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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, this column has referred to the problems that stemmed from the activities of the Eelam terrorists. The President, the Prime Minister, Minister Festus Perera and others have suggested peaceful negotiations, but they have also insisted that terrorism could not be tolerated. The CP has urged that a Round Table Conference of all Parties be convened. In a statement last week the LSSP's Secretary Mr. Bernard Soysa had stated: "Every decent person in Sri Lanka will condemn the outrages that are being committed in various parts of the country against innocent and defenceless people. The task before all of us is to prevent these occurrences to the extent that lies within our power. These are not merely criminal actions; they are inhuman. We cannot leave everything to the authorities, we must intervene in the situation ourselves collectively. Such intervention requires of first all that we act together to prevent these things happening in our localities; that is to say, where we live, where we work and where we travel daily. If decent minded persons regardless of political and other differences join together to prevent these outrages, meet in their neighbourhoods and agree to help in preventing trouble the calming of the situation can begin at once. It is the people themselves who can stop these horrors. By helping ourselves in this way we can help the authorities in the task of maintaining peace and enlist the help of the authorities in our efforts. The people in their millions do not want to live in a state of constant tension and fear. Apart from political parties, there are thousands of organisations in our country that are devoted in one way or another to the public good. These are organisations concerned with religion, social service, the arts and sciences sports and diverse objects of public welfare. The LSSP appeals to all organisations and individuals desirous of stopping this outrageous violence to come forward and join together in performing this task." The Catholic Archbishop Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando last weekend made an appeal: "..... Violence has gripped our land again and the time is running out for everyone A united country is our dream, the dream of the greater majority of our people of all ethnic, religious and cultural groups. But this dream can become a reality only through a just society where all are equal. The complaint of our Tamil bretheren has been that though they fought shoulder to shoulder with the Sinhalese for Independence from the British, they have not been given their due share. Successive governments, they say, have failed to remedy the situation. Hence a desperate section mostly of the youth have taken to arms as a means to a solution. It is most unfortunate that recourse to arms should have taken place at a time when a party vowed to create a just and equal Dharmista society came into power. No one can deny that the UNP in power now, headed by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, has come closest to bring about a solution to the main problem of this country. The DDC was a step in the right direction since the language, employment and even educational problems could have been settled if implemented in the right spirit. Given the right atmosphere this could still be implemented and pave the way towards a just solution. Even in the present crisis, the President has called for restraint, the Prime Minister has preferred an economic solution to armed response. The TULF has ruled out violence as a means of the realisation of its goals. The Minister of Fisheries has called on the militants to lay down their arms and come for a discussion. What is needed now is a ceasefire on the part of the militants of the North and on the part of the security forces of the government. A breathing space may make all the differences between a lasting solution or a bloody and costly conflict. If the Tamil militants have no forum for such a dialogue, let them approach the religious leaders who no doubt will come forward to help in such a national crisis and need"

SERENDIPITY

ON THE COVER this week we have a picture of serene calm such as Sri Lanka is said to have enjoyed in days gone by. Today the situation is said to be different. The term *serendipity* has also been long associated with this island, but this word is not a synonym for peace and tranquility. What is *serendipity*? According to the Oxford Dictionary, in the year 1754, the word *Serendip* (b), a former name for Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), was given a suffix "ity" by Horace Walpole and a new word was coined by him. It was inspired by the title of the fairy tale *The Three Princes of Serendip*, the heroes of which "were always making discoveries by accident and sagacity — of things they were not in quest of". The Dictionary also briefly defines the word as "the faculty of making happy and unexpected discovery by accident."

The name *Serendip* or *Serendib* is really an old Arabic name for Taprobane or Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). *Serendipity*, for some reason unknown, has been associated with this island whose natives were called "lotus eaters" by Britishers who were not able to understand the ways of a people who resented the greed of whiteskinned traders and planters who had found it necessary to import Indian indentured (slave) labour to extract long hours of labour for a small pittance. The indigenous natives were called lotus eaters by Britons who believed that they had a god-given mission to bring salvation to idol worshipping heathens — all lotuseaters. While a perpetual halo of high and noble living hangs over *Serendipity*, *lotus eating* has become the hall mark of do-nothing narcotic addicts. Many Britons who toiled hard to open our plantations, were convinced, that Sri Lankans were a lazy, good-for-nothing lot because they were reluctant to work as wage-slaves on the plantations.

Not being certain what *lotus eating* really meant we had recourse once again to the Oxford Dictionary. We found that the word was derived from the Greek *Lotophagi* meaning Lotus Eaters, a people in Greek legend and mythology who lived on the fruit of a mythical *lotos* tree which, according to Homer (Od. IX pp. 90), caused a dreary forgetfulness in those who ate it and a loss of all desire to return home. This tree, as mentioned by ancient Greek writers, is said to have had black wood. Some had identified it as the jujube tree.

But the lotus we know is from the water-lily family. Its seeds are eaten. The stem and roots are cooked. But those who eat them do not develop "dreamy forgetfulness or a loss of all desire to return home." The Greek *lotophagi* became the *lotus eaters* of the English language and by usage the term referred to persons who were given to dreaming of a life in

luxurious ease. Sri Lankans in general were labelled as *lotus eaters* by imperialist taskmasters. But in reality Sri Lankans were no more *Lotus eaters* than any other people. Sri Lankans have proved themselves to be hard workers, resourceful entrepreneurs and excellent technicians — if they were given opportunities to work without the kanganies' whip constantly cracking on their backs.

In this connection, a myth had also been created in Europe that the Danes (who had once conquered parts of Anglo-Saxon England) were persons who could not make decisions — all Hamlets "to be or not to be". But the Danes of Denmark are a wonderful people. We publish below a PTI report about DANES — POOR IN RESOURCES BUT RICH IN SKILLS: "A small area on the world map consisting of a peninsula and a cluster of 406 islands of a total area of 44,000 sq.kilometers between the North Sea and the Baltic in northern Europe, Denmark should have been a poor backward country. Yet the country is a text book example of what a handful (a little over five million) of enterprising and innovative people can achieve. Though it has no deposits of raw materials or natural sources of energy, Denmark is a major industrial country. It is also a major agricultural country producing thrice as much as is needed for its own people, not because it is blessed with a good climate or first class soil. Actually, the heaviest rains of the year fall during the harvesting period, and the soil is very uneven in quality since it was deposited by glaciers.

"For what they lacked in raw materials the Danes made up with skilled labour, earning their products a reputation for high quality and excellent finish. Thus every ounce of steel tin, cotton that is imported, is after providing for home consumption, exported as refined finished goods in order to pay for the imports and give the country's population one of the highest standards of living in the world. Machinery and instruments which can mean anything from a complete cement factory to apparatus to measure the oxygen content in the blood of new-born babies constitute the single largest category of Denmark's industrial exports. Electronic equipment for space research, X-ray equipment for testing seam-welds on aircraft hulls, industrialised building units, pollution control equipment turn-key hotels hospitals and factories, fibreglass, reinforced ployester sailboats to super-tankers are some of the others in the wide range of Danish industrial production. In the field of insulin production Denmark is the undisputed world leader.

"A large measure of the credit for this enviable achievement is to a comprehensive and lengthy training programme for young apprentices which provides Danish industry with a regular supply of skilled workforce aware of the need for high quality workmanship. Denmark's equally impressive performance as a farming nation can be attributed mainly

to the Danish farmers' ability adapt to changing market conditions and turn to advantage seemingly unfavourable developments. For example when cheap American grain suddenly flooded European markets in the late 19th century most countries reacted by attempting to set up tariff barriers. Characteristically the Danes met the new situation by switching from cereal production to processing the products of livestock such as butter milk, cheese, bacon, which they could sell on the world markets at competitive prices thanks to the American cereals which they used as low-cost fodder for their livestock.

"The result is that despite its size, Denmark is the world's biggest exporter of pigmeat, fourth biggest exporter of butter, third biggest of cheese and a major exporter of canned foods, even ready poultry, beef and other farm products. Exports of Danish farm products are also boosted by a small army of consultants and experts stationed at home and abroad. Eleven export boards handle the farming industry's products and the agricultural marketing board has branch offices in Kuwait, Tokyo and a representative in Iran."

The Danes are a people Sri Lanka should emulate to bring not only serendipity to this country but also prosperity.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

● The Law ● India

***HOOLIGANISM** The Government's credibility has sunk very low among large sections of the educated and politically conscious people in towns and urban areas over the "goonda" demonstrations in front of the houses of two (three) Supreme Court Judges. The credibility gap is also slowly spreading to the rural areas where people have so far still not been unduly concerned about these matters.

This credibility downturn had started when a police officer in Gampaha, found guilty of violating fundamental rights over the "Pavidi Handi" case, was indemnified by Government to pay the fine and was also promoted (if our memory serves right). This promotion gambit was again resorted to when the Supreme Court found that a police officer in Kollupitiya had violated fundamental rights in taking Mrs. Vivienne Goonewardene and others into custody when they went on a demonstration. This Supreme Court decision had revealed an anomaly (a big loophole) in the law for which the Legal Draughtsman who had drafted the legislation and the Legislature which had adopted the law should be held responsible. *But some "goondas", obviously having the secret patronage from certain high circles had demonstrated in front of the houses of the Supreme*

Court Judges who had heard the case and had set out what the Law as defined in the Act. The Court had held that the Police had acted illegally.

This ruling of the Supreme Court no doubt made it difficult (not impossible) for the Police to act against any demonstrations. But before an amending legislation was passed or before new regulations could be promulgated under the Emergency, three bus (or van) loads of vociferous thugs had taken it upon themselves to demonstrate before the houses of the Supreme Court judges who had only done their duty. And what the Judges had pointed out was absolutely correct and no *mala fides* could be even remotely attributed to their findings. Even if there was *ma'a fide* the remedy was not for some people to hire thugs to demonstrate before the houses of the Judges using obscenities and worse.

The Police have tried to justify their inability to act to prevent the demonstration or stop it by using the transparent smokescreen of "dead phones". These phones conveniently went "dead" a couple of days later obviously to furnish corroborative support evidence. The Police evidently had to rely on "dead phones" because, in spite of the Supreme Court ruling, they could have acted under other provisions of the law; the move-on by-law, the fear of a possible breach of the peace, the causing of nuisance etc.etc

The national daily press, political party papers (including that of the UNP) and the entire legal profession in the country have condemned this hooliganism which tends to undermine not only the majesty of the law but also the independence of the judiciary. Some casuists have tried to side-track the issue by replying to Mrs. Bandaranaike and the SLFP (who have undoubtedly tried to make political capital out of the incident as they are entitled to do) by referring to some unsavoury happenings in the days of the last government with a notorious Satan in charge of the Law. But this is no defence or even an excuse. If Satan had done wrong, it is no excuse for Dharmista to follow suit or condone such acts by the police and to turn a Nelsonian blind eye to goondaism.

The Prime Minister and the Cabinet have undertaken to see that prompt action is taken to punish those guilty of such unwarranted behaviour which was in utter contempt of the Supreme Court and the law. There will be universal public support even for retroactive legislation to punish those who participated in this sordid demonstration. And as to "dead phones" it is time that the Government did something about them. If this is not done the Police can take refuge behind "dead phones" to permit murderers, house-breakers, thieves and every kind of criminal to make a mockery of the law and denigrate the good repute of the government.

If the Government wants to regain even a little of credibility or *bona fides* it has lost over this matter, it must take prompt action to bring the guilty to book. It is not merely a responsibility of the Attorney-General to arraign the suspects before a Court — it is the responsibility of the entire government. If it places defective legislation (with anomalies and loopholes) on the Statute Book, it must take the proper steps to set matters right: it cannot permit goondas to use loopholes to destroy the legal system.

***DUTY FREE :** Some daily papers are lamenting over the fact that India has cut down the duty free component in the imports of Indian tourists and travellers who come to this country. The result is that the "tourist" traffic from India has dwindled and is continuing to dwindle. It is an accepted fact that the bulk of tourists from India so far have come shop at the duty free complex. There has been no attempt by Sri Lanka to attract tourists from India who want to come for a holiday or for cultural purposes.

What has happened now was not unexpected by those who could read the writing on the wall. First, articles and comments in Indian newspapers for some weeks had drawn attention to: (a) inadequate facilities for Indian tourists and travellers at Talaimannar where they were often held up for days without proper arrangement for staying or even food; (b) loss of articles or parts of items bought at the Duty Free Complex sent by plane especially, as unaccompanied baggage, at the Katunayake airport; (c) the harassment of Indian tourists in Colombo and other places and that complaints were brushed aside by the police; (d) the occurrence of ethnic abuse and even violence against Indian tourists; (e) that there had been cases where vanloads of Indian travellers had been held up and robbed (one was near Chilaw very recently); (f) the continuous publication of anti-Indian articles in the press. Second, The publicity given to the fact that Sri Lanka was likely to give the lease of the oil tanks to an American firm on the ground that it was only a "commercial proposition", had made many in India wonder whether it should assist this island to build up its tourist trade and increase its foreign exchange earnings by patronising its duty free complex, if it was going to favour the USA in this way. Many circles in India felt, it is known, that India should "toughen" its attitude to Sri Lanka in some matters. We had in this column last week pointed out that the leasing of the oil tanks to an American firm will do untold damage to Sri Lanka not only *vis-a-vis* India but the nonaligned world as well.

