals, 1 try 1 penalty) to nil in their rugby match played at Bambalapitiya yesterday.

SATURDAY, MAY 21: Army remained unbeaten when they scored a close 9 points (1 drop goal, 2 penalties) to 4 (1 try) win over Havelocks after leading 6 - 0 at half time in their First Leg Clifford Cup League Rugby match yesterday at Galle Face; this was Havelock's third consecutive defeat. St. Anthony's scored a sensational 10 points (1 goal, 1 try) to 4 (1 try) win over Royal in their Rugby match played at Nittawela yesterday; at half time the Antonians led 6 - 4. The 20 kilometre cycle race for men in the Ministry of Trade and Shipping Sports Festival was won by K. A. Jayanethi of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority; he clocked 53 minutes 18.6 seconds. St. John's Panadura scored a 21-run first innings win over Holy Cross Kalutara in their under 17 Cricket Tournament match on the Esplanade here yesterday; St. Johns 126 and Holy Cross 105.



Opposition Dilemma

IS IT NOT TRUE that a major dilemma has arisen among all the Opposition (and anti-UNP) parties as what policies they should advocate and what strategies they should follow in order to offer a challenge to the UNP in 1989 in both the Presidential and Parliamentary elections ? That, very correctly, some of the more far-sighted among them feel that the Opposition Parties should in the first instance be strong enough to defeat the UNP on any Referendum that the ruling party may be tempted to bring in 1989 to extend the life of the Parliament by a further six years ? That anti-UNP unity on this score may be easier to achieve than for the parliamentary elections ? That the Opposition Parties should now be also concerned as how to challenge the predominant position of the TULF (and its side-kick the TELO), with the Tigers presently very much in the picture in Jaffna, among the Tamils in the North and the East, and the CWC (a close ally of the UNP) among the plantation workers of Indian origin ? That as matters stand today, the SLFP is the only party that can offer any kind of challenge to the UNP among the Sinhalese ? That unfortunately, the dominant sections of SLFP leadership, have scant respect for the Left Parties (which are presently very much in the doldrums) and think that the only way for the SLFP to win power is to *go-it-alone* with policies and slogans to induce Sinhala chauvinism to overwhelm the UNP which is branded by the SLFP propaganda as being pro-Tamil and pro-Muslim (and therefore pro-alien) ? That the SLFP seems to have no use for the Tamils of the North and the East except electorates which have mixed populations with a large Sinhala element ? That in the North and the East, the UNP seems to be the only party willing and able to challenge the TULF and its allies at the hustings ?

IS IT NOT TRAGIC that the Left Parties are today not in a position to challenge the UNP directly or compel the SLFP to seek its support in Parliament, Municipal, Urban or even Village Councils ? That two left parties — CPSL and NSSP — had fought the recent parliamentary by-elections as members of the 4-Party anti-UNP No Contest pact ? That the CPSL had contested Kamburupitiya and Ratgama, both electorates held by the CP in the heyday of the SLFP-LSSP-CP coalition of the 1970-1977 period, but had lost both seats ? That Kamburupitiya was part of the Matara District *red belt* created by Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe in the forties and fifties ? That the NSSP lost the Eheliyagoda seat which Vasudeva Nanayakkara had won as a member of the

LSSP in 1970 and lost in 1977 as the leader of the NSSP ? That the voting at Eheliyagoda (Electoral District No. 153) was as follows: Registered voters 56,592; Leonard Kiriella (UNP) 23,922; Vasudeva Nanayakkara (NSSP) 23,168; L. Sumith Thilaksiri (Independent) 166. H. D. Ananda Appuhamy (Independent) 61; votes rejected 113; Total polled 37,430; Majority 754 ? That in Kamburupitiya (Electoral District No. 71) the voting was as follows: Registered voters, 57,400; Chandra Kumara Wijayagunawardene (UNP) 22,707; Aelian Nanayakkara (CP) 16,081 Premachandra Munasinghe (JVP) 2,062; D. E. Malawaraarachchi (Independent) 499; Samson Mallikaratchi (Independent) 106; Votes rejected 86 Total polled 41,541; Majority 6,626 ? That in Ratgama (Electoral District No. 64) the voting was as follows: Registered voters 55,193; Asokaweera Somaratne (UNP) 23,070; M. G. Mendis (CP) 18,350; K. S. N. Fernando (JVP) 1,582; Piyasena de Silva (Independent) 145; Votes rejected 110 Total polled 43,857; Majority 4,120 ? That in Eheliyagoda the NSSP leader lost by 754; in Kamburupitiya the CP lost by 6,626 and at Ratgama by 4,120 votes ? That the JVP scored only 2,062 in Kamburupitiya and 1,582 in Ratgama and that it cannot be said the UNP had won on a "split vote" ? That the results of the Municipal and Urban Council elections also show that whilst the SLFP has been able to get 29.54% and 26.7% respectively the Left Parties fared very badly ? That in the MCs the JVP scored 3.37% the LSSP 0.82% the CP 0.30% and the NSSP 0.13% ? That in the UCs, the LSSP got 3.8%, the CP 1.8%, the MEP 0.5%, the JVP 0.02% and the NSSP 0.003% ?

THAT IN THIS SITUATION no one will be convinced by arguments that the UNP had won because of (1) its thuggery and intimidation; (2) rightwing trends in the SLFP leadership; and (3) lack of unity among Left Parties ? That while all these factors are contributory factors in the debacle of the Left, the main reason overlooked, ignored or slurred over by all postmortem analyses from anti-UNP sources is that the policies and strategies of the SLFP and the Left not been able to attract a majority of the voters ? That the real dilemma of all Opposition or anti-UNP parties is that they do not seem to have realised that they to work out concrete, realistic and practical programmes that could achieve better results than those of the UNP and at the same time avoid the pitfalls and shortcomings that stem from current UNP programmes ? That all Opposition Parties have to realise that merely attacking and criticising the UNP will not help them very much ? That people are tired of negative politics ? That in an era of proportional representation the Opposition Parties cannot hope to win power if they do not get substantial support from the Tamil and Muslim minorities ?

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