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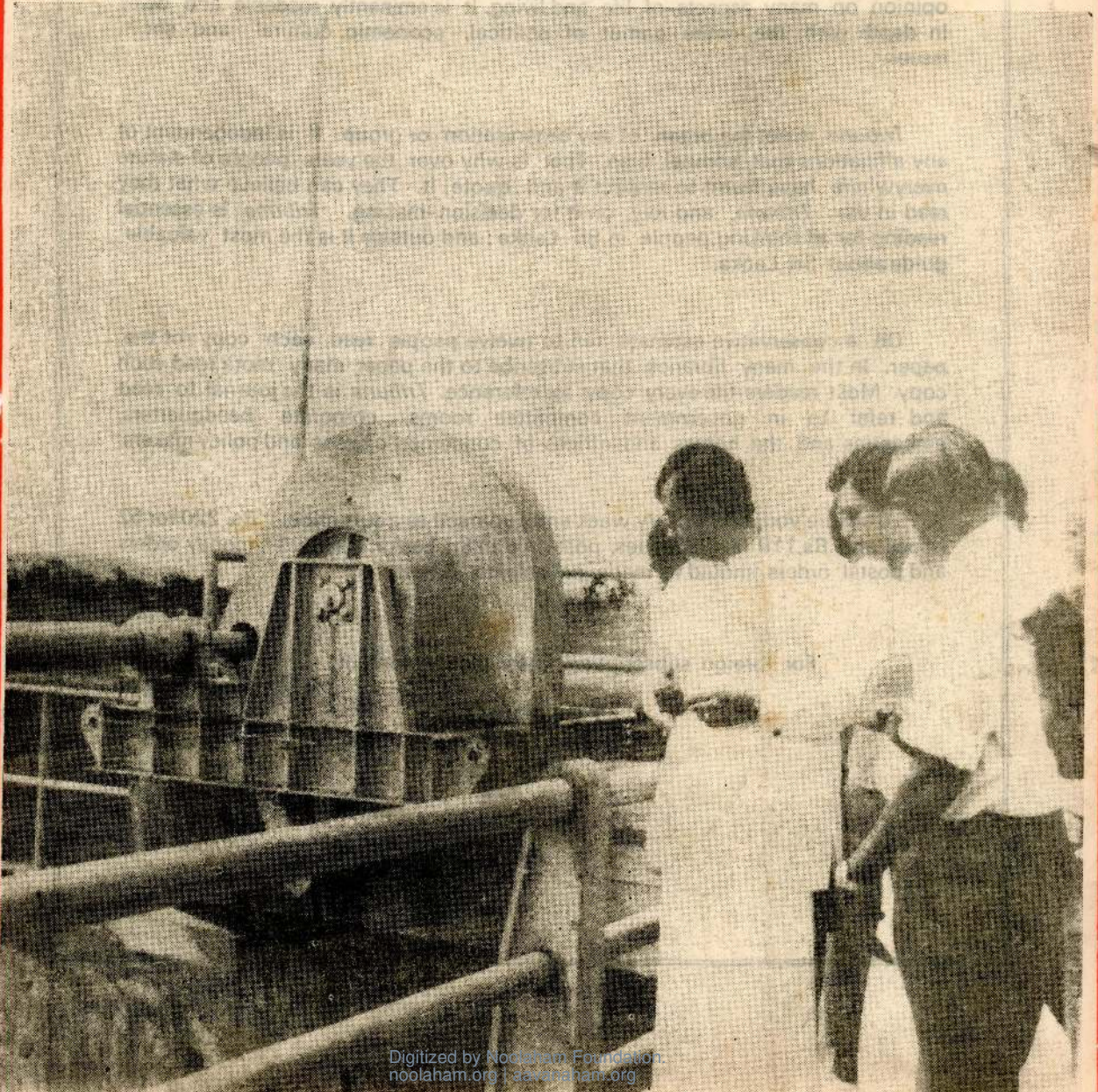
CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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JULY 9 1983

Rs. 4.00

- ★ ACCELERATED
- ★ NIKAWERATIYA
- ★ SHERLOCK AGAIN
- ★ LESTER JAMES
- ★ LIME FRUIT
- ★ OLYMPIAD '84
- ★ SEED SCANDAL



★ ACCELERATED
★ WIKI...
★ SHERLOCK...
★ LESTER JAMES...
★ LIME FRUIT...
★ OLYMPIAD '84...
★ SEED SCANDAL...