It is time that some pundits and prophets in this island realised that in an era of chronic global recession and changing tourist fashions, the only safe bet for Sri Lanka tourism in the long run is India. And, so far, our hotel industry and the tourist department have done little to cater to Indian tourists. *A stupid*

idea had been promoted that with a duty free complex, Indian tourists would be a permanent feature for all time. Duty free trading is a parasitic occupation and in the long run it does more harm to the country concerned (Sri Lanka) than good. If the duty free complex were shut down altogether the revenue to government from Customs will increase. Under the duty free complex system, the malpractices, the smuggling and the racketeering have adversely affected the revenue earned by the Customs. Many knowledgeable persons feel that the country will be better off without the duty free complex.

Apart from this, Sri Lanka must see how it can develop better relations with India for long term trade and tourism. Tourists from the Americas and Europe may come and go — depending on current fashions — but a steady stream from India and other countries of the South Asia region can be permanent. This is one matter that must be taken up at the South Asia Regional Conference — at the Foreign Ministers meeting in New Delhi on August 1 and later at the Summit in Dacca.

The foreign exchange that India spent by permitting its nationals to patronise Sri Lanka's duty free complex is chicken feed for that country. But for Sri Lanka it was a sizeable piece of foreign exchange. But to give such benefits to Sri Lanka, India expects a *quid pro quo* and this is so, whether we like it or not, or whether it is said or unsaid. Among other matters, the easing of the oil tanks in Trinco is a matter that cannot be forgotten. The inflow of the tourists from the West is dwindling. It will be for Sri Lanka not to throw away the inflow from India.

These are matters to which the Government must pay serious consideration.

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COMMENT

Panadura Urban Council Elections

By C. R. de Silva
Associate Professor In History
University of Peradeniya

Mr. W. L. Fernando's article on the Urban Council Elections at Panadura in 1983 (Tribune 4th June 1983) draws attention to three problems. The first relates to the equitable distribution of seats among parties according to the number of votes gained. As the Table given below indicates the largest party (the UNP in this case) gains a distinct advantage and the second largest party (the SLFP) is the major loser in terms of seats. The fact that the PR system used in Sri Lanka today confers an advantage on the

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Table 1 - Elections to Panadura Urban Council 1983

Party	Votes polled	%of votes polled	Seats gained	% of seats gained	Seats that would have been gained according to old system	%	Seats according to strict proportionality	%
UNP	4310	32.06	4	44.44	4	44.44	3	33.33
SLFP	4219	31.39	2	22.22	4	44.44	3	33.33
Ind.	3075	22.87	2	11.11	1	11.11	2	22.22
LSSP	1709	13.11	1		0	—	1	11.11

largest party and on any small parties that can rise above the 1/8 barrier has been pointed out elsewhere (see C. R. de Silva & S. W. R. de A Samarasinghe "Which PR?" in Preliminary Documents, Seminar on the Parliamentary Process in Sri Lanka). Nevertheless, it is clear that the solution to the problem is not a return to the old single member plurality system. As Table 1 shows, had the old system been used it would have led to results which are as questionable as those which have emanated from the current PR method. Indeed, the solution to this problem is perhaps best found by adopting another PR system such as the one of 'strict proportionality or by removing the two-seat advantage given to the largest party at local government elections. The results of the 1979 and 1983 elections seem to indicate that the latter would not deprive the victorious party of the majority in a local body except in a very few instances.

The second problem is in relation to provisions of representation for different 'wards' of an Urban or Municipal Council. Some would agree that the old system whereby every 'ward' of the local government body was represented by one member of some political party or other was preferable to the present system of election through lists which could result in some of the wards being left without a resident member while others have two or three in the Council. However this is a debatable point of view. The salient division in local government politics in Sri Lanka today is not area or ward but the political party or group and the usual practice has been for the voter to go for advice or assistance not to the member for the area but to the member of a political party most likely to agree with him. As the method of PR used in Sri Lanka uses the entire Council area (and not the old 'wards') as the electoral unit every Council member is elected for the entire Council area and should serve the whole unit. In a few cases where physical size of the Council area prevents this it should not be difficult for political parties to organize local representatives in the wards.

Finally, we are confronted with the picture of a politician seemingly rejected by the 'ward' to which he or she has been assigned by the party as political organizer and yet becoming a member of the Council or even its Chairman by virtue of his or her position on the list. This problem is of course inherent in any list system that does not allow the voter a chance to determine the priority order of the list.

Some may try to explain this away by pointing out that a person who is seemingly defeated in this way might actually have reserves of support in other wards as well and thus may be a popular candidate if the whole local area is considered. It is also arguable that it is unfair to talk of the victory or loss of particular candidates when votes are cast for a party list. Nevertheless, appearances also count and thus could be considerable dissatisfaction within any party group if unpopular candidates are elected simply due to their position on the list. A solution to this problem (which has already been adopted in some local areas) is to enforce the resignation of any member who has lost his 'ward' while his party won power in the local Council. This is one way to ensure that the voter would have greater control over who represents him.

The method of PR used in Sri Lanka does have a number of disadvantages. While such shortcomings are to be highlighted and solutions sought for them it is important to remember that simply going back to the old Westminster system is unlikely to solve many of the more important issues. Under that system members could and were elected with less than majority support and certain smaller political parties were completely deprived of representation in Local Councils.

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The Batticaloa Lagoon

By K. Kanapathipillai

Cannot it be a feasible proposition? There was a proposal to dredge the Batticaloa lagoon. It was mooted by the Regional Minister for Development, and had as its base some very useful and solid suggestions and plans made by Mr. N. G. Thamotharam and other technical know how men interested in the development of the Batticaloa District. I have read a number of informative articles and "papers" on the subject by Mr. J. B. Kumarakulasinghe, Mr. Sam Thambimuthu, Mr. J. A. Rajendram and others, and have thought it opportune to comment on the usefulness or otherwise of the project. I consider it one of the very few useful proposals taken in hand by the Government at the present juncture, when a spate of comments have appeared in the daily papers as regards "the scant attention" paid by Government to cyclone devastated Batticaloa's development. *Are these comments justifiable and reasonable? Well, it would seem, to a certain extent they are.* But in making such arant remarks one has to make an accurate and exact survey of the benefits that had accrued to the Batticaloa District from the State sector: (1) Work on the Valayiravu Bridge is going on, though at a slow pace; (2) The law court complex, has due to some administrative difficulty or other, registered slow progress; (3) The Railway Station building is a grand success. And so is the Post Office building. Architecturally it is a thing of beauty. (4) The UDA Town improvement programme is pathetically in the *more*. So it appears. (5) The Manmunai Bridge and the Batticaloa Secretariat have been in the air for quite some time. (6) The cyclone rehabilitation work was the talk of the town for some time; and then, it was lost sight of; and it looked as though the scheme was frozen out; (7) The dredging of the Batticaloa Lagoon. *This is a proposal that is about to make some headway. The necessary machinery, equipment and personnel have been stationed and work on the programme is about to begin in true earnest.*

IS THIS A VIABLE PROPOSITION and a useful one? How will it have an impressionable impact on the social economy of the District? It would certainly help improve the aesthetic aspect and environmental "biome" of the area. Blue sparkling waters teeming with life: fish and prawns and crabs and birds. The tangible gains would be as follows: (a) The sea-mouth of the Lagoon can be kept open permanently; (b) this would facilitate the free movement of estuarine species of fish, prawns etc., into the lagoon and out into the sea and their speedy and unhampered proliferation; (c) The annual catch of fish, prawns, crabs, oysters would be a bumper harvest estimated to bring an income of Rs. 30 million:

and over 10,000 persons can be permanently employed in the fishing industry; (d) Fish and prawn culture will find a permanent niche in this area; this might involve many an unemployed O/L and A/L student who could earn much more in this venture than in any other. And there will be an accumulation of very useful know-how information; (e) The attitude of the youth towards nature might be optimized; (f) The dangerous silting of the Lagoon floor can be prevented and the accumulation of noxious gases prevented. (g) A continuous tidal scour can be promoted and the accumulation of obnoxious and offensive smelling algae prevented; (h) The sea-mouth of the Lagoon should of course be also kept open by building concrete structures in the form of groins — a matter for technocrats; (i) The depth of the lagoon can be kept uniform by the grading influence of the tidal scour; and this would help beget a stabilised estuarine "biome"; (j) About Rs. 25 million worth of building site can be reclaimed in the immediate fringe of the low-lying land in the environs of the town of Batticaloa; (k) The PH (Hydrogenion concentration and salinity concentration) levels of the water in the lagoon can be maintained at an optimum level so as to enable estuarine fauna and flora to attain to their highest development.

Hence the "Dredging of the Batticaloa Lagoon" proposal has much to commend and it is bound to be an unqualified success.
Batticaloa.

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FILM FOCUS

South Indian

The Film Industry is firmly established in India. While the escapist and musically-lined Hindi film-fare produced at fabulous cost holds sway over most parts of North India, down South a more realistic approach is paying dividends now. The *milieu* for such films is mostly rural poverty yet the millions in India are lapping up this kind of fare. Film stars also become prime favourites of the public. It becomes almost a family loss when a film star dies and the whole country mourns. A couple of years ago when actress Nargis from Hindi film world passed away there was universal mourning in India and so also when Muthuraman from the Tamil films died. The present generation may not have heard of the Nargis/Raj Kapoor team but the late Muthuraman does appear now in some of the weekly telecasts of Tamil films by Rupavahini. He died at 49 after a bout of morning callisthenics, when his heart failed him. A dedicated actor, Muthuraman took on roles of a prince, pauper, lover, a father and an angry if not loving husband with consummate ease. He had notched over 200 films by the time he died and was, histrionically-

lly speaking, on the heels of Maestro Sivaji Ganeshan.

With M. G. Ramachandran opting for permanent politics and actress Jayalalitha too getting down to social work, the film scene in South India has changed and the ascendant star is young actor Kamalahasan. He is now one of the most sought after actors for Hindi and Tamil films. "To hell with 'Image'", he says and adds that "right from the time I set foot in films, I have not become a slave to image building. I have played every kind of character — good, bad, kind, cruel, romantic and ruthless — for a living and not to become a social or political reformer". Of "Guru" which rocked box office records in Sri Lanka, Kamalahasan is honestly of the view that the press was angry with him for doing that film, which turned out to be one of his unexpected "hits". Kamal insists on seeing all his films scripts in advance, before he signs for a film, and avoids becoming a loser in the end from a picturegoer point of view. His first two Hindi films "Ek Dunjaika Liya" and "Sanami Teri Kasam" were successes, but he prefers to reign in Madras (Tamil films) than fluctuate in Bombay (Hindi films). In one of his latest Tamil releases "Varumayin Niram Sivappu" his performance has been acclaimed and yet another "Guru" success is on the cards.

VAALVE MAYAM (Life is a Mirage) Tamil: Produced by Balaji who takes time off now and then for acting too as in the past, this film is directed well by R. Krishnamurthi. It features Kamalahasan in a sentimental role quite akin to that taken by Sivaji Ganeshan in the once celebrated box office hit "Vasantha Maligai" — a pacesetter in Tamil love stories. Both films have a parallel theme and are an apt study in contrast of the ability of both actors who run neck to neck with Sivaji getting to the winning post by a whisker. Well photographed in colour, the film spins a tender story around an affluent playboy Raja (Kamalahasan) who is spurned repeatedly by the girl Devi his eyes rest permanently on (Sri Devi). A protracted, patient and persistent pursuit to conquer her heart proves futile, till she trips in her stride awhile for a second look back, and responds hopefully. Raja by this time is diagnosed of a deadly debilitating disease, just as the prints start drying on the wedding (invitation) cards. The retracting process from the intended union becomes even more painful than the pleasures of courting, and Devi's brother (Jai Shankar) and a whore with a heart (Sri Priya) cushion the tragic turn of events to a climax that turns the tear ducts on, as in "Vasantha Maligai". It was a very testing role for Kamal who enlivened it with youthful fervour, while the baby faced Sri Devi lost hers in the brief and breezy appearance of Sri Priya. Just as much as the appearance of Policemen climaxes action stories, so does

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death the great leveller, that "bounces" the box office returns, in tales that tax the heart!

GLORIA (English): As to why this film short-circuited itself by a blurb on the very first day of release, about its limited engagements will remain a mystery to this column. Perhaps the Public Performances Board held fast to the view that the wounded pride of a woman would scorch the screens with a deadly venom! Yet for all lovers of children and orphan of tender years, this film held out a rare treat. Actress Gene Rowlands nominated for an Oscar in the title role, plays Gloria a woman of carefree virtue who is suddenly thrust into a family tangle, that leaves a boy of tender years in her avowed care. Her one time friends of the underworld turn on her for the child, and a tell tale diary the youngster clings on to bequeathed to him by his father before he and his family were decimated. Failing to shake off the boy, Gloria turns around ferociously, bearing her claws to protect the child from the deadly Mafia gang. She goes for them single handed with a pistol, her only other companion, and it was a tough performance from them on to protect her protege. A Golden Lion Award winner at the Venice Film Festival. Do not miss it when down your way for a limited engagement or not.

JAMES N. BENEDICT

Notice Under Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition Amendment Act No. 28 of 1964.

Ref No. EA/21 333(Bentara - Elpitiya)

It is intended to acquire the lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 248/9 of 8. 6. 83

SCHEDULE

- Situation** : These lands are situated in the village of Malalgoda in the D. R. O's division of Bentota Walallawita Korale (West) in Galle district.
- Name of Land** : Paradise Island bearing Assessment No's. 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and a part of 17.
- Plan and Lot No.** : Lot No. 1 in P. P. G 1789

Watson Gunasekera

The Kachcheri Galle.
2. 06. 1983

Acquiring Officer
Galle District

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the following posts in the Urban Development Authority.

1. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (**Project Formulation and Evaluation**) **Grade IV**

(a) *Salary Scale* : Rs. 1,950/- 10 x 75—Rs. 2,700/- P.M.

(b) *Age* : 28 to 45 years.

(c) *Qualifications and experience*

- (i) Graduate of recognised University in Economics/Development Studies/Statistics/Public Administration or in an allied field with not less than five years post qualification experience in Project Formulation and Evaluation Studies, including at least 2 years at executive level.

OR

- (ii) An officer in the Government Service or Corporation Sector with about 20 years experience of which at least 05 years should be in financial management, project appraisal and project formulation in an executive capacity

(Applicants should possess a very good knowledge of the English Language in addition to their proficiency in the Official Language.)

2. DRAWING OFFICE ASSISTANT : **Grade V**

(a) *Salary Scale* : Rs. 1,500/- 10 x 60—Rs. 2,100 /- P.M.

(b) *Age* : Not over 45 years.

(c) *Qualifications and Experience*

- (i) Those possessing an experience of not less than 20 years as a qualified Draughtsman in a Government Department, Government sponsored Corporation or a recognised firm of Architects or Engineers, of which at least 5 years should have been in a Supervisory capacity, with
- (ii) Sound knowledge in service engineering and experience in the use of graphic materials.

3. SENIOR DRAUGHTSMAN—**Grade VI**

(a) *Salary Scale* : Rs. 1,120/- 10 x 60—Rs. 1,720 P.M.

(b) *Age* : Not less than 28 years and not more than 45 years.

(c) *Qualifications & Experience*

- (i) G. C. E. (O/L) Examination in 6 Subjects in not more than 2 sittings including Mathematics, Science and Language with at least four credit passes and should have successfully completed at least one years full time (day) course in Draughtmanship at a Polytechnical Institute, or an equivalent qualification, together with at least 8 years experience after completing the course

OR

- (ii) Should possess at least 15 years experience as a Draughtsman in a Government Department, Government-sponsored Corporation or a recognised firm of Architects or Engineers.

4. DRAUGHTSMAN : **Grade VII**

(a) *Salary scale* : Rs. 840/- 10x 40—Rs. 1,240/- P.M.

(b) *Age* : Not less than 18 years and not more than 40 years.

(c) *Qualifications & Experience* :

- (i) G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) in 6 subjects in no more than 2 sittings including Mathematics, Science and Language with at least four credit passes and, should have successfully completed at least one years full time (day) course in Draughtmanship at a Polytechnical Institute, or an equivalent qualification, together with at least one year experience after completing the course, OR
- (ii) Five years experience as a Draughtsman in a Government Department, Government sponsored Corporation or a recognised firm of Architects or Engineers.

5. DRAUGHTSMAN/RECORD KEEPER ; **Grade VII.**

(a) *Salary Scale* : Rs. 840/- 10x x 40—Rs. 1,240/- P.M.

(b) *Age* : 28 to 40 years.

(c) *Qualifications and Experience* :

- (i) A pass in the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in at least 6 subjects including Sinhala and English obtained in not more than two sittings AND
- (ii) Not less than ten years experience in the maintenance and storage of maps, drawings etc. in a Government or recognised Institution.

Note : A training in Record Management/Record Keeping will be an added qualification. Government approved other allowance will be paid in addition to the salary in respect of all the posts mentioned above.

The upper age limit will not apply to those in Government Service or Corporation Sector.

Terms of Engagement : These posts are permanent. The selected candidates will be required to contribute 10% of their salary to the E.P.F. The Authority's Contribution is 15% of salary. In addition the Authority will contribute 3% to the Employees Trust Fund.

General : Applications, stating full particulars relating experience, qualifications, present employment and salary etc. should be sent under registered cover to reach the Director (Administration) Urban Development Authority, P. O. Box 1895, D. R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10, on or before 11th July, 1983.

Applicants in Government Departments and Corporations should forward their application through the respective Heads of Institutions.

Chairman,
Urban Development Authority.

15th June, 1983.

TRIBUNE, JUNE 25, 1983

June 6 - 12

**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 JUNE 6: The government has decided to appoint a committee of very senior public servants to advise it on the implementation of government policy on the use of Tamil in the administration, an authoritative governmental spokesman said yesterday. An emergency regulation governing the disposal of dead bodies has been gazetted by President Jayewardene; official sources said the regulation was intended to ensure that security personnel, acting against terrorists will in no way be harassed by the law in the event of being compelled to use their fire power. President Regan today vowed to uphold the spirit of last week's Williamsburg economic summit agreement by vetoing legislation that increases the US budget deficit or seeks protectionist trade measures—*DN*. The Government yesterday warned the general public that they were in danger of being sentenced to life terms in prison if they resort, either individually or in groups, to acts of arson, looting or trespass in any part of the country—*CDM*. Acting Police Chief S. S. Joseph warned yesterday that immediate action will be taken against inciters, looters and rumour mongers attempting to stir up violence in the country. All law enforcement agencies and the district level state administration are to be drawn into a national Customs Co-ordinating Agency which will be established shortly. The Canadian government is likely to clamp down visa requirements on Sri Lankans if there is no decrease in the number of questionable asylum seekers under the "no visa" provisions—*SU*. President J. R. Jayewardene is to give priority to the expeditious disposal of inquiries now pending under the Prevention of Terrorism Act; presently there is a backlog of 25 cases, the President had been told, due to an acute shortage of High Court judges in Colombo. Co-operative societies have to pay Rs. 2,933,670.52 to the CWE in respect of their cheques being returned by the banks for want of funds in their accounts; Mr. Alwis Weerakody Executive Director, CWE, said the cooperatives were the biggest offenders of dud cheques—*IS*. The police is making a concerted effort to bring peace and calm in the Vavuniya

area—*DP*. As a result of the action taken by the Police and the Security forces, it was reported that terrorism had been brought under control yesterday in various parts of the country—*VK*.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7: President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday stressed the need to maintain peace in the country while government acts to wipe out terrorism completely; Mr. Jayewardene who was speaking at the Gam Udawa 83 exhibition at Nikaweratiya said that looting, killing, violence and other similar crime would be an obstacle to government's efforts to end this problem. The Rural Industrial Development Ministry has increased the price of Ambeweka *Highland* milk powder (Ambewela Lakspray) from from Rs. 18.35 to Rs. 20.00 with immediate effect. The sound of gunfire in El Salvador and Nicaragua over the past week has all but drowned out appeals for negotiations and peace in Central America from the region's four-nation mediating group and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez—*DN*. All nine Regional Transport Boards are in serious financial difficulties and continue to make losses annually on an increasing scale; this is the startling revelation of the four member probe committee appointed by the Cabinet to examine and report on the accounts of the Transport Boards for the year 1982—*CDM*. A 24-hour water cut will be imposed in Colombo South between 9 p.m. on June 7 and 9 p.m. on June 8 this comes in the wake of the urgent repairs that are being effected to the Kalatuwawa water treatment plant. A massive shortfall in coconut crops this year is expected to see the Coconut Development Board meeting today in an urgent session to introduce a cutback in export of all coconut products except fibre, investigations revealed yesterday—*SU*. Trouble is brewing in the newly-formed regiment of the Rajarata Rifles stationed at Anuradhapura with over 40 soldiers deserting their posts, according to reports reaching Colombo. The Minister of Food and Cooperatives and MP for Hiriyala S. B. Herath died yesterday in a hospital in Liverpool, the Foreign Ministry in Colombo was informed yesterday morning. Over one hundred persons have been arrested in the past few days by special police squads in connection with incidents of looting robbery and arson—*IS*.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8: Army headquarters yesterday said all soldiers of the Rajarata Rifles who deserted their posts recently sympathising with the cause of six colleagues who were discharged for acts of indiscipline, would be arrested; the termination of their services in accordance with army regulations would follow, an Army communique said. Sales of National Lottery tickets are dropping progressively; this is due to competition from other lotteries as well as rising costs, Chairman R. J. de Silva said. Argentine President Reynaldo Bignone today will present the Third World's views on the world economic crisis and ways to overcome it, as the UNCTAD

6 conference here tackles its difficult task in earnest. Soviet leader Yuri Andropov has offered to discuss declaring the Baltic Sea a nuclear-free zone in the latest Kremlin bid to encourage Scandinavian states to bar atomic weapons from their territories—*DN*. A "Kangaroo Court" of the Uma Maheswaran faction of the Northern terrorists is reported to have taken the "far reaching but unavoidable decision" that all sixteen TULF parliamentarians must resign their seats—*CDM*. All exports of desiccated coconut and coconut oil have been banned from yesterday by the Ministry of Coconut Industries and the Coconut Development Authority. An "operational cell" of the northern terrorist movement which was discovered by the Police last morning has revealed a wealth of information on the structure of the organisation and its future programmes—*SU*. Tourist arrivals from Sri Lanka's traditional and most lucrative market area, Western Europe, dropped by 5.2 percent in the first four months of this year; according to the April publication of the Tourist arrivals during the January — April period this year dropped to 92,692 from 97,812 last year. The Ceylon Federation of Trade Unions has written to the Czechoslovak-based World Federation of Trade Unions requesting it to challenge Sri Lanka's nominees to the 69th session of the International Labour Organisation on the grounds that nominations have been made in contravention of the International Labour Organisation's Constitution. Police security was intensified in Bambalapitiya, Wellawatte, Dehiwela and Ratmalana areas yesterday; the reason for intensifying security was as a result of several reports of looting—*IS*. An election petition has been filed by Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara the unsuccessful candidate for the Eheliyagoda seat at the recent by-elections, against Dr. Leonard Kiriella who was elected MP under the UNP ticket—*VK*.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9: Ineffective tariff protection has driven a large number of local industries producing quality goods to the wall, a recent survey undertaken by the Industries Ministry's private sector division reveals. Two bombs had been hurled at the Cinnamon Gardens home of Tamil Congress boss Kumar Ponnambalam early on Wednesday morning while the household slept; nobody was hurt. A leading Nicaraguan politician yesterday accused the United States of moving nearer covert war with his country because of alleged US involvement in a plot to poison its Foreign Minister. The PLO chairman Mr. Yasser Arafat yesterday accused Libya and some Arab countries of conspiring to split the organisation; Mr. Arafat did not want to name the Arab countries involved in the conspiracy—*DN*. The Government will shortly summon a top level political meeting with the TULF in one final effort to eradicate terrorism and also solve any outstanding problems the Tamil community faces—*CDM*. A special team of detectives have been detailed

to process the documents recovered from a terrorist "bureau" in Vavuniya last week; according to intelligence gathered by this team, which consists of hand selected CID and ISD men from the Gurunagar security headquarters the terrorist movement in the north had existed "professionally" for more than a decade. An export ban on desiccated coconut and coconut oil was relaxed yesterday; instead, the Coconut Development Authority announced an enhanced floor price of 11.45 US dollars per ton on desiccated coconut and for the first imposed a floor price of 850 US dollars on coconut oil—*SU*. Prime Minister R. Premadasa is to be sworn in as the acting Minister of Defence on the eve of President J. R. Jayewardene's departure on a state visit to Egypt and Rome. The Cabinet yesterday decided to extend the application of the Assets and Liabilities Law to additional categories of persons. The Secretary-General of the SLFP Mr. Ratnasiri Wickremanayake yesterday informed in writing to the Secretary General of Parliament Mr. Nihal Seneviratne of the expulsion of the SLFP MP for Gampaha Mr. S. D. Bandaranayake from the party and that the member no longer represented the party in Parliament—*IS*. The Cabinet yesterday decided that all Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim religious areas will be rehabilitated and leaders of the respective religion will be in charge of such rehabilitation—*DP*.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10: The National Savings Bank which boasts of more accounts than any other bank in the country plans to enter the commercial money lending market on a much bigger scale than before. The funeral of Mr. S. B. Herath, Minister of Food and Cooperatives and MP for Hiriyala will take place at the Maligapittaniya, Kurunegala on Monday, June 13. NATO Foreign Minister will reaffirm alliance arms control goals today during closed door talks in which they will also assess Soviet policy intentions. Full US and Soviet teams meet today after a 10-week break continuing strategic arms talks with Fresh American proposals. Her Conservative Party gripped up and her labour opponents limped from one blunder to another, but Margaret Thatcher never stumbled in her drive for re-election as British Prime Minister—*DN*. There is strong reason to believe that Eelam sympathisers in England will try their utmost to stall or disrupt the Prudential World Cup first round game between Sri Lanka and England to be played at Somerset on atterday—*CDM*. A permanent committee to monitor the efficiency of the main infrastructural facilities — power, telecommunications, shipping and internal transport — has been called for by an expert task force. Government is to launch a multi-pronged programme with private sector assistance to counter the international smear campaign against Sri Lanka. The Rejarata Rifles regiment men who deserted their posts at Anuradhapura would not be taken back to the Army under any circumstances., Army

Headquarters announced yesterday—*SU*. Parliament yesterday approved by a majority of 40 votes the motion to appoint a Select Committee on the Mahara by-election after a six hour debate, three hours of which were spent by the Opposition trying to prevent the motion being taken up for debate; the MP for Gampaha S. D. Bandaranayake voted with the government while the TULF, CP and MEP opposed the motion; the SLFP had walked out in protest. Police reports from the provinces indicated the situation in most parts of the country was returning to normal—*IS*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11: Tea which remains the country's biggest exchange earner despite a strong challenge from Middle East remittances has hit record price levels in May, Forbes and Walker, the Colombo broking firm revealed in a market report published this week. The Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka, which begins operations in August will concentrate on service to development-oriented trade, even though this means lower profits the bank's General Manager, U. N. Jinasena told a press conference yesterday. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called for periodic North South summits between industrial and Third World countries to study world economic conditions and seek agreement on policies to avert recurrent crises. President Reagan said he was hopeful about the Soviet Unions response to his latest arms control proposals because the Kremlin had often changed positions in the past. The Soviet News Agency Tass dismissed President Reagan's revised strategic arms reduction (START) proposal as "mere words" and said the US position was getting tougher—*DN*. "City of Jayewardena-pura" latest acquisition of Air Lanka's Lockheed Tristar L 1011 widebodied aircraft, commanded by Capt. Rakkhitha Wickramanayake, Chairman and Managing Director, Air Lanka, will take President Jayewardene to Rome tonight—*CDM*. A 40 member Japanese business and investment delegation will arrive in Sri Lanka to finalise several joint ventures here, next month. The Tamil United Liberation Front TULF is willing to reconsider its call for Eelam and go before the people with a genuine alternative. Opposition Leader A. Amirthalingam said yesterday —*SU*. An unofficial curfew was imposed by the Police in Trincomalee from 6.30 p.m. to 6 a. m. on Wednesday and Thursday to curb an outbreak of sporadic disturbances. The Secretary to the Ministry of State Mr. Douglas Liyanage took ITN to task for not simultaneously telecasting on Tuesday night President J. R. Jayewardene's address to the nation at the Gamudawa Exhibition grounds Nikaweratiya —*IS*. D. I. G. R. Suntharalingam said yesterday that the tension that prevailed during the last ten days in various parts of the country resulting from violence has been brought under control—*DP*.