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WE HAVE MINISTER GAMINI DISSANAYAKE on the cover, this week again. Gamini is the hero of the Accelerated Mahaweli Programme which will successfully telescope what was regarded as a forty-year scheme into a little over six years. The giant Maduru Oya reservoir, the first of the five major headworks to be commissioned, was completed in the record time of 2½ years ahead of schedule. The Reservoir is formed by impounding the waters of the Maduru Oya which lies on the eastern side of the Mahaweli. Natural inflow from the Maduru Oya basin will be augmented by Mahaweli water, conveyed from the Minipe Anicut through the right bank Transbasin Canal to the Ulhitiya — Ratkinda reservoirs and then through the link tunnel into the Maduru Oya reservoir. The reservoir will provide assured irrigation for about 46,750 hectares (115,473 acres) of virgin land and 3,750 hectares (9,263 acres) of developed land. The area to be developed under this scheme is demarcated as System B in the Mahaweli Master Plan. The reservoir is 43 m (141.08 ft.) high rockfill dam across Maduru Oya. A free flow spillway, two irrigation sluices, a link tunnel, left bank and right banks, saddle dams are the main feature of the project. In addition, provision has been made in the project layout for the construction of two Power Houses to generate 7.2 MW and for a 2.0 m raising of the full supply level at a later date. The Maduru Oya valley covers a land area of 175 square miles. The reservoir with a capacity of 379,000 acre feet of water will irrigate 125,000 acres of new land under the plough and in addition will provide water for both cultivation seasons to nearly 10,000 acres of existing farm land which have been cultivated only in one season due to lack of water. On the newly opened land 47,000 farmer families will be settled. The construction work of the Canadian Company began in October 1980. "The Maduru Oya Project Works stretch for a distance of over 20 km. The main dam itself is a rockfill structure 43m high and 1008m long and required the placing of over 6 million tonnes of brick and earth. Fill placing commenced in May 1981 and was completed 21½ months later on 14th February 1983. Excavation for the dam had begun in December 1980 and gouting of the dam foundation to minimize seepage beneath it, consumed 9,970 bags of cement. The Right Bank Outlet Works located at the right end of the dam, comprises a series of structures providing for release of water to the Right Bank Main Canal System which commands 12,337ha of irrigable land. The 26m high concrete intake structure conducts water through trashracks to a 3.4m dia concrete conduit beneath the dam. After passing through the core of the dam the conduit bifurcates, providing a 2.6 m dia. branch for connection to a future 2.4 MW powerhouse, and a 4.0 dia. branch leading to the Outlet Gate Structure which will control irrigation releases." **It is not necessary to go into the details of the construction work to realise the magnitude of the task that has been accomplished in 2½ years. It is an object lesson to construction organisations in Sri Lanka, especially the governmental, which take years to complete much smaller works. For all this, the credit must go to the President Jayewardene and Minister Gamini Dissanayake for having courageously embarked on the Accelerated Programme in spite of the doubts being raised in many quarters about its feasibility.** *Tribune*, it will be recalled, was in the forefront of those who thought that the Accelerated Plan was only a propaganda stunt for sectarian party purposes which in the end would prove to be a boomerang. But within a short time, *Tribune* was able to realise that the Accelerated Mahaweli Scheme was an achievable objective. And now with the commissioning of the Maduru Oya reservoir it has been demonstrated that in six to ten years the Government will be able to complete the Accelerated Mahaweli Scheme.

The Way Forward— Obstacles

There is no need to labour the point that the *Udagama* Movement has given a new motivation not only to the socio-economic but also the political movement in the country. Nikaweratiya has confirmed that the magic of Prime Minister Premadasa's Rural Reawakening Movement has really caught on among the rural masses of this country.

It is unfortunate, however, that sectarian politics, coupled with an overdoze of terrorist provocations and the consequential backlash from other racialist elements, have inhibited the drawing in of segments of the population in the North and the East into the mainstream of a unified national movement. A united nation working tirelessly to promote economic development can, as the President says, bring a golden era for everybody in this country. For some to cut themselves away into seclusion because of the blinkers they insist on wearing will prove suicidal for the people they claim to serve.

One does not need to be a historian to know the fate that has overtaken even the mighty PLO and other such movements which thought that terrorism and military force would help them win their objectives. Diversionary terrorism can be spectacular, especially if there is propaganda support abroad, but this cannot solve fundamental problems. The lesson of history is that one must negotiate to be recognized, conciliate to make friends and compromise to reach one's objective stage by stage. Arafat seems to have learnt this lesson a little late in the day and he has become the victim of the suicidal Frankensteinian logic he himself had helped to create.

As Prime Minister Premadasa has rightly pointed out terrorism can retard for sometime, and that too only in some areas, the forward march to economic development and prosperity but not for all time. And it cannot destroy national upliftment as a whole.

Though Maduru Oya and Gam Udawa '83 have given rise to a new euphoria, the Government must realise that there are many hurdles ahead. In his speech at Nikaweratiya on July 3, the President pointed out that the main planks of the government's development policies rested on the Accelerated Mahaweli Plan and the Gam Udawa Movement. He said that Mahaweli could bring water to the dry zone and agriculture to the farmers whilst the Gam Udawa Movement will build the houses for the rural population to start a new life.

But there is one snag in this which will be dangerous to overlook — the moribund sluggishness of the Department of Agriculture and its entire network of satellite services that will certainly nullify all attempts to get the maximum production or the fullest utilisation of the land. Even the ADA, which has done a great deal to bring much needed fillip into Extension and other activities in the agricultural sector, has not been able to move the pachyderms of Peradeniya into meaningful and purposeful activity

For many years now, *Tribune* has been deeply concerned about the functioning of the Department of Agriculture. We have also pointed out that Agriculture Livestock, Irrigation and Agricultural Marketing, which should be under one central Ministry, have been split over half a dozen or more Ministries. But apart from this, our recent investigations have revealed that there is an all-pervasive malady which inhibits the Department of Agriculture and its sidekick the Department of Livestock and Animal Husbandry. As in colonial times, these two Departments have their headquarters in Kandy and they are as far away from Ministerial (and therefore parliamentary) control and guidance as the legendary man in the moon is from humans on earth.

Kandy was the salubrious headquarters for European officials in the heyday of colonialism when the Planters Raj was supreme. When the new political firmament arose from the days of the Doroughmore Constitution and agriculture went beyond the plantations into the dry zone, these departmental headquarters should straight away have been shifted to Colombo, the political and administrative capital of this country. Instead these departments have been allowed to vegetate in the ivory towers of a decadent colonialist era long dead and gone. These Departments have therefore lost the discipline and motivation of an imperial colonial administration and developed tendencies that have led to the present position where the Departments exist in a virtual vacuum of arrogant intellectualism and total ignorance of modern realities.

The first thing that must be done is to move the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Livestock to Colombo or to the new capital Sri Jayewardenapura and bring them to be in close proximity to the Ministries to which they are attached. We shall revert to this and the benefits that will flow from such a shift in the coming weeks.

But in the meantime, the government has a tricky problem on its hand viz., the IMF demand for a further devaluation of the Sri Lanka Rupee. Already this week the Central Bank has depreciated the rupee by a further one rupee and fixed the rate at Rs. 24.20 to the US dollar. From about February, it

was around Rs. 23.05 after it had been moved up from about Rs. 21. Will the IMF want the rupee to be devalued even more? These are suggestions that the current target is Rs. 25. *The Governor of the Central Bank Dr. Rasaputram says that the latest "readjustment" in the parity rate of the dollar will help exports, cut down imports — but have little or no impact on prices. He may be right about exports and imports — but on the question of prices it would have been better if he had been more realistic.*

The Aid Consortium, which met in Paris last month, it will be recalled, had granted Sri Lanka the quota of aid it wanted (and a wee bit more) without the IMF certificate. Though some optimists had hoped that the IMF will therefore not press for devaluation after this, reports indicate that the IMF wants its pound of flesh. For some months the government had resisted IMF's demands for any further devaluation, but this week it has pushed the rupee down a little more.