SUNDAY JUNE 12: The vigilance of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce which conducts gem auctions

and the Department of Inland Revenue has resulted in the detection of a million rupee racket perpetrated by some wealthy businessmen obtain tax exemption certificates. The Archbishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando has made an appeal for peace in the country to all citizens. An order has been made to interdict the bodyguard of a northern politician who had taken charge of the remains of a terrorist suspect who died of injuries following a shoot out with the police in Vavuniya recently—*SO*. President J. R. Jayewardene addressing senior officers of the Armed Forces on the eve of his departure abroad, emphasised that the armed services should be a disciplined body and had an important role in eliminating violence and mob violence—*ST*. Unidentified "goon squads" last morning demonstrated outside and damaged the houses of three senior members of the judiciary. An alleged attempt to bomb the residence of Trincomalee M. P. R. Sampanthan was foiled yesterday morning when two handbombs hurled at his residence struck a coconut tree and missed their target. A new Cabinet portfolio of Women's Affairs and Teaching Hospitals was created yesterday by President J. R. Jayewardene with Mrs. Sunethara Ranasinghe being sworn in as the new Minister—*WK*. The Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Criminal Procedure Code are to be amended with immediate effect to give wider powers to the Army to curb terrorism in the north and other pockets of terrorist activities. A 16 hour curfew was clamped down on Trincomalee, yesterday following a recurrence of violent incidents in the area; the curfew was effective from 2 p.m. yesterday till 5 a. m. in the morning today—*IS*.



VOA EDITORIAL

Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Washington. It is a paradox, but because the knowledge of how Atoms are split cannot be erased from the human mind, the fundamental purpose of nuclear weapons is to make sure that they are never used. That at least, is what this country believes to be the responsibility of the nations who possess nuclear weapons. But there is another effort in which the active cooperation of every country is necessary if nuclear stability — and thus peace — is to be preserved. That effort is nuclear non-proliferation — stopping the spread of nuclear arms.

It is easy to see the danger to the world if scores of countries were to possess nuclear weapons.

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Greater access to nuclear arms would mean much greater risk of actual use — by accident or even by design. There is reason however to be encouraged by the fact that 116 countries — the vast majority — are parties to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty of 1968. Still other countries, while not yet signatories to the treaty, have nonetheless refrained from developing nuclear arms. But this is not because they all lack the capability. In this age of advanced technology and widespread scientific expertise, even the most rigorous controls over the export of nuclear materials could not alone, for all time, prevent nuclear proliferation. Rather, the reason that so many countries have decided not to "go nuclear" is that they have recognized that the acquisition of nuclear arms will not enhance their own security.

Simply put, these countries have realized that proliferation breeds proliferation. When a country requires nuclear arms, it only increases the danger that its adversaries will do likewise. Thus, international relationships that are already likely to be tense are destabilized further — and at much higher risk. That is why responsible leaders have kept their non-nuclear countries out of the nuclear arena. It is in their own best interests—and it benefits the world in turn. But the United States has its own contribution to make. As in the past, we will insist on strong, secure export controls on nuclear technology. We will work to reduce any false temptation for nuclear proliferation by improving regional and global security. And we will continue to work to maintain stability in the present nuclear balance — providing a strong nuclear, deterrent and negotiating for real balanced arms reductions. Because the effort to prevent the use of nuclear weapons and the effort to stop their spread have the same objective; the preservation of peace.—*USIS*.



ARMS TALKS

Soviet Position

Moscow,; United States President Ronald Reagan made a statement on June 8 in connection with the resumption in Geneva of the Soviet-American talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic armaments. The aim of the US administration's directives at the Geneva talks, the President said, is to "adjust" the US position at the talks and bring it into line with the recommendations drawn by General Scowcroft's Commission. This commission, comprising former defence secretaries, was set up by the White House to push through Congress programmes of new MX Missiles and other strategic armaments opposed by part of US Congressmen. Establishing the Scowcroft Commission, the President vaguely promised the legislators, apparently for the sake of camouflage, to undertake "new efforts" at the Geneva talks. In exchange, as is

known, the administration secured congressional approval for the rapid development of the system of new strategic missiles MX. Ronald Reagan in his statement now seems to be trying to concretise his promise to Congress. What was new that he said in connection with the resumption of the Geneva talks? The Head of the White House using vague formulations, tried to convince the public that the United States allegedly, decided to adopt a "more flexible" position at the talks. This "flexibility", as his statement shows, does not in any way affect the essence of Washington's position directed, as before, at gaining military superiority and pressing the Soviet Union into unilateral disarmament.

The majority of experts in the Reagan administration, the *New York Times* points out today, believe that the new approach will give nothing to find a way out of the impasse at the Soviet-American talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic armaments. Paul Warnke, former head of the US delegation at the Soviet-American SALT talks, in an interview with the ABC television network, expressed the opinion that Reagan's "new" proposals will be unacceptable to the Soviet Union. They envisage a very sharp reduction in the basis of the USSR's strategic forces, Warnke declared. As to the United States, it reserves the right to produce a thousand more warheads for MX. What then remains of Ronald Reagan's calls to conduct the talks in a "constructive spirit"? First, the US administration launched its new military programmes of building up strategic armaments and then started a salutary talk about "flexibility" and "new approach" at the Geneva negotiations. So, no desire to achieve a mutually-acceptable accord, mentioned by the President, is in sight. On the contrary his statement reveals something different — the aspiration to undermine by any means the principle of equality and equal security of the sides on which rested the talks on SALT 1 and SALT 2.

As a matter of fact Reagan does not conceal that the essence of his "initiative" remains to limit, first of all, the number of ballistic missiles, above all land-based ones, which make up the backbone of the Soviet Union's strategic defence potential. The American President's declaration that the United States is now prepared to "raise the ceiling" for the overall number of ballistic missiles is nothing but adjustment towards toughening the American position in connection with the Pentagon's changed plans, specifically, as already mentioned, the deployment shortly of two new types of intercontinental ballistic missiles. It is noteworthy that the White House chief in his statement kept silent on the constructive Soviet proposals which envisage deep reductions of all types of strategic armaments with the simultaneous blocking of new channels for the race of these armaments. He did not mention the USSR's concrete proposals contained in the

draft treaty tabled by the Soviet delegation at the negotiations in Geneva. The President did not react either to the Soviet Government's statement of May 28 this year which advanced concrete ways towards reaching a mutually acceptable accord at the Geneva talks. What is then the worth of the President's pronouncement that "due largely to Soviet intransigence, we have not yet made meaningful progress on the central issues"? What is the worth of the President's declaration that he is "firmly committed to take whatever steps are necessary" which would provide for "significant reductions in US and Soviet strategic nuclear arsenals." These are mere words, nothing more.—APN.

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SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

The Problem of Water

Washington. The prospects of Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon — without which Israel refuses to leave even under the US negotiated agreement — have suddenly become linked with Israel's hunger for land water for its growing population. Syria has reportedly informed Lebanon that it will not withdraw from the Bekaa valley until Lebanon signs a security treaty with Syria guaranteeing that Lebanese or Syrian troops or a combination of both would protect the headwaters in the Bekaa valley of Syria's Ornatés river which irrigates much of Syria and supplies it with electric power. Syria is afraid that if it withdraws, sooner or later, Israel would seize the headwaters and dominate Syria and deprive it of a large percentage of its electric power. Lebanon too fears that Israel will divert its water if it is not already doing so on a limited scale. The Lebanese President Mr. Amin Gemayel fears that Israel will ease its growing water crisis by diverting into Israel part of the Litani river following published plans dating back 40 years. The Israeli-Lebanon peace plan will leave Israel or its surrogates in control of the area. Israel already appears to be enhancing the flow of another Lebanese river, the Hesbani into Israel — it already flows into Israel forming part of the Jordan river headwaters — through new pipes and improved pumping installations. There is also a strong suspicion that Israel may have been siphoning water underground from Lebanon to its northern Galilee settlements since its earlier incursion into Lebanon in 1978. Israel's demand that it control the water on the West Bank has already held up implementation of the Camp David plan of limited autonomy or the Arabs. There are all kinds of reasons for the failure of Camp David but the water demands of Israel prevent even pro-American Arabs from accepting the plan.—AFP

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AMERICAN VIEW

South Asian Economies

By Jon Schaffer

Manila. The Asian region is "well positioned" to rebound from global recession and register strong economic growth over the next several years, according to US Secretary of the Treasury Donald Regan. But Regan cautioned Asian Finance Ministers May 5 that continued success depends upon the ability of these countries to maintain and, in some cases, improve their management practices. "In our view prospects for the economies of the Asian region are bright", Regan said in a speech before the May 4 - 6 annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank. He pointed out that last year's 3.8 percent economic growth of the region's developing countries, though well below the 6.4 percent achieved in 1981, was higher than in other developing countries. Much of the slowdown in growth was due to poor agricultural production, lower commodity prices and sluggish demand for manufactured exports as a result of the world economic downturn, according to the recently released annual report of the Asian Development Bank. Regan also noted that the sharp reduction in regional inflation to eight percent two years earlier "contrasts impressively" with other regions in the developing world. "The combination of relative price stability and continued positive growth suggests that your economies will be able to respond quickly to expanding export markets and to the signals for investment that the anticipated global recovery will send," Regan told the Governors.

Other US officials credited the "strong Asian work ethic" and the ability to maintain a high savings rate and to resist excessive external borrowing during the global downturn as providing the Asian region with a solid launchpad for strong recovery. Secretary Regan said that recovery in the United States will be an important element in the prospects for growth in Asia because the United States accounts for about 20 percent of total exports from the developing member countries of the ADB. In 1982 two-way trade between the United States and the Asia and Pacific area mounted to almost 136,000 million dollars — about 23 percent higher than US-Western European trade, Regan told US businessmen later in the same day. *Currently the United States depends on Asia and the Pacific region for 90 percent of its natural rubber, palm oil, and coconut oil imports; more than 70 percent of its imports of tin, plywood, and veneers; over 60 percent of its wool, meat imports and 28 percent of its sugar, as well as tropical timber, bauxite and tungsten.* In turn, US officials say that strong recovery in Asia will feed back to the US economy and help sustain its recovery. US exports to the developing countries in Asia totalled about 28,000 million dollars in 1982. US

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direct investment in Asia in 1981 grew by 18 percent over 1980 to 27,000 million dollars — exceeding the growth rate of US direct investment worldwide. "American businessmen are obviously aware of the bright prospects for this region and consequently are investing in the technical and entrepreneurial skills as well as in the natural resources found here," Regan told the US Chamber of Commerce in Manila May 5. In his speech to Asian Finance Ministers however the Treasury Secretary stressed that the degree of mutual benefit that the United States and Asian countries receive from ECNS and called on all countries to resist protectionism. Regan urged the ADB members to support efforts in the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) to reduce barriers to trade in services (banking insurance telecommunications etc.). Second he urged the Asian countries to allow private initiative to lead their economies to stronger growth and to avoid seeking remedies to economic problems through expanded public sector actions. Third Regan emphasized that the problem of managing external debt will continue to be a problem worldwide and that the Asian nations must continue prudent management of national economies.