The President in a press interview in India during the Nonaligned Summit and even in an interview to a foreign correspondent (K. K. Katyal of the *Hindu*) more recently in Colombo has made it clear that this country will find it difficult to go on devaluing every time the IMF wanted it. *Question: So this point of a tilt towards the West in economic matters?* *Answer: Certainly. I must say the Western countries are helping us. Not America. But Sweden, France, Britain, then Canada. America is not helping in any of those big schemes. So what can I do? They are the only people who'll help. And they are finishing their work; next year we'll finish all six big dams.* *Question: The Mahaveli Project? Your experience with the World Bank and the IMF, you referred to that at the Summit* *Answer: Yes, well my experience is, they are very useful, without them we can't do this, but I can't keep on being dictated to by them — about devaluation, about exchange rates you see. Those are matters that we must decide but when they say, 'cut down your budget deficit', I agree. They say, 'Don't spend so much'. I agree. All that I agree to and must follow it. But these are controversial issues in the whole world today. I see the *Hindu* is writing a number of articles about devaluation, about floating rates of exchange. When they (the Bank and Fund) say 'devalue', immediately my costs go up. The cost of food goes up. I can't do that. My people must be the judges.* *Question: Have there been suggestions?* *Answer: The whole time they are suggesting 'keep on devaluing, devaluing devaluing. That is some theory of theirs. We have devalued from, I think, when the dollar was for ten rupees. They say go to 24, 25, 28, 29, 30. The time may come when we have to say, 'stop' (laughs)* *Question: At present does it call for any rethinking?* *Answer: Not rethinking of our policies.* *Question: No, about your attitude towards the Bank and the*

Fund? *Answer: No, no, not yet. Every year they come to us. Every year they write.*

The World Bank, as expected, had backed the IMF's call for devaluation of the SL Rupee. In its annual report which was presented to the Aid Consortium meeting, the Bank had reiterated the IBRD/IMF stand that Sri Lanka should accept "a realistic rate of exchange" stating that the current rate of exchange was "over-valued". According to the World Bank, this is one reason why the export sector, especially plantation crops like tea, rubber and coconut were "sub-economic". The World Bank too wants Sri Lanka to maintain its expenditure within available resources and have a budget deficit under two percent of the gross domestic product. It has also demanded that Sri Lanka should not indulge in further bank borrowings and issue no Treasury Bills; and that the decision to have no new projects in 1983 and 1984 should be strictly adhered to. The Bank also wants Sri Lanka to maintain "strict financial discipline" keeping expenditure within the allocations of the Budget. The Bank also wants Sri Lanka to rely solely on the export sector and cut out consumption expenditure. These are the customary requirements usually demanded of the developing countries by the IMF.

What are the implications, of not meeting the IMF demand for a devaluation of the Sri Lanka rupee to the point the IMF thinks necessary. If this country fails to come an agreement with the IMF it will (1) lose the IMF standby facility, i.e. a credit of US \$ 250 million required for the balancing of foreign exchange payment support; (2) it will not receive the Letter issued by the Bank of International Settlement in Zurich that certifies that Sri Lanka is creditworthy—a kind of its guarantee to the international banking community and (3) will find it difficult to obtain loans from multilateral and bilateral lenders, (always euphemistically called *donors*), like the EEC, IFFAD, OPEC, ADB, the Kuwait Fund. The IMF certificate is regarded as a *sine qua non* for a developing country to survive in the contemporary world of international finance.

Tribune cannot resist the temptation to cite a paragraph from a statement made by President Jayewardene in Egypt and which was reported in the local press. According to a report in the *Sunday Observer* June 26 from S Piyadasa reporting from Egypt: "President Jayewardene said in Cairo on Friday that where the colonial systems have now ceased to exist the developing world has become the milch cow of the developed world. The interest we pay for these enormous debt burdens has made it practically impossible for these countries to bear. The aid and the debts arising from this contribute towards helping the developed world more than the developing world. *Need we say more? Need we say Amen?*"

On the Prowl Again

Tribune is resurrecting *Sherlock Holmes* once again at the request of many old readers who have pointed out that without an effective opposition in Parliament or in the country many complaints are not being investigated or being spotlighted in the proper or appropriate perspective. *Sherlock Holmes*, as of old, will file reports on his investigations and also answer questions that will enable readers to have insight into some matters and at the same time enable them to pursue investigations on their own.

PRINTING CONTRACT

A reader sent *Tribune* a cutting of a front page story from *The Island* of June 18 under the headline: **CONTROVERSY OVER PRINTING CONTRACT AWARD: ISSUE OF EPF ACCOUNT BOOKS TO MEMBERS MAY BE DELAYED.** The report read: "A top government source told *The Island* that the issue of EPF Account books to members may be delayed considerably because of a controversy over the award of the contract to print the account books. Following a Government decision to issue account books to EPF members, tenders for the printing of these books were called and a Tender Board comprising Mr. D. M. P. B. Dasanayake, Secretary, Ministry of Labour (Chairman), Mr. N. A. Obadage, Director, Foreign Aid Monitoring Division of the General Treasury and Mr. W. R. B. Rajakaruna, Director, Rural Development, was appointed. A technical evaluation committee was also appointed to evaluate tenders. Three tenders were taken up for consideration. The tenderers were Messrs Aitken, Spence (Rs. 19,780,000), Messrs Kapila Printers (Rs. 13,225,000) and Messrs Kapila Printers (Rs. 13,800,000). It was noted that according to the evaluation report that Tender No. 2 which even though had not complied with one of the requirements in the first instance was the lowest and there was a difference of Rs. 6,555,000 between this and the highest tender. But on examination of the documents of the tenderer in detail, the Evaluation Committee was unable to come to a conclusion regarding the capacity of the tenderer to execute the work. It was therefore decided to obtain a further evaluation report from the Government Printer. The Government Printer in his report stated that some of the machinery at the press of this tenderer was over 30 years old and the total staff was 7. The press did not have a single offset machine or other equipment that could do normal standard printing apart from the high quality printing and finish required for the EPF Pass Books.

Mr. Neville Nanayakkara, the Government Printer, said that according to his understanding, the owner of the printing press was a Buddhist priest and the press intended to give the work on sub-contracts to various other printing establishments. The proprietor of the press in a letter explained that they carried on their work with the collaboration of two other printing presses. We also stated that it was not economical to install all the machinery in their press and conduct a self-contained trade".... However the Tender Board did not recommend the award of the Tender to Messrs Aitken Spence & Co. Ltd., the other tenderer as the difference in the tender was as much as Rs. 6,555,000. The Tender Board has recommended the calling of fresh tenders."

"There's some funny monkey business in this", writes our reader to us. "How could the tender of Kapila Printers for Rs. 13 million have even been taken up for evaluation when its capacity to fulfil the tender could have been found out with a few simple questions addressed to the 30 year old tenderer. Instead the Tender Board called for a report from the Government Printer. What a waste of time? Were there no other tenders from other reputable printing firms for evaluation?? Who was the power-seeking to give the contract to a printery allegedly owned by a Buddhist priest?"

SHERLOCK HOLMES in a preliminary report states: "The tender was for the printing and supplying of 2,300,000 EPF Pass books for the Ministry of Labour: the details of the tenders submitted were:

Printer	Total Amount	Unit Price
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Aitken Spence & Co. Ltd.	19,780,000	8.60
2. State Printing Corporation	7,907,550	3.43
3. Harrison & Sons Ltd. UK (Through State Printing Corporation)	28,704,000	12.48
4. Kapila Printers	13,425,000	5.84
	13,800,000	6.00
5. Guneratne & Co.	6,348,000	2.76
6. Lake House Printers	16,100,000	7.00
7. Toppan Moore Ltd.	12,760,372	5.55
8. JFI Printers	12,075,000	5.25
9. Tisara Packaging	13,685,000	5.95

Sherlock Holmes also reported that: (1) One of the important conditions of this tender was that printed samples had to be submitted for testing on the IBM Machines on which these Pass Books were to be used; (2) At the various stages of technical evaluation and tender procedure, all tenders were eliminated except for Kapila Printers and Aitken Spence Printers. Evidently Kapila Printers had submitted samples

from printers to whom they would farm out the order... because they had no machines themselves to do the job; (3) It is difficult to understand why the State Printing Corporation should submit a tender for Rs. 7 million odd and also sponsor another from a foreign printer for Rs. 28 million; (4) Aitken Spence had earlier been awarded a tender to print and supply 200,000 Pass Books identical to the present one and this had been executed successfully; (5) This tender closed on 4.1.83 and it has taken almost 5 months for the evaluation and technical assessment.

Sherlock Holmes understands that the tender is to be readvertised. Is it to enable shadowy Kapila Printers to emerge in a new alibi? In the meantime, the issue of EPF pass books will be delayed for another year or two. And will a new tender mean increased prices? There are, says *Sherlock Holmes*, many intriguing questions in this tender episode. *First*, Was Aitken Spence's tender for Rs. 19 million kept as a smokescreen to favour Kapila Printers at Rs. 13 million? *Second*, How could Kapila Printers in the preliminary evaluation have knocked out such reputable printers as Lake House Printers, Tisara Packaging and the foreign firm Toppan Moore Ltd? *Third*, how did the State Printing Corporation hit upon the figure of Rs. 7 million when it also sponsored another tender for Rs. 28 million?

GEMS AND AIR LANKA CATERING

Sherlock Holmes reminds readers that in 1978, 1979 and 1980, he had raised many queries in the columns of the *Tribune* about some unscrupulous Thais and guedas. But as no attention was paid by the authorities — coming under different ministries in charge of Customs, Income Tax, Trade, Police etc. etc. — *Sherlock Holmes* decided to go into hibernation.

Now, after billions of rupees of Sri Lankan gems have been spirited away, and a new kind of corruption introduced into the island by the underworld flesh-pots of Bangkok, there is a hue and cry about Thais, guedas and smuggling. He wonders whether this uproar will be only short-lived, but while it lasts he would like some one in Air Lanka, in the Police and in the Income tax now bothered about guedas, gems and Thais to look into some of the operations of the **Air Lanka Catering Services Ltd.**, which is a joint venture with a Thai company.

There are whispers about gems going out in selected cakes, pastries and dishes on chosen flights. All these stories may be false, but it may be an investigation worth pursuing as many believe that there is no smoke without a fire. Thai geuda and gem merchants are a reputed Mafia and they can easily "take over" sections of our national carriers Catering Services Ltd., without Air Lanka bosses being aware of it.

IT'S NOT MADNESS

It's Mental Health

On the 27th July, 1983, falls the first birth anniversary of SAHANAYA, an organisation developed by the National Council for the Welfare of the Mentally Disturbed.

Not many people have heard about the organisation mainly because of the difficulty in getting people to spread the word naturally and healthily. The subject, mental disturbance, is still a hidden, whispered one in Sri Lanka, sadly so when one realises that .4% of our population of 15 million people are being treated for a mental illness today. Then there are those who are not being treated and the effect they are having on their guardians must be terrifying apart from the effect they are also having on their colleagues at work, their friends at University and the irrevocable damage to themselves.

SAHANAYA is, therefore, trying to promote *care* of the mentally ill and *community awareness* of mental health. It is a voluntary effort on the part of dedicated people. Their small office is at 50/1 Rosmead Place, Colombo, telephone 597945.