According to the ADB's annual report, the region's combined trade deficit rose by 5 000 million dollars to 26 000 million dollars in 1982. External debt in 1981 — the latest year for which data is available— climbed 12 percent over 1980 to 94 000 million dollars. "Given the events of the recent past the economic policies of borrowing nations will be carefully scrutinized by the capital markets" Regan said. "For our part, I pledge the US capital markets will remain open to credit worthy borrowers free of artificial constraints and we will continue to resist protectionism". In this regard the Asian Development Bank has an important role by giving countries project and sector-related policy advice he said. The United States is sensitive to the impact of the global recession on the Bank's member countries Regan told the Ministers. "To the extent the Bank can assist these countries by modifying certain operational policies in the areas of local cost-financing, program lending and improving loan administration procedures, we will be happy to consider carefully such initiatives" he said. "We should not lose sight of the fact however that the primary activity of the ADB must continue to be financing the foreign exchange component of soundly conceived and well designed priority development projects" he continued. "The bank's good reputation has been built on this basis and the capital markets have acknowledged it in the form of the top ratings given to ADB bonds. Any precipitous action, no matter how well-intended, which would jeopardise this reputation must be avoided." According to other US officials, the Treasury Secretary was, in part, referring to suggestions by some that the Bank allow more non-convertible currency to be considered

as financial collateral. The ADB has traditionally followed a much more cautious lending policy in this area than has the World Bank, these officials said. On the whole, however, US officials expressed considerable satisfaction with the bank's effort to monitor the amount of country debt closely and to assist in building up exports to facilitate payments on this debt. "The ADB is getting more stringent, tougher in terms of good, sound domestic economic policies," according to a US official based in Manila. "I think that shows in the record of this part of the world with the growth rates".—USIS



BACKGROUNDER

Diego Garcia

New Delhi: Despite powerful worldwide protest against the development of the Indian Ocean military base on Diego Garcia, the United States is continuing its menacing activity. This was confirmed by Alain Harel, a French priest who spent three weeks on the island in order to look after the religious welfare of the Filipino contract workers. Father Harel said that the runways on this coral atoll had been widened and extended to a length of over two miles (3.2 km) to allow B-52 bombers carrying nuclear weapons to land and take off. Special facilities were also installed for deploying Boeing 757s which can be refuelled in the air. A deep sea harbour for large vessels has been constructed within the horseshoe-shaped lagoon. The total area of the island is 29 sq. km. Alain Harel's observations have confirmed reports that the US had set up a huge arsenal for arms and amunitions as well as food supplies for contingents of the so-called rapid deployment force and that it had made the harbour ready for receiving aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines. The threat to the security of the Indian Ocean states from this Pentagon base is real and growing day by day.

The concern expressed at the seventh NAM summit here in March over the hectic militarisation of the Indian Ocean and the "extension of existing bases, the search for new ones and the setting up of new military command structures" is shared particularly by the adjoining states. "These activities threaten the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of the states in this region" noted the concluding declaration of the New Delhi summit. The French priest also reported on the acute contrasts the island presents today. On the one hand there are luxurious living conditions i.e., air conditioned flats for 1 000 marines a cinema and supermarket and on the other, the ghost villages in which the 2 000 people of Diego Garcia lived up to the middle 60s when they were expelled from the island. It was shattering to see that. One can still find some of the islanders' belongings in the huts

as if the owners were due to return shortly something which is of course not going to happen" declared Alain Harel. He added that from that he had seen the conclusion can be drawn that the base is going to be extended for years to come. The fully justified demand of the government of Mauritius to return Diego Garcia which is a part of the Chagos Archipelago is being rejected arrogantly by US officials according to Father Harel. But it is precisely on this issue that Mauritius had the support of the heads of state and government of the nonaligned nations assembled in New Delhi. The movement sees this not only a national problem affecting Mauritius but perceives it as being related to the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean.—IPA

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ARGENTINA

CP Wins Recognition

Buenos Aires: For the first time in 65 years of its existence, the Communist Party of Argentina has officially got the status of a political party in Argentina. It has won the right of official registration to participate in elections. Along with a number of other political parties it will legally participate in the general elections scheduled to be held on October 30 this year.

In the decision of the juridical authorities it is emphasised that the Communist Party of Argentina "is recognized as the national party which has the exclusive right to call itself the Communist Party. . . . The charter of the Communist Party, its political actions, the declaration of principles which accord with the law in the country are recognized in the decision."

That was the successful outcome of the campaign of collecting a minimum 36,000 signatures of supporters of the Communist Party, necessary for its registration, which was under way in the past few months. The Communist Party of Argentina collected more than 100,000 signatures.—PL

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AFGHANISTAN

Millat Dissolved

Kabul: The militant anti-government organisation "Afghan Millat" which has been carrying out counter-revolutionary activities from bases situated in Pakistan, has dissolved itself. In a statement issued here the leadership of the party announced the cessation of all anti-Afghanistan activities and also asked its members to stop hostilities and cooperate with the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in rebuilding the nation. Addressing a press conference here, Abdul Hamid, a prominent Pushtu leader and general secretary of the Afghan Millat said that his organisation, led by such nationalist leaders as Gulam Mohammad Farhad who was chairman of

the Millat till the day of its dissolution, stood for an independent and progressive Afghanistan, which respected the religious sentiments of the people. Another aim of the party was to make Pushtu the state language.

As a result of failure of national leadership of the Millat to fully comprehend the progressive nature of the April revolution and also due to mistakes committed during the Amin rule, the organisation went underground and began to operate from Pakistan. The Millat leader admitted that his underground military set up which was engaged in hostilities in the Nangarhar province attacked government troops in Jalalabad used to receive money from rich landlords and also from the American and British intelligence services operating from Pakistan. "We have realised that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Afghan government pursue a policy which is not different from the declared aims of the Millat" said Abdul Hamid as the reason for disbanding the Party and deciding to work with the PDPA.—Baktar.

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SOVIET— FINNISH

Treaty Renewed

By Masood Ali Khan

Moscow: The development of relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Finland on a free and equal basis not only strengthens peace and Security in Europe but also serves as a positive example in the struggle against the forces of war and military confrontation. The state visit of Finland's President, Mauni Koivisto, to the Soviet Union and the extension for further 20 years of the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, the signing of other documents on extension of cooperation in agriculture and economic field, and above all the general climate of good neighbourly relations serve as a positive example in the international field. It is no secret that the USA and western imperialist powers have been doing all they can to spoil these relations. But in spite of all their efforts, for 35 years the Soviet-Finnish treaty has served well and has been to the mutual advantage of both sides.

The extension of the treaty for another 20 years has been a major political event not only in bilateral relations but also on the wider international plane. "Soviet-Finnish relations are not to the liking of the exponents of aggravation of international tension and unbridled arms race, the preachers of the cult of the policy of strength, those who are leaders to command other peoples, to scare them with the spectre of "Soviet threat". This is understandable; for, our relations are indisputable evidence of the groundlessness of everything that the poisoners of

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the international situation are trying to make peoples believe", said Yuri Andropov at the Kremlin dinner in honour of the President of Finland. He said that the traditional cooperation of the two countries was being strengthened and this was a convincing example, of how successful and fruitful relations between state with different social systems and different ideologies can become. Andropov said that the USSR values the international role of Finland. The Soviet Union welcomes the Finnish proposal for the establishment of a nuclear free zone in northern Europe. The Soviet Union is not only sympathetic to the idea but "is prepared to facilities its creation". The Soviet Union was ready, he said, to study the question and even question concerning the Soviet Union's adjoining territory in this connection to enhance the consolidation of such a nuclear-free zone.—*New Age*



SL AGRICULTURE —4

Forests, Soil & Victoria

By Dr. S. N. de S. Seneviratne

IF THE SELF-DESTRUCTION of the previous government is a cause of satisfaction for the Government that followed it, a warning about complacency is not out of place. Corruption and political patronage have continued in the organisations and systems affecting the land and the people. In the Corporations, Chairmen and Directors have come and gone — abroad, and home. In the Ministries heavy weights have fallen from their chairs. They have for the most part only withdrawn from the prestige spots to live in comfort on the benefits they had secured for themselves. No one has received a charge sheet; no one has lost his civic rights; no one is in prison. A stench emanates from tenders and imports — fertilizers, potatoes, seeds. Massive sums of money are involved. *There are rumblings*

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that private sector undertakings in the agricultural sector are securing benefits through politically influential connections. The writing is on the wall. It is not too early to read it. I will now turn to some of the more disturbing matters relating to agricultural development, to the cankerous growths Good, sincere and able men at the top have made bad mistakes. They often rely on their advisers — local and foreign — experts and consultants. More than a few of these advisers are professional con men. They mislead the decision makers. Yet, neither the responsibility for these ill-conceived decisions nor their disastrous consequences can be avoided.

THE FOREST is an invaluable resource. It is a most important factor in agricultural development. The irrigation schemes that have been launched are dependent on the flow of water in the rivers. All major rivers have their origin in the central hills. The forest determines the flow in them. The importance of the forest and the need for forest conservation and protection cannot be over-emphasised. Yet, what devastation it has been subjected to. During the past 25 years, the forest cover has dwindled by three million acres and is now estimated to be only about 25% of the total land area. Well stocked forest has been reduced from about 550,000 acres to about 200,000 acres. In terms of the country's agricultural development, this rape of the forest is a cause for alarm. The forest will not regenerate because a foreign export mouths a *gull* that we have a youthful Minister! The forest has received too little attention. We are playing with fire and unless development and rehabilitation of forest resources are accelerated, the consequences can be catastrophic. With our amazing capability to destroy and vandalism now almost a national trait, stringent penalties must be enforced to protect what remains from further destruction. Sinharaja and Horton Plains bear evidence of the destruction caused by disturbance of their delicate ecosystems.

Soil conservation which is no less important has also received too little recognition. Land development is often conceived of as the hacking of jungles and the provision of irrigation water for cultivation. Soil conservation and water management in the irrigation schemes have received inadequate attention. Several years ago Kantalai and Hingurana were "opened up" for sugar cane cultivation. Faulty water management has caused virtual devastation of land in these two projects necessitating "rehabilitation". Why? Because adequate information — which must come from research — was wanting about water management in lands of this particular topography, soil types etc. So development was quickly followed by disaster. The hopes entertained for sugar production in these schemes have not been realised. Will this experience be repeated in the massive irrigation schemes now being launched?

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE for reliable research data and technical competence to interpret that data so that the structure of the soil will not be affected adversely. Information available elsewhere on the irrigation of flat land expanse may be irrelevant in managing water for the undulating dry zone of Sri Lanka. *If the prospect of land destruction by faulty irrigation must await confirmation in the years to come, destruction by submergence is not far off for the inundation of a large part of the Dumbara Valley is one of the most heart breaking tragedies of the Mahaweli Development Programme for more than a few.* This is the sacrifice being made for the high dam of the Victoria Project intended for power generation. Choices are not always easy and unpalatable decisions may be inevitable. Yet what is the balance sheet for Victoria — what will be lost in exchange for power and what will be the magnitude of these losses? *The Dumbara Valley* has a unique mild climate and fertile soils supporting intensive cultivation of a diversity of crops including rice vegetables fruits spices beverages rubber, coconut and timber. Cropping patterns have been evolved there over centuries. Most of the produce from the luscious market gardens of Teldeniya, Haragama and Gurudeniya find a ready market in Colombo. The value of the agricultural produce there exceeds 40 million rupees annually. Dairy farming accounts for about 10 000 pints of milk a day supplied to the Milk Board alone. Because of the high value of the commodities produced, a half acre holding can support a family in relative comfort. Additionally, there are clay and sand dolomite and mica gems, and now copper.

About 7 000 acres of prime agricultural land will be destroyed for the Victoria Project. There are several temples of great historical significance and other sites of cultural value. About 20,000 persons will be displaced, over 3,000 families uprooted from their villages and stable communities broken. The value of the land, roads, buildings and installations that would be lost is estimated at over 500 million rupees. *Instead of destroying the Dumbara Valley, could not greater use have been made of the Walawe which receives rain from both monsoons and which has the best forest cover of all our rivers and the most uniform flow, for power generation?* For the old fashioned, for those who are still committed to agriculture, who value the cultural heritage of this country, who are unwilling to accept all this destruction as the price for electrical energy, Victoria power is an unbearable shock. For the modern — businessmen, brokers, bankers and other inhabitants of high-rise air conditioned buildings in the metropolis, power perhaps is all that matters.

To be continued

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PEPPER

King of Spices

IN THE FORESTS of Malabar on the southwest coast of India, an old man pointed to a creeper growing on a rough-barked tree. "Mark that vine well," he said with a mixture of awe and reverence. "It has changed the history of the world." The climbing plant's philodendron-like leaves spread in a mass of foliage, its wire-tough roots grasped the bark of the supporting tree. I had to search carefully to find the catkins of green berries concealed in the profusion of leaves. The old man was right: because of this innocent-looking fruit, man had risked death, circumnavigated the globe, subjugated continents and discovered the new world. This climbing evergreen vine, *Piper nigrum*-pepper, is the undisputed king of spices. It is a native of Malabar, this pungent condiment has changed the cause of history.

Pepper has been used by man for more than 3000 years. It was one of the earliest exports of India. For centuries, pepper and other spices were a monopoly of Arab traders whose seafarers had discovered the secret of the monsoon winds to and from India. Between 10,000 and 12,000 tons are exported every year. All this amounts to a great deal of pepper, but then there is hardly a savory dish that is not improved by the addition of this tangy Indian spice. Even the late French master chef Louis Diat once said that no other spice can do so much for so many different types of food.