Most of all Sahanaya is trying to get away from mental care programmes which are hospital based with a pre-dominant medical orientation, mainly because they feel the emotional, social and cultural factors of the individual are not being given recognition. An interesting factor is that 60% of Sri Lankans are youth and it is between the ages of 16 - 25 years that a major mental illness, Schizophrenia, manifests itself. If we could be aware of symptoms and have courage to seek advice from a psychiatric clinic early, how much easier and quicker a complete cure would be.

Now we come to the point: how does one recognise a mental illness. Well, one can recognise it in oneself as a feeling of distress, you can see it in others by a change of their behaviour from the normal pattern. For instance, watch your children's behavioural pattern carefully between "O" and "A" level studies. Often parents are so involved and pre-occupied with the end result (careerwise) they forget the human element and family life.

Because of the veil of secrecy on Mental Health very few people understand there is a difference between mental disturbance/illness and mental retardation / subnormality. The latter is usually a birth defect, an impairment due to brain damage from birth itself. Whereas the former is a state associated with disturbance in thinking, feeling, perception, memory or behaviour. These could be due to physical damage to the brain (for example a car crash); a

social and environmental stress (for example, intimidation by an employer or job dissatisfaction) and psychological factors.

People today will not or cannot accept the fact that there are a variety of actual names given to mental illnesses. It's amazing how we rattle off the categories of Cancer, prevention and cure almost proudly — in the 50s this subject was taboo. Here are some common diagnoses of mental illness: anxiety state, depressive state, manic state, schizophrenia and phobic state. *Schizophrenia* is really *major* which results in the disruption of personality — however, an *anxiety* state is a *mild disturbance* with fear and tension being the predominant symptom.

Let us try and prevent the start of mental and emotional disturbance otherwise we shall soon have an epidemic on our hands.

Tremendous love and security to children in their early years, with as little disruption in their lives to remember and brood over later, is just one solution. Young or old avoid an unhappy environment and situations; change the scene quickly rather than put up with it. Develop many reliable friends in your neighbourhood. There seems little doubt that those who have good social communications have less mental problems. An isolated person is an unhappy person. If one has been prescribed treatment, for instance, Psychotherapy (a treatment by way of communication) then take it seriously and try to make progress. Anyone can talk endlessly — instead, start putting into action the advice you are given, make plans and most of all *think* and act *rationally*.

SAHANAYA is trying to overcome prejudice and fear of mental illness by talking about it openly. After all, it is just another form of illness that is curable if treated early and in most cases totally curable. The organisation is also trying to get across to the nation that you no longer have to be ashamed of being or knowing a mentally disturbed person. *Sahanaya* really does CARE.

OUT OF FOCUS

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NAMEDIA

Media Conference Of The Nonaligned

An international Media Conference of the Non-aligned called NAMEDIA is to be hosted by India in New Delhi from September 14 to 17 this year. The National Preparatory Committee of NAMEDIA meeting in New Delhi on June 19 discussed the

strategy and plans of the Conference. The purpose of NAMEDIA is to strengthen and help carry out the concept of the New World Information and Communication Order, which has been pressed forward by the Nonaligned Movement and UNESCO. It will explore the possibilities of cooperation with the Nonaligned Movement for collective self-reliance in communication, regular exchange and understanding among both print and electronic media personnel in the nonaligned countries. It will also consider steps to help correct the imbalances that construct a free and balanced flow of world information and restrict communication possibilities to a chosen few.

The Director General of the UNESCO, Mahtar Amadou M'Bow is being invited to inaugurate NAMEDIA. Other world specialists to be invited are Sean McBride, who headed the UNESCO Commission on communication problems, Gunnar Garbo, head of the IDPC (International Programme for Development of Communication), Mustapha Mas-mouli of Tunisia, Juan Somavia of Mexico and Prof. Yash Pal, Leading editors and print and electronic media representatives from all the 101 Nonaligned countries have also been invited. The idea of NAMEDIA gained emphasis after the recent NAM Summit in New Delhi, which places a responsibility on India in the coming years. A number of senior editors, journalists and media specialists felt it was necessary to offer strong and wide support to the Nonaligned Movement in their own field.

Those who attended the meeting of the National Preparatory Committee were Nikhil Chavkravarty (Chairman), D. R. Mankekar (Vice-Chairman), Som Benegal (Secretary-General), Steering Group members N. L. Chowla, S. Viswam, M. K. Ramamurthy, S. Kumar Dev, J. P. Chaturvedi, P. Unnikrish-nana, Subrata Banerji and Jag Mohan, as well as Members of the Committee, Girilala Jain, M. J. Akbar., H. S. Chahbra, C. S. Pandit, Lakshman Tandon, R. S. Bhatt, A. K. Jain, Ramesh Gupta, L. S. Gupta, P. K. Bar gyopadyay, K. L. Nandan, Upendra Vajapeyi, Abu Abraham, M. Shammim, Y. A. Shetty and M. R. S. Mani.

Other members of the Committee are A. Raghavan (Vice Chairman), Hari Jaisingh, Dewan Berindranath, N. R. Chandran, C. N. Chitta Ranjan, A. N. Dar, Mrinal Ghosh, D. R. Goyal., Vishwabandhu Gupta, H. N. Hari Kumar, Prem Shankar Jha, R. K. Karanja P. S. Kasbekar, Abid Al, Khan, Inder Malhotra, Vinod Methra, Vinod Kumar Mishra, C. P. R. K. Mishra, Ramachandran, V. P. Ramachandran, D. K. Rangnekar, R. Rangarajan, J. S. Tilak, Kapil Varma, Virendra and Modhumita Mazumdar.