Hugh Gantzer

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INTERCROPPING WITH

Cassava (Manioc)

Cassava: Two local selections MU 71 and MU 18, and three introductions Llanera, CMC 84 and Philippine have given 20 - 30 t/ha in the wet zone (Walpita) and 15—20 t/ha in the dry zone (Embilipitiya) Llanera is particularly suitable for intercropping with grain legumes. A **Cassava-bushitao** combination has given the best results. *The intercropping* was done as follows:- cassava was planted 90x 90 cm, with two rows of soyabean or bushitao or cowpea planted 30 x 15 cm. between two rows of cassava. Or in the alternative two rows of greengram or blackgram planted 30 x 7.5 cm. between every two rows of cassava. The results of two seasons experiments conducted at Peradeniya and Walpita are given in Table 5 below:—

Intercropping Trials with Cassava and Grain Legumes

Experiment 1		
Crops	Legumes (t/ha)	Cassava (t/ha)
Llanera + Bushitao	5.90	15.38
" + Blackgram	1.40	11.07
" + Cowpea	1.10	—
" + Greengram	0.60	12.56
Llanera Control	—	14.66
MU 22 + Bushitao	4.30	10.58
" + Blackgram	0.96	9.91
" + Cowpea	0.70	10.56
" + Greengram	0.60	8.74
Mu 22 Control	—	9.40

Experiment 2		
Crop	Legume (t/ha)	Cassava (t/ha)
Llanera + Bushitao	4.93	18.00
" + Blackgram	0.64	18.30
" + Cowpea	0.33	12.19
" + Greengram	0.55	14.70
Llanera Control	—	15.65
Sel. 3 + Bushitao	4.71	14.70
" + Blackgram	0.39	16.10
" + Cowpea	0.23	14.70
" + Greengram	0.46	13.89
Sel. 3 Control	—	24.40

—Research Highlights

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GROUNDNUT

Increasing Yields on Hard Soils

GROUNDNUT is one of the most important oil-yielding commercial crops in dry farming areas of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh in South India and is cultivated as rainfed crop over an area of about one million hectares. Wide variation in pod yields (ranging from 400 to 1 500 kg/ha) of groundnut in farmer's fields are reported under rainfed conditions even with good management practices. Unlike other crops, the economic product i.e. pod in groundnut develops in the soil. Groundnut flowers are fertilized above the groundnut and the peg containing fertilized ovary penetrates the soil surface upto a depth of 2 to 7 cm. before the pod development occurs. After the peg enters the soil, physical factors surrounding it may also effect its development. Studies on the effect of soil physical factors on groundnut pod development have indicated that the pegs that penetrated the upper 1.5 cm of pegging zone of soil and the weight of pods that developed, decreased as the resistance increased.

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One of the major reasons for productivity of groundnut in Alfisols (Red soils) may be the variation in the bulk density of soils (above 1.5 g/cc). The soils being sandy clay loam in texture, from a hard pan during periods of prolonged dry spells between two rains. Such prolonged dry spells are common occurrences in these areas. These soils become extremely hard when dry spell occurs, causing impedance to peg penetration and the initial pod development of groundnut. This is a serious limitation to crop production. Soil strength increases with high bulk densities and high soil moisture tension while soil aeration decreases under those situations. Because of increased soil strength and bulk density followed by dry spell, formation of hard pan occurs just below the soil surface resulting in prevention of root penetrations to longer depths and consequent reduction of water and nutrient—uptake.

Studies indicated that the higher levels of bulk density (above 1.5 g/cc) in sandy clay loams coupled with moisture stress significantly reduced plant height leaf area index, total biomass, harvest index, pod and haulm yield of groundnut. In order to improve the production of groundnut in these problem soils, there is need to improve their physical conditions by adopting suitable management practices such as addition of soil amendments like organic manures, gypsum and powdered groundnut shells etc. Studies revealed that application of powdered groundnut shells (5 tonnes/ha) was very effective in improving the production of groundnut in problem soils. An extra yield of 588 kg/ha was recorded with application of powdered groundnut shells. These amendments improve the soil aeration infiltration rate, water retention capacity, structure and other physical conditions of soil leading to the realisation of optimum crop growth and pod yield.

Dr. A. Padma Raju, K. Venkaiah and Dr. P. S. S. Murthy, National Agricultural Research Project S.V. Agricultural College, Tirupati.

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A NOTE ON

Coarse Grains

Maize: Bhadra I (Improved Thai Composite) is the currently recommended variety. But as the vigour and production potential of this hybrid has noticeably deteriorated in recent years, several new composites have been developed at Maha Illuppallama. It is too early yet to make any definite recommendations. Among the introduced selections tested at Maha Illuppallama, Los Banos, Pozarico 7822, Sete Logoars 7728, Ferke 7622, Ferke 7928 and Across 7729 have given higher yields than Bhadra I.

Kurakkan : Two recent introductions from India, CO 10 and KM 1—both of 3 months duration—have produced 2,300—3,000 lb/ac. under experimental conditions, compared to an average output of 1,500—2,000 lb/ac. in the local varieties. These two varieties have also been cultivated successfully in the Yala season with supplementary irrigation. However Hamsa, a shorter aged white seeded variety appears more suitable for cultivation during Yala. This variety has produced 2 000 lb/ac. with supplementary irrigation.

Millets : The following 28 months varieties of Itlain millet (Thana Hal) from Bangalore show promise : KHS 1 and IS C40. They produce over 2 000 lb/ac. Also the following varieties of Proso millet (Meneri) : MS 2420 and MS 1491.—*Research Highlights*

Are these varieties available to farmers for cultivation ? Where ?—*Editor.*

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SWEDEN

Turns to Wind Energy

Sweden's full scale, prototype wind generators, one on the island of Gotland, off the east coast ; the other in Maglarp, on the mainland, are now complete. The construction of the two windgenerators from the major part of the £ 15m Swedish wing programme which is intended to test the potential of this form of alternative energy. *Studies have shown that up to 20 terawatt hours (million million watt hours) a year of wind generated electricity grid without any major modifications.*

Both wind machines are so-called horizontal axis designs, which means that the two blades spin in the same way as conventional windmills. The other type of wind machine design which competes in the "Darrieus" which looks rather like a giant egg beater and spins in a vertical axis. *There is still controversy over which of these windmill designs are best, as evidence to date has been inconclusive.*

Even to generate a modest 2 MW of power the scale of the wind generator is enormous. The two bladed turbines of steel and glass re-inforced concrete of the Gotland machine has a diameter of 75 metres and is mounted on an 80 meter high re-inforced concrete tower. The wind turbine control system is microprocessor-based so that the pitch of the blades is altered to cope with different wind speeds and directions and to prevent the turbine being overloaded in abnormal wind conditions. In addition the machine is connected to sophisticated measuring instruments to assess performance over the next three years.

Sweden has considerable potential for offshore wind power generation and studies are being carried

out to determine whether placing wind generators on floating platforms is cheaper than building them on land. But windpower is just one of 15 programmes now underway through the auspices of the Swedish Government. Just how important a role windpower will play in the country's overall energy plans is still too early to say. But the Government hopes to have an answer before 1985. The main object of the national policy is to reduce oil dependence through a vigorous conservation programme and through the substitution of oil with durable, preferably renewable and indigenous sources of energy with the least effect on the environment.

— *Financial Times.*

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PROFIT-MAKING OIL SEED

Gingelly

SESAMUM (gingelly), is an easy and economic crop. With its wide-adaptability, this oilseed of high commercial significance, has won a permanent berth in the list of crops of many farmers. A short duration annual, sesamum can be grown in any type of soil. Besides lending itself to be rotated with many other crops, it also fits well in double cropped areas.

There are a number of high yielding varieties, suitable for different agro-climatic regions in the country. The important early maturing types are JT-7, JT-62-34, (recommended for Madhya Pradesh). TC-25 and TC-66 (ideal varieties for Punjab conditions), T-13 and T-12 (for farmers of Uttar Pradesh), BM-1—2 a d Sel-12 (for Orissa) and SP-1162 (suitable for Tamil Nadu). *Sesamum cultivation does not demand elaborate field preparations and a few turnings of soil with desi plough, followed by planking will be adequate. Special attention should be paid to clearing all weeds from the field and in keeping the land perfectly levelled in order to prevent any water logging.*

Experiments have shown that a fertilizer dose of 75 kg. nitrogen and 75 kg phosphorus per hectare will give very good results. The nitrogenous fertilizer is split into three doses for its efficient uptake by the crop. Half the recommended quantity is applied basally, and the remaining half is split into two equal portions to be applied 45 days after planting and at grain-filling stage. The ideal periods for sowing (in India—*Ed.*) are June-July and October-November and the seed rate per hectare of pure crop is five to six kilograms. *Sesamum is sown either as a mixed crop or broadcast on bunds. The seeds are sown in lines at a row to row distance of 30 cm and plant to plant distance of 6-7 cm within a row. The crop responds well to irrigation and two waterings on*

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35th and 50th days of germination will show promising results. In the initial stages the crop manages with the residual moisture of pre-sowing irrigation.

Sesamum is attacked by quite a few diseases and insects. *Cercospora leaf spot*, *macrophomina blight*, *phyllody* and *powdery mildew* are the major fungal infections that cripple this oilseed crop, and *leaf roller* and *capsule borer* and the most devastating sesamum pests. By treating the seeds with *Thiram* at 0.3 per cent the seed-borne pathogens could be got rid off and sprayings with *Dithane M-45* (0.3 per cent) and *Endosulphan* (0.07 per cent) and wettable *Sulphur* (0.3 per cent) on 55th day of planting will stave off the diseases and pests.

The crop can be harvested when the capsules are fully ripe (indicated by the yellowing of leaves and the capsules). The entire plant is cut and bundled, and after half drying, the bundles of plants are beaten with wooden mallets to separate the grains. This process is repeated after every three to four days till all grains are collected. A proper drying of harvested produce and a well ventilated storage helps in keeping up the quality and shelf-life of the grains. *For seed purpose, the material should be kept separately after treating with fungicides like Thiram at 0.3 per cent concentration. The seeds under periodical inspection and drying can be preserved maintaining the quality, at farmers place itself.—Hindu*

FOCUS ON THE VILLAGE

SHELTER IN THE THIRD WORLD— 3

High Technology Is Not The Answer

By Jorge Hardoy and David Satterthwaite.

SHELTER NEED AND RESPONSE : HOUSING, LAND AND SETTLEMENT POLICIES IN SEVENTEEN THIRD WORLD NATIONS by Jorge Hardoy and David Satterthwaite, John Wiley and Sons, April 1981. This book summarises the findings of an assessment project by the International Institute for Environment and Development in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies, Mysore (India), the Department of Architecture, Khartoum University (the Sudan), the Faculty of Environmental Design, Lagos University (Nigeria), and the Centre for Urban and Regional Research, Buenos

Aires (Argentina). The countries covered were Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, the Sudan and Tunisia; Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania; India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Singapore; and Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico.

This survey did not cover Sri Lanka where important developments in housing have taken place. This article we publish in instalments by courtesy of the Bombay monthly, "The Other Side".—Ed.

Implicit in many national housing programmes is the belief that the "housing problem" can be solved if enough capital is available and advanced technology is used. Many governments have welcomed international loans for such programmes and have imported industrialised building systems to construct so called "low cost" units. No heed is paid to the fact that such systems were developed in societies where household incomes were far higher, production was continuous and the building industry was well developed. Nor is note taken of the unit's high maintenance costs, their unpopularity with lower income families in the West, and the social problems they have generated.

In fact, the cheapest "low cost" house built to prevailing standards with any technology is too expensive for most Third World households. If each unit is heavily subsidized so lower income households can afford it, even a large housing budget can only build very few in relation to need. Then there is the problem of allocating those that are built. And in this process, very rarely are the poorer households allocated such houses. Indeed, it is usually relatively well-off households who benefit. But if little or no subsidy is given to each unit, then only a relatively wealthy household can afford it. So again, the lower income groups receive no benefit. Kenya's recent experience in this is instructive. Since urban housing construction was falling far behind rapidly growing needs, the 1974-78 Development Plan outlined a major "low cost" housing programme financed by public authorities. The 1979-83 Plan admits that "only 8 percent of the low cost units planned were in fact completed and these cost on average five times the expected amounts". Although the proposed low-cost units may have seemed cheap enough to reach relatively low income households, clearly the final product was not.

This gap between what is planned and what is actually built can be found in nation after nation. It is partly due to official standards and building norms demanding designs and materials which simply make each unit unnecessarily expensive. They often demand the use of building materials which have to be imported — with all that this implies in terms of cost and of endless delays as supplies of imported materials are held up. •But

even assuming that some advanced building system could produce "low cost" units acceptable to local needs, cultures and climate (and there is no evidence to date to suggest that they ever will), just the cost of acquiring of an undeveloped housing site in a major urban centre and installing services there will push final unit prices far beyond the means of those most in need.

The one national programme which seems to contradict both the gap between what governments plan and then achieve and the fact that public housing programmes can have little impact, is Singapore. This nation's public housing programme is often held up as an example which others should seek to emulate. In purely quantitative terms since 1960, Singapore's programme has been on a scale relative to national population, which not other nation has matched. But leaving aside the crucial issue of the social effects of the housing blocks on their inhabitants, a factor which may yet haunt Singapore's "economic miracle", the programme's quantitative success was only possible due to factors which have little or nothing to do with the public housing units themselves. The most obvious is that Singapore City had a very fast growing economy over two decades, coupled with very slow migration from other towns and from rural areas (since the island is very small and has virtually no rural population). Other Third World cities are not so fortunate. For they can never combine very rapid economic growth with no rapid migration into the city. All other Third World cities with fast-growing economies have had to face rapidly increasing housing demands as people moved to that city, attracted by the opportunities their growth generates. In addition, in 1960, the Singapore government owned large tracts of land in or close to the city centre. Thus, public housing units could be built on well located sites with no lengthy land expropriation procedures and no high cost for compensation. The public housing programme was also supported by strong land use control and public expropriation powers.