New Delhi,
June 19, 1983

TRIBUNE, JULY 9, 1983

Lester James- I

In lighter vein, this column is aware of numerous instances where the secular press has gone to town with banner headlines when Sri Lankan sports teams have been just also rans in international events, or even when a Sri Lankan owned race-horse has finished last in a foreign track. But some of the many meritorious firsts notched by our countrymen have been overlooked publicitywise, either by prejudice that is calculated or by casual indifference. *The relevance of this preamble is to point to the fact that many are yet not aware that the reputed and very widely read encyclopaedic "International Film Guide" has conferred on one in our midst, the honour of being nominated as one of the world's five best film directors for 1982. He is none other than Lester James Peris, a household name in the local sphere of the cinematic media. This citation was certainly a very rare tribute to the creative achievements of Lester who began his work in the early fifties.*

As one who has seen every one of his films in this period, which neatly indexed the march of Sinhala cinema to the position it holds today your columnist would like to list them in case some of them come your way. None of them have become stale or obsolete. Lester's films were *Rekawa* (1956), *Sandesaya* (1960), *Gamperaliya* (1964), *Delovak Athara* (1966), *Ran Salu* (1967) *Golu Hadawata* (1968), *Akkara Paha* (1969), *Nidanaya* (1970), *Desa Nisa* (1972), *The God King* (1975), *Madol Duwa* (1976), *Ahasin Polowata* (1978), *Veera Puran Appu* (1977), *Beddegama* (1980), *Kali Yugaya* (1982), and the yet to be released *Yuganthaya* (1983).

Your columnist dropped in at Lester's residence a few days ago and was regaled and enriched by his very informative views and anecdotes on the march of Sinhala Cinema to win global recognition. One does not tire listening to him and a couple of hours passed by without being noticed. With wife Sumitra a director in her own right (*Gehunu Lamai* and *Yahalu Yeheli*) by his side, the master had much to say — far too much the space in this column. I can only refer to a purple patch *obiter dicta*. Of a latest "hit" he commented that it failed to make an international impact by its thriller approach, at the expense of the artistic in creativity, for the latter is the criteria for global recognition. He was quick to point out the mixed initial feelings with which his creation *Baddegama* was received locally, while the International press paradoxically raved about the film, and perhaps led Lester on to the "Oscar" among four of the world's best. He feels that so much rubbish is being churned out that Sri Lankans are getting

used to a lowering of standards and the groovy formula, to recognize a worthwhile film, without running headlong into a controversy.

Moving on he mentioned that he had intended a role for Ben Kingsley, the "Gandhi" film hero, in his "God King", who was scripted out regrettably at the last minute. Lester even wonders whether "Cinema" has had its day at the expense of video, visual effects and computerised creativity scoring over the human element which picturegoers hunger for. Referring to the space films like *Star Wars*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Close Encounters* etc. which cost millions, Lester wondered whether there are transitory stages that could fade away, as the visuals reach a saturation point. He however said that *E. T. (Extra Territorial)* among this genre of films but which veered towards humanism and therefore tugged at the tear ducts of curtains. Well Lester is not over-awed by these new cinematic, waves and trends, nor is he giving into the tempo and the rhythm that could have won audiences, where his future creations, even for Television are concerned. He is determined to retain his own exclusive style and pace which has won for him many awards. At 63 he has not relaxed to his approach to cinema and wishes that he will be around for many years to enrich the local film scene and raise it to international levels. This column hopes to reproduce extracts from the International Film Guide for the benefit of *Tribune* readers in the next issue.

THE SHINING (English): A Warner Brothers Production with Stanley Kubrick — the modern day "Horror" master at the controls, this film certainly had audiences at nerves and from the half stage towards curtains. Many in the audience rushed out for fresh air and mental relief intermittently to return to the gruesome events that unfolded on the screen. The Kubrick touch retains the artistic by sheer use of camera sound and music while unwinding the blood soaked story. Although the title spelt out a mental telepathic phenomenon as a consequence to a claustrophobic situation it kept its grip on the story to the very end. It all happens in a hotel atop an ice capped mountain, in the off season, where a family of three walk in, quite oblivious to the aberrations that would naturally set in, as the walls a round them and the winding spaces, close and open out to vibrate their domestic life to a trauma. You can shock yourself following the story and this column does not wish to interfere any further, but the Oscar winner Jack Nicholson gave his histrionic best at Kubrick's call, while Shelly Duvoll as his nerve-racked wife ran a close second, with her sanity receding as the film progressed. There was this winsome kid too who was part of the pathetic agony as a giant maze chase closed its exists for a nail biting finish. Just the prescription for a sleepless night, summon your guts and sit this one out when down your way.

SAHALAKALA VALLAVAN (Tamil) : A "Guru" styled film directed by S. P. Muthuraman in colour and plenty of action with actor Kamalahasan making it a box office smasher. Quite akin to a flashy Hindi film, the kind of which appeals to Sri Lankan audience always, even the action sequences were chilled in slow — motion a novelty in South Indian film fare. The story had the proverbial rich boy (Kamalahasan), poor girl (Ambika) romance, with the elders contributing of the ruggedness of it all. The "formula" cut deep into the story, with a violated belle of the village (Thulasi), whose honour had to be redeemed by a wedlock, and her brother (Kamal) sets about it with a vengeance. He sheds his rural cocoon and acquires a foreign accent, making his role almost a dual one but many scenes were stolen by veteran actor K. R. Ramasamy whose biting sarcasms at the expense of his proud wife had the audience in stitches. All the ingredients are mixed well and the grill is appetising, visually speaking.

EYE FOR AN EYE (English) : With a title that breathes revenge and quite out of tune with the sentiments expressed in the opening lines of this column, this AUTO Embassy Release is one of cops versus the underworld, with measured doses of the martial arts. With his best friend and sweet-heart brutally killed, the hero cop Kane, in the film is roled by Chuck Norris, who relies more on his lightning footwork than on his fists to scatter his foes, who are running a narcotics and explosives racket. When his superiors frown on his unorthodox methods, Kane hands over his badge and takes to a lonesome trail of vengeance. The Poplice Commissioner however keeps an eye and a blind one at that, on Kane, till he lays the gang and earns back his badge. The film was action packed without any exaggerated karate chops and subdued cries of conflicts that most martial arts films do not embrace, and keep thereby to a selective audience only. This film keeps to that difference throughout and makes it well worth a visit.

James N. Benedict.