THE LAND QUESTION : Few governments own sufficient well-located urban land so as to influence the local market. But most can substantially reduce the gap between what poorer groups need and can afford by exerting some control over the land market. As noted already, low income households usually need to live within easy reach of their sources of income. Since land sites close to the major centres of economic activity and opportunity are also sought by most urban dwellers — and these are in competition with new commercial and industrial enterprises who also want a central location — demand is enormous. And this demand grows year by year as cities' populations grow. Since the supply of well-located sites is finite, prices in such sites spiral ever higher. And as prices rise rapidly, speculators invest in such sites and leave them undeve-

loped, so getting high returns on their capital. This further restricts the supply of land for houses (and other developments), further pushing up prices. It is not uncommon to find many undeveloped sites in the most crowded and rapidly growing Third World cities, these sites remaining undeveloped as speculative investments.

If land prices remain uncontrolled, the price of all well-located sites rapidly reaches the point where only a small, rich elite can afford them. Squatting on hills subject to landslides or in ravines or on areas subject to seasonal floods or simply sleeping on pavements or construction sites, becomes the only way lower income groups can remain sufficiently close to their sources of income. Yet few Third World governments have made serious attempts to control urban and land markets and control land speculation. Laws which allow them to apply an incremental tax on vacant land within city limites or tax the profit made from land speculation may have been proposed — or even passed. But even where passed, they are rarely implemented. Urban land banks have also been considered. So too have urban reform laws with the explicit objective of controlling the supply and location of urban and suburban land and reducing the influence or real estate interests. But like most agrarian reforms, they remain on the statute book.

Perhaps it is a little surprising that in Western nations where ideological support for the "free markets" is at least as strong, there is a tacit acceptance that urban land markets have to have public controls. Public authorities in Europe have controlled the urban land, and in several nations have entered the land market as major landowners on a scale rarely found in Third World nations. And even in Western nations where public authorities do not, land speculation is usually heavily taxed (for instance, through a capital gains tax), and the urban land market is controlled through other means.

If half or more a city's population cannot afford even a legal site on which a house can be built with the most basic services, then housing conditions in that city will never improve. Most Third World governments have the constitutional power to tackle the land issue. Few have shown much inclination in doing so.

To be concluded . . .

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INDIA

Ayurveda

By K. M. Talgeri

THE SYSTEM OF MEDICINE known as Ayurveda has been practised in India for some 3,000 years, providing cheap, but effective medical relief

TRIBUNE, JUNE 25, 1983

not only in the country of its origin but also in many neighbouring countries as well. Dr. Lokesh Chandra, in his work, *Exhibition or the History of India's Medicine and its Spread in Asia*, narrates his interesting personal experiences about the use of Ayurveda medicine, *Hingvastakam*, by a Siberian doctor. Apart from Greece, Rome, West Asian countries and South-East Asia countries, Ayurveda spread to Tibet, China (including Inner Mongolia), Japan, Mongolia (including distant Buryat of North-East Siberia). Today, even people in the West are taking to Ayurveda because the side-effects of allopathic drugs—chemotherapeutic and antibiotic—have scared many people all over the world and there is a concerted effort to find an alternative system of medicine, at once harmless and effective. According to a recent report from Bonn, efforts were being made to propagate Ayurveda in West Germany. A two-week seminar on Ayurveda and Yoga was held recently at the Volkshochschule in Munich as part of the campaign. According to Dr. Rocque Lobo head of the department about 1,500 students are now attending courses in Ayurveda and Yoga all over West Germany. The past three years have witnessed growing interest in the Indian medical system in the country.

The WHO, in collaboration with UNICEF, made a study on alternative approaches to meeting basic health needs of population in developing countries and commended, among other indigenous systems, the use of Ayurvedic medicine in India. The WHO, in putting the stamp of genuineness and efficacy upon Ayurveda, has provided financial aid to the Indian Council of Medical Research for research in this ancient system of medicine. Sometime back, a team of American doctors completed a month long preliminary study of Ayurveda in India to gauge the potential use of Ayurvedic medicine for primary health care in the United States. The project was jointly sponsored by the Central Council of Indian Medicine and Southern Illinois University, USA. Dr Glen Davidson, project coordinator, said that the systematic approach and inherent features of Ayurveda will have some impact on the medical profession in the USA. *The "wholistic concept" in Ayurveda which seeks to treat the disease in relation to the totality of the body, as compared to the "specific treatment" meted out by allopathic medicine, is of particular significance.* In the USA, says Dr Davidson, secondary and tertiary medical treatment that involves the use of specialists has reached the desired level. But primary health care at the point of initial contact between patient and doctor does have certain lacunae. Many chronic diseases have been treated with Ayurveda, and the surprising lack of side-effects is important. Dr Davidson also feels that this branch of Indian Medicine could contribute significantly to the cure of skin cancer, hypertension and arthritis among other diseases. The Faculty of

the Southern Illinois University has investigated medical systems in other parts of the world, but have found Ayurveda to be most systematic. Americans will not be averse, says Dr. Davidson, to accepting the Ayurvedic system which has been wrongly projected as a primitive root-and-herb method.

YEARS AGO, when India was under colonial rule, it was Col Knowles of the Indian Medical Service who declared: *"Old Ayurveda, modernised and rejuvenated, will not only be the national medicine of India but will also play no small part in the uplift of the international medical system of the world"*. How true these prophetic words were can be gauged by the height of popularity enjoyed by this ancient system of medicine today, both in India and abroad. It is admirable that Col Knowles should have made this bold statement to the dismay of the detractors of this system. But what is of real significance is that he had the foresight, bordering on intuition, to see that the intrinsic worth of Ayurveda would some day be recognized by the world. **For it was the fashion in those days to decry Ayurveda as something "primitive". Soon the modern medical world sat up and took notice of the fact that many Ayurvedic principles were, indeed, rooted in scientific fact.**

The circulation of blood described by Sushruat in the *Sushruta Samhita* (before 700 B. C.) was dubbed as a "myth" until Harvey proved it to be true. The role of gastric juice described in *Charaka Samhita* (before 700 B.C.) was considered unscientific until Pavlov put the stamp of authenticity on it. Even the traditional practice of inoculation against smallpox was just "mumbo jumbo" for the modern medical world until Edward Jenner came out with his empirical findings we know so well. And so on and on — the blowing up of these 'myths' is endless. The scientific status of Ayurveda had at last been established.

SOME OF THE REMARKABLE REMEDIES in Ayurveda for a variety of diseases surprise the modern medical man. *Rawolfia Serpentina*, which has been used for ages in India for high blood pressure and other cardiac conditions, is now used all over the world. *Thevetia Nerifolia*, popularly known as Yellow Kaner, has yielded useful cardiotoxic glycosides. From *Acorus Calamus* (Uragandha) a tranquillising and anti-arrhythmic active principle, *Asarone*, has been isolated. *A-sesquiterpine*, which is also active as a hypnotic tranquilliser and anti-arrhythmic, has been isolated from *Jatamansi*.

Ayurvedic drugs for malaria-cure take three to seven days with no side-effects at all. The Regional Ayurvedic Research Institute in Calcutta has developed an anti-epileptic drug, Ayush-56, which is also claimed to be a sure cure for conditions like leucoderma. Today we have the *Materia Medica of Ayurveda*, a monumental work on the Indian

system of medicine, by Dr Bhagwan Das and Dr Lalitsh Kashyap, which is a complete pharmacopoeia giving the names of each substance and its uses and all the drug preparations. This encyclopaedic work has been prepared on the basis of Raja Todarmalla's celebrated treatise on Ayurveda, known as *Ayurveda Saukhyam*, is manuscript form, and has proved of immense help to students, teachers and research workers of both Ayurvedic and allopathic medicine alike.

THE WORD "AYURVEDA" is composed of two Sanskrit words, namely "ayur" meaning "life" and "veda" meaning "knowledge", and taken together it connotes "the science of life", the investigation of the whole man. It propounds the psycho-somatic theory of the origin of disease. There are psychic causes for somatic ills and vice versa. The psycho-somatic concept enables Ayurveda to treat the whole man and not merely the disease. Modern medicine is slowly veering towards this concept, which is as it should be. *Ayurveda lays emphasis on prevention of disease and promotion of positive health. Its medicines aim at conditioning the tissues and not killing the invading organisms.* In Ayurvedic medicine, there are no side-effects and they condition the tissues of the body against the organisms, nourish and rejuvenate them. All the medicines work as tonics. The remedy is based on the *Tridosha* theory. The human body, according to Ayurveda, is composed of three fundamental elements called *doshas*, *dhatu*s and *malas*. The *doshas* govern the physio-chemical and physio-logical activities of the body, while the *dhatu*s enter in to the formation of the basic structure of a body cell, thereby performing some specific functions. The *malas* are substances which are partly utilised in the body and partly excreted in a modified form after serving their physiological functions. These three elements are said to be in a dynamic equilibrium with each other for the maintenance of health. Any imbalance of their relative preponderance in the body results in disease and decay. *The principles enunciated in Ayurveda relating to the composition and action of drugs from the pivot around which the problem of standardisation revolves. A drug is described to have a particular 'rasa', 'guna', 'virya', 'vipaka', and 'prabhava', and all its actions are conditioned by these factors. Hence, the identification, genuineness, method of preparation and other allied aspects of the drug will have to be considered, keeping these factors in view.*

WHAT EXACTLY MAKES AYURVEDA "CLICK"? It is precisely to answer this question in all its ramifications that Dr Bhagwan Das, Deputy Adviser in Ayurveda, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has brought out *The Fundamentals of Ayurvedic Medicine*. There are many things not known to modern man about Ayurveda. For instance, we learn about *Salya Tantra* (surgery) practised in ancient times, *Rasayana Tantra* (geriatrics, including

rejuvenation therapy), *Bala Tantra* (paediatrics) and *Agada Tantra* (toxicology) in *Rigveda Samhita*, we have references to surgical procedures like artificial iron limbs, restoration of eyesight and transplantation of organs. The *Atharvaveda* mentions venesection treatment of retention of urine, jaundice, leprosy, sterility, fractures, etc. The ancient *Kaya Kalpa* treatment for rejuvenation has been practised even in modern times. Its secrets were known to the late Raja Vaidya Anandaswami who hit the headlines of the world press in the thirties by successfully administering this treatment to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. He also cured a few cases of blood cancer, but further research is called for in this field. As the late Pandit Shiv Sharma, who was President Central Council of Indian Medicine and Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee on Ayurveda, said: "There is every chance that the Ayurvedic approach,—that is, restoration of pathological constitutional imbalance to healthy metabolic equilibrium—understood correctly and early, may help to conquer malignancy. The phenomenon called the spontaneous 'involution' or 'regression' of cancer, demonstrates that the human constitution can defeat malignancy successfully". India today has over 250 Ayurvedic hospitals and 16,000 dispensaries run by the state governments (besides private ones), at which patients come for treatment of common ailments and also for chronic cases like polio, arthritis, liver disease, ulcer, gout and piles. A 20-bed Ayurvedic hospital was set up last year in the capital to provide advanced course of treatment. There are over 460,000 Ayurvedic doctors spread all over India. The Ayurvedic University at Jamnagar is now undertaking all types of Ayurvedic treatment. In this context, it is gratifying to note that an American student, Mr. Robert Edwin Svobhoda, stood first class first in the final year Bachelor of Ayurveda and Medical Sciences examination conducted by Poona University last year. The 26-year-old Svobhoda, already author of two books on Ayurveda, avers that this system "is a perfect medical science" and is returning to India for post-graduate studies after a tour of the U. S. and Canada, to present Ayurveda in its proper perspective.

According to Dr. PNV Kurup, ex-Adviser, Indian Systems of Medicine, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, herbs for the preparation of Ayurvedic medicines are available around Ranikhet in Uttar Pradesh in plenty and it is proposed to collect these herbs with the help of the Forest Department. There has been a steady increase in the production of drugs at the Central Ayurvedic Pharmacy at Patiala. The Pharmacy now manufactures over 65 types of drugs for supply to the Ayurvedic dispensaries. *Addressing a press conference in New Delhi on 16 February 1980, Dr. H. Mahler, Director-General of the World Health Organisation, urged India to play a leading role to help solve the health problems of the Third World countries. India, he said, had the requisite technical back-up and the physical infra-*

structure which can make it possible for it to take the lead in this field. On the question of providing essential drugs at cheaper prices, Dr. Mahler said that India had already formulated its own national drug policy which had resulted in bringing down drug prices.

According to Dr. P. N. V. Kurup, "although modern or 'western' medicine is generally accepted throughout the world yet it has not been able to reach the remote areas of the world for various reasons. The developing countries, with their meagre financial resources, cannot avail themselves of the services of modern medicine in view of the huge investment involved in establishing and maintaining modern clinics and hospitals. The traditional systems of medicine, however, still tend the health needs of most rural populations of the world, and find patronage also in urban areas".

It was Plato who said that "no physician, in so far as he is a physician, considers his own good in what he prescribes, but the good of his patient; for the true physician is also a ruler, having the human body as a subject and is not a mere money-maker." India's ancient practitioners of Ayurveda, inspired by similar ideals, had a common prayer, which ran like this: "I desire not kingdoms, or heaven or even freedom from rebirth. I desire to end the suffering of beings that are in anguish."—YOJANA.

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COUNTRY FEELINGS

*These are country feelings,
These simple thoughts
That course within my veins
That waken when I see—
A full blown flower,
A shady bower,
A bird on wing,
A silver shower of rain.*

*These are country feelings
They make me long
To leave these city greeds.
They rise within me when I hear
The pealing of
A distant temple bell,
The singing of
The wind among the trees.*

*These are country feelings,
That make me what I am
That silver-line my every dream,
That free me from these city bonds.
These are country feelings,
That always keep me young,
That give me hope and faith end joy
And country loves so warm*

Lorraine.