NEXT WEEK

- **SHERLOCK HOLMES**
 - Cabinet Reshuffle
 - SLFP
 - Copra Imports
 - Cattle Exports
- **GAM UDAWA**
 - Success
- **AIR LANKA**
 - Taiwan

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

Reference No. ATH 3/672

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 9

It is intended to acquire the Land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No. 250/9 of 23.06.83

D. R. O's Division : Homagama.
Village : Thalawatugoda.
Name of Land : St. Thomas Estate.
Lot No. : 01.
Plan No. P. P. Co : 6006.

The Kachcheri,
 Colombo.
 21. 6. 1983.
 EJP/21.6.83

H. C. Gunawardana.
 District Land Officer,
 Colombo District.

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June 20 - 26

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 20: The executive committee of the Judicial Service Association on Saturday called for the appointment of an independent commission of inquiry to probe the demonstrations outside the homes of three Supreme Court Judges on June 11. Unauthorised use, possession and transport of guns, explosives or any other offensive weapons has been made a capital offence within the Jaffna district. A major outbreak of diarrhoea in Galaha area has already claimed five lives. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today called for greater economic cooperation between Europe and India and said efforts should be made to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. Pope John Paul, nearing the climax of an emotion-charged visit to his homeland, has called on his countrymen to show solidarity in an oblique deference to Poland's now-banned free trade union—*DN*. The tea industry is perplexed that the Soviet Union's tea buyer at the Colombo auctions failed to turn up on June 14 but commenced operations in Bangladesh one week earlier—*DM*. All Colombo Police stations were placed on full alert last night after a confession by a terrorist suspect that city Police stations were to be the targets of terrorist attacks over the weekend. A joint opposition motion of no confidence against the government is being canvassed by the SLFP which hopes to move it when Parliament meets on June 27. Remand prisoners who are in detention for over three months, will shortly be entitled to go before a Board of Review—*SU*. The proposal to introduce a pension scheme for private sector employees is believed to have been responsible for the recent spate of premature withdrawals of EPF moneys. The TULF on Saturday called upon the Government to abandon its attempts to suppress the Tamil liberation struggle through the force of arms and work out a political solution after recognising the Tamil people's right of self-determination—*IS*. The TULF will decide at the District conference of the Front that will be held at Mannar whether the members of the party will resign from the Parliament or not—*VK*.

TRIBUNE JULY 9, 1983

TUESDAY, JUNE 21: Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed said yesterday that legislation would soon be introduced to provide for a system whereby private bus operators would voluntarily regulate their services; it would help avoid wasteful competition between private operators and the CTB and between the operators themselves. A group of Tamil and Sinhalese expatriates have jointly formulated a 12-point peace plan designed to help resolve the violent conflict now going on between the Sri Lanka government and Tamil separatists in the north. Polish authorities warned the country's Roman Catholic Church today against permissiveness towards Solidarity supporters, betraying obvious anxiety at the increasingly political nature of Pope John Paul's visit to his homeland—*DN*. A project in collaboration with a leading British firm is to be set up in Sri Lanka to recycle used diesel engine lubricating oil which is presently wasted; this wastage is to be avoided by using the Zimmark process developed by the British Soil Laboratories—*DM*. Immediate revamping and revitalising of the plantation sector's existing managerial structure is the lead recommendation in a series of proposals by World Bank consultants to haul the ailing industry back onto its feet. A post-graduate Centre for Archaeological Studies is to be set up shortly by the University Grants Commission—*SU*. A breakdown in the production plant of the State Fertilizer Manufacturing Corporation has led to the Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation being left without any stocks for distribution. Nearly four lakhs of persons in the Anuradhapura district face the prospect of starvation with the ending of drought-relief work which was being provided by the Department of Social Services to about 50,000 families—*IS*. Despite world recession and inflation in the donor countries, Sri Lanka was able to clinch aid to the extent of 500 m US dollars because of her political stability, according to some of the officials who returned yesterday after the talks at Paris—*EO*. Professors from abroad will be brought to Sri Lanka for teaching in Universities; they will be engaged in teaching medicine, engineering and science—*DP*.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22: The International Development Association, the soft-loan affiliate of the Washington based World Bank, has granted a \$ 23 million loan for rural development projects in Vavuniya and Mannar districts. Government has accepted in principle the setting up of a joint venture company between the state sector and a Singapore based subsidiary of Tata, the Indian industrial giant, to run a bus service in the Katunayake investment promotion zone (IPZ). Despite the communist regime's warning on Sunday that the Pope's visit should not inspire political demonstrations, he openly defended the right to form independent unions in Poland on Monday—*DN*. The Ceylon Electricity Board will set up a computerised distribution system in view of the increasing loss on the present distribu-

tion system of electricity—DM. The Ceylon Electricity Board will be compelled to impose country-wide rolling power cuts in the first week of July, if the inactive south west monsoon fails to establish itself. Last week's reduction of the duty free allowances permitted to Indian tourists, by their government had resulted in an immediate 40 percent decrease in sales at the Duty Free Shopping Complex in Colpetty—SU. The MP for Jaffna, Mr. V. Yogeswaran was questioned for one and a half hours at the Gurunagar Army cantonment yesterday morning. Sri Lanka has appealed to the Japanese Government to donate 7,000 tons of canned fish to ease the prospect of starvation facing nearly 335,000 families in seventeen drought stricken districts. Although the prospects of a devaluation of the Sri Lanka rupee against the US dollar looms large, there has been hardly any confusion in Colombo's financial markets over the past few days. Twenty Indian illicit entrants and visa overstays who had been languishing at the Slave Island Detention Camp for several months were repatriated to India a few days ago following the recent exposures in *The Island* about the conditions at the Camp which houses mostly detainees of Indian origin—IS. Finance Ministry officials are confident that the International Monetary Fund will not insist that Sri Lanka devalue the rupee—EO. The Defence Ministry decided yesterday to cancel the visas immediately of over 100 Thai Gem Merchants residing in the Ratnapura District—DP.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23: A handpicked team of policemen participated in what authoritative sources described as "one of the most thorough geuda checks ever done in the country" in Colombo and the Ratnapura district on Tuesday; a total of 56 premises were checked in Ratnapura with the investigators concentrating mainly on the many Thais dealing in geudas. With three of the four newly elected local bodies in the Jaffna districts failing to meet on June 16, the day set for their inaugural and the fourth meeting with just a bare quorum, local administration is virtually at a standstill there. Yasser Arafat has appealed to Saudi and other Arab leaders to help save him from a revolt in Palestinian guerilla ranks which he now alleges is Syrian assisted—DN. The export of cultural property without a licence issued by the Commissioner of Archaeology is to be prohibited. Fifteen applicants are seeking nominations for the Kaduwela seat in Parliament—DM. A top level inquiry has been initiated by the Defence Ministry into the escape from the Katunayake International Airport terminal last morning of two Tamil youths who had attempted to enter the country on forged Indian passports. More than 80,000 National Identity cards are lying at the Department of Registration of Persons unclaimed by their owners. The Ministry of Private Omnibuses would not approve any further hiking of fare prices, its Secretary Victor Rupasinghe