KEERA KOTU

Needs More Attention

By K. Anandarajah

There has been an increasing and popular demand for the local leafy vegetables all the time, as these are the only food items that could be bought for reasonable prices even by low-income groups, and Colombo has been the only place in the country where local leafy vegetables have been cultivated on a large scale. *Keera Kotu*, where leafy vegetables are produced on a commercial scale in Colombo, situated in lowlying areas, were maintained only for pasture production about a quarter century ago. Although there are no accurate statistics available of the exact extent under the leafy vegetable cultivation in these areas now, it is apparent that the cultivation extends to more than 800 acres with an annual average yield level of 40—50 tons per acre.

The production from these areas represent more than 30 per cent of the value of the total local leafy vegetable supply to urban areas in the country. These vegetables are being distributed daily to major cities. They are: (1) *Alternaria sessilis*—Mukunuwenna (S)—Ponankani (T); (2) *Ameranthus viridis*—Kura Thampala (S)—Mulaikirai(T); (3) *Ameranthus gangeticus* and *Ameranthus oleraceus*—Sudu Thampala (S) or (Rathu Thampala)—Arakkira(T); (4) *Ipomea aquatica*—Kankum (S); (5) *Basella alba*—Nivithi (S)—Pasali (T); (6) *Boerharia diffusa*—Sarana (S)—Sarana (T).

The cultivation of these vegetables is done on leased lands. Presently, for an average farm of 1/3 of an acre, the tenant pays about Rs. 40 to 60 per month. This amounts to 15 per cent—20 per cent of their monthly income. Now, there is a decreasing number of full-time cultivators, and as a result, mostly the old men of their families (with) the help of women and children) do the farm work. The industrialization and economic development in Colombo have absorbed the natural growth of the young labour force, as well as some of the leafy vegetable-growing areas. As the land value is increasing at a very high rate, there is a strong tendency to fill up these lowlying areas in the near future.

On the other hand present holdings are relatively small and this creates obstacles in the way of efficient cultivation. Almost all important changes in agricultural methods are prevented due to the decreasing size of holdings. Few improved practices—like using sufficient fertilizers sprayers, improved planting material, suitable cropping pattern to improve the growers, provided the size of the individual holding—could be increased to at least half to two third of an acre. Apart from this non-availability of research data, concerning the cultivation of these leafy vegetables

makes it difficult to advise the vegetable growers on the improvement of their cultivation practices. So far, mainly poultry dung mixed with paddy husk is being used as organic manure, while Urea is being used as the only chemical fertilizer. Presently, the farmers here adopt excellent cropping patterns, and obtain five crops per year. However it may be possible to workout better cropping patterns to minimise the crop yields per unit area.—*Ceylon Daily News*.



HELD OVER

TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE will not appear this week. WE hope to resume publication of this widely read feature next week.

REPORTAGE

Nikaweratiya - A Preview

I visited the Gam Udawa Exhibition and Model Village (Wannigama) at Nikaweratiya last Sunday, June 19. The final touches were being laid on. K. H. S. Wijedasa, the top man in charge on the spot, explained the scope, extent and concept of this year's fifth anniversary exhibition with the help of maps, diagrams and statistics. After that, I went round the exhibition ground. It took me over an hour to do so.

The commercial stalls (nearly 300 of them) had not yet been stocked, but there was great activity going on. Apart from the stalls specially built for the purpose, the 59 model houses were also being used as stalls until the end of the exhibition. The fifty nine allottees had been selected and they had also with the help of the Department of Agriculture Extension Service at Kurunegala started cultivating the vegetable gardens in front of the houses and also some home garden trees in the backyard.

The model houses were an advance on what I have seen so far. Apart from space for a vegetable garden in front and also space in the backyard for a little home-garden cultivation, there was a combined building at the back to house one cow, 15 deep litter hens and a toilet — together with a bio gas plant which could take in cow and poultry dung and human sewage. *Whilst it will not be difficult to cultivate the land, the bio-gas plants may pose many teething and performance problems. One must visit these model houses four to six weeks hence to see how the bio-gas plants work.*

The model village and all its other facilities — Community Centre, School (by the side), etc. etc. will have piped water and electricity. The site is in the village of Vitikuliya in Nikaweratiya which is 25 miles from Kurunegala and like distance from Puttalam. The whole scheme is an advance on anything attem-

pted by the Gam Udawa Movement so far. It seeks to integrate a homestead with livestock (cow and 15 chicken) in a residential site which is walking distance from places of work in the Nikaweratiya area (mainly agricultural with a few small agro-industries springing up.). The biogas, as a supplier of energy for cooking etc., brings the Chinese (and now Indian) practice into use here.

The Ministry of Rural Industrial Development which is in charge of Livestock has a big centre in the Exhibition. They plan to run an electric generator from bio gas to light up their exhibition building. They also plan to give extension services to the villagers on biogas, cattle and poultry. At the time I visited the Exhibition, there was nobody of consequence at the Livestock Centre and I could not get all particulars about their plans and proposals. There was also a Renewable Energy Centre run by the CEB and the Ministry of Energy. But nothing was in place and here too (being a Sunday) there was no one who could tell me details of what they hoped to display. There was also a pond for aquaculture and Department of Fisheries is expected to run it.

The whole area has been landscaped with an eye to environmental beauty and utility. There is also a corner for herbarium — to stock all the herbal plants commonly used. Some of the exhibition buildings e.g., the UDA's, has been built with low cost indigenous materials including thatch. The Secretariat is a permanent building which will be handed over to the school that adjoins the site.

I was deeply impressed with what I saw especially the attempt to concretise the integration of livestock with a homestead — as in the old traditional villages. A thirty acre pasture has been developed a little distance away where two varieties of the *breccaria* suitable for the dry zone have been grown. The pasture will be managed cooperatively and the cut grass will be sold to owners of cows in the village.

The article by S. J. Anthony Fernando in the *Sunday Observer* (19-6-83) gives a romantic but accurate picture of the new village. "... Almost every foot of this 35-acre plot of land has been developed. In it is included a model village of 59 houses with its home garden cultivated with vegetables and other crops with each family rearing a cow — teaching a lesson on how one could grow vegetables and other foodstuffs in one's own home garden. The cow gives milk for the family and the cow dung to work the small bio gas plant installed in each house — typical lesson in self-reliance. As you walk some distance you get a glimpse of the city within the village. The most striking feature is the model of the Sri Jayewardanapura Parliamentary complex with a lake modelled after the Diyawanna Oya constructed round it so as to blend with the village landscape. This model of the Parliamentary complex

solidly built with brick and mortar will serve as the Community Centre of the Village and the meeting place of the "Village Parliament" of Nikaweratiya — the Gramodaya Mandalaya. The waters of the model of Diyawanna Oya is to be used for a fresh water fish breeding project.

"Considering that this exhibition cum model village site was once only a shrub jungle, the transformation this entire area including the environs of Nikaweratiya had undergone within a short period of time is indeed a phenomenon worth seeing. The model village with its beautiful surroundings will remain intact after the exhibition. By June 23rd a total of 227 model villages would have already been set up in various parts of the country setting nearly 20 000 families in self contained neighbourhoods. These settlements comprise people of all communities, races and religions. The movement transcends even political barriers as there are model villages and housing schemes constructed in electorates represented by Opposition MPs. The model villages are, apart from a large number of other housing schemes, constructed throughout the country which too had helped open out a large number of villages for development."

S. J. Anthony Fernando went on: "... And now on its fifth anniversary, the village re-awakening movement will take on a new dimension with the new program launched by the Prime Minister of constructing a million houses starting this year. The new programme will be carried out on a new basis with minimal State intervention (whereas earlier the State through the National Housing Development Authority intervened to the maximum). Under this programme individual housebuilders will be provided with assistance, both financially and with supply of building materials to put up, repair or complete the house of their choice. In this regard, the use of low-cost building materials is to be encouraged to cut down on construction costs". He concluded the article: "The Kurunegala district — the district which gave birth to the Udagama Movement — will benefit tremendously for hosting the fifth anniversary of the Gam Udawa movement. Fourteen model villages will be opened in several of the 14 electorates in the district by the Prime Minister from June 19, adding to the already existing large number of model villages in the district."

I have quoted *in extenso* from S. J. Fernando's article for the factual descriptions and other particulars. What I am interested is what impact Wannigama and the Gam Udawa Exhibition '83 will have not only on the people of Nikaweratiya and the neighbouring areas, but also on all those who visit the Exhibition from all parts of the country. About this I can write only some weeks after the Exhibition.

S. P. A.

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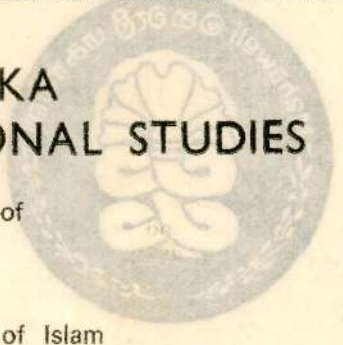
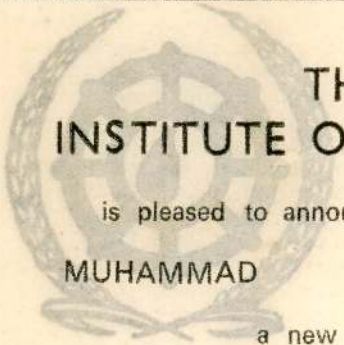
IS IT NOT A FACT that "Swine fever" — thanks to the neglect and default of our Veterinary Services — has become widespread and has already become part of the literary lore of this country? That writer Nihal Corea, who always has an interesting (sometimes scintillating) piece, in the lighter vein, every Saturday in the *Daily Mirror*, had one entitled *Swine Fever Syndrome* in his column on June 4? "There was a look of grave contemplation on Swilly Hogg's face as he met me just around the corner to my joint. I asked him what brought the creases on to his forehead. He merely replied 'Swine fever'. I thought this new found interest in the porcine world a little rum and I told him so. He asked me to go eat cake. I spiritedly asked him to go eat pork. That jolted him back to life and he said very firmly that he won't and asked me also to refrain from doing so. Not being averse to eating any part of that admirable animal's carcass or what was so delectably processed from it, I asked him why the devil I should deny myself of the joys of the table. He said that swine were getting fever. What of it? I asked pointing out that all sorts of living creatures ran up temperatures. This included people. Some ran up temperatures and got delirious and behaved queer while others got delirious for other reasons and behaved like swine. Possibly that was the reason why Swilly made reference to swine fever. He shook his head rather sadly and asked that there was an epidemic that was laying many a good pig low and preventing it from doing its duty by mankind. They were called away in the prime of life before they could make their names on any single polythene bag of note. In other words those who were making the things that the gourmet was demanding of the pig were a bit restricted these days. Their activities ran into a freezer instead of pig products into a freezer and they may be compelled to bust their piggy banks to keep oiling their machinery unless of course they managed to oil persons who had to declare pigs as being fit for human consumption." *That there is no doubt that a large number of people feel the same was as columnist Nihal Corea? That he speaks about persons who had to be "oiled" to declare pigs as beings fit for human consumption? That stories are going the rounds that it was because some persons were "oiled" that the outbreak of swine fever was kept a dark secret until it became such an epidemic that it could no longer be hidden?*

THAT COLUMNIST COREA next went on relentlessly; "But the general impression was that there were many grunts of resentment that the consumer was badly hit by swine fever and was in a worse state of discomfort than the pig. His hopes were knocked

to chops by the recent outbreak. The pig was also losing value in the process and was likely to raise some dust over the issue". That Corea was putting it mildly when he spoke about the grunts of resentment among consumers (pork eaters) about the negligence that had brought swine fever to the country and what is worse had let it spread? That after a short discourse on the virtues of pork as a delicacy and about the Britisher's 'must' for the morning — bacon and eggs — he went on: "I felt I was tripping somewhat at this stage and drifting from the main theme. So I asked Swilly whether the situation would come back to normal or whether the pig and its products would be lost to this country. His reply was that there was a heroic struggle to knock the fever off and felt that the campaign would succeed at some stage or the other". Thereafter Corea went into a little bit of speculation on a matter on which the giants of our veterinary world, entrenched in the ivory towers of the colonial era in salubrious climate of Peradeniya, have so far said little or nothing? "He did not know how well the pigs anti-bodies were forming but the lack of pork was anti-human body as far as it went. If the fever did affect human beings, there could be serious problems. What is more it would be difficult to diagnose this disease as nobody knew that the symptoms would be once it entered the human body. I asked Swilly whether people who were affected by it would not behave queerly or give some sort of indication that they were afflicted by it. His answer was that so many people behaved like pigs that it was not a very safe basis of deduction to go by. It was not safe for many reasons, In the first instance if you noticed a chap behaving or eating like a pig and asked him whether he had swine fever you were not physically safe and if you told him that you merely asked him, that question because the disease could be communicated he was sure to stop communicating with you." *That though this article in a humorous vein may make some people to "laugh it away", the problem about swine fever is really a serious one of national importance. That its magnitude cannot be underestimated? That after a "news leak" some weeks ago that the swine fever had been brought under control, there was an "official" statement that the Kandy area was free of swine fever? Why Kandy? What about Negombo? What about Colombo? What about the Kurunegala area, what about Galle? That more and more questions are being asked about the Piggeries Livestock Officer — does he also operate from Kandy? Does he have a list of even the big commercial piggeries? Does he have a list of the other farmers who rear pigs on a small scale? That more questions are coming in and we will be setting them out in this column in due course?*

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