said yesterday—SU. The inquiries conducted by SLCTB authorities into the alleged use of CTB buses in the demonstrations against the three Supreme Court judges on June 11 have drawn a blank according to SLCTB sources. While the Police investigating painstakingly over the last twelve days have been seeking clues as to the identities of the persons who participated in the demonstrations outside the houses of the Supreme Court Judges on June 11, a man walked into *The Island* office yesterday afternoon claiming that he organised the demonstrations; the young man identified himself as P. Lakshman Fernando—IS.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24: Employment in the industrial sector will increase at an average of 144,000 a year during 1982-86 and at an average rate of 165,000 during 1986-1991. The Government has decided that there will be no duty-free shopping facilities at the new national sports complex. Pope John Paul is expected to meet Solidarity leader Lech Walesa today, the final day of an eight-day pilgrimage to his homeland, following unscheduled talks yesterday with Polish military ruler Wojciech Jaruzelski. A Warsaw Pact summit meeting in Moscow next week may endorse the Soviet Union's latest warning on nuclear missiles and give the go-ahead to move Soviet missiles into other East European states—DN. Goods transported in SLTB buses will cost over 200 percent more; Transport Ministry sources said that a fare structure is being worked out and the new fares will be based on the weight and distance of the cargo being consigned—DM. Lakshman Fernando the Colombo businessman who is alleged to have confessed to having organised the demonstrations outside the houses of the three Supreme Court judges on June 11 could not be traced up to the time of going to press. The SLFP will shortly revamp its Party constitution to overcome the detrimental effects of some aspects of the election law which provides the Party Secretary the power of nomination of a candidate for elections in such a manner that the authority of the Party leadership and Politbureau is 'preempted'—SU. The President of the Sri Lanka Bar Association Mr. Herman J. C. Perera yesterday dismissed the statement of Lakshman Fernando the man who claimed that he had led the demonstrations against the three Supreme Court judges as "a practical joke"; Mr. Perera who said was speaking in his personal capacity as a lawyer and not as President of the Association noted that Mr. Fernando was "trying to take the whole public, including the President and Prime Minister, for a ride". Air Lanka Chairman Captain Rakkitha Wickremanayake yesterday denied foreign reports that Sri Lanka's national carrier had sought permission from Taiwan to fly to that country—IS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25: Much of the beef consumed by Colombo residents is considered "unsafe" by

the Municipal Veterinary authorities; they estimate that up to 40,000 pounds of illicit beef, most of which do not measure up to proper health standards is sold in the city; Colombo's daily beef consumption is in the region of 80,000 pounds. The recent reduction in the lending rates of commercial banks will be accompanied by the trimming of deposit rates very shortly, authoritative financial sources indicated yesterday; this will mean further cuts in the lending rates for priority purposes, they added. A senior aide of Polish leader, Wojciech Jaruzelski, said last night that martial law may be abolished on July 22, Poland's National Day, as a result of Pope John Paul's visit—*DN*. New legislation will be introduced in Parliament by the Minister of Justice to consolidate the law relating to admiralty jurisdiction; the Bill called the Admiralty Jurisdiction Bill will lay the procedure for a High Court to function in hearing cases connected with ships and the arrest of ships and other property—*CDM*. The government may ban the use of bicycles within the Jaffna city limits; Emergency regulations to this effect are being formulated by the Legal Draftsman Department; they will be enforced after Defence Ministry officials consult President J. R. Jayewardene next week. A national appeal to domestic and public utility consumers to save electricity, so that power cuts can be avoided was made yesterday by Ceylon Electricity Board General Manager H. S. Subasinghe—*SU*. A top level investigation has been launched by the Police into the activities of the Tamil Refugee Rehabilitation Organisation; an architect and a lawyer both of whom are office bearers of the organisation were this week questioned by the Police in this connection. The Government Medical Officers Association at its AGM tomorrow will discuss political interference in hospitals and harassment of doctors, GMOA Secretary, Dr. Sunil Ratnapriya said yesterday—*IS*. The police has made a sudden order ejecting 250 families of Indian origin within a week who had settled down in the Vavuniya District after the racial riots—*VK*. Malaria is spreading fast; during the past five months about 20,000 people have been affected by the diseases; Anuradhapura and Vavuniya have been heavily affected—*DP*.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26: Political quarters expect a cabinet reshuffle in the first week of August after the new Parliament begins on August 4 as approved by the Referendum; some ministers have also expressed the wish to change their present portfolios. Over 200,000 people have visited the Gam Udawa 83 at Nikaweratiya during its first two days. The demonstration staged outside the residences of three Supreme Court judges and the Parliamentary Select Committee inquiring into the conduct of two Supreme Court Judges were discussed at a Bar Council meeting held at the Law Library, Hultsdort yesterday—*SO*. The Government Press has failed to print the final Hansards (Parliamentary Debates)

of the past five and half years; the State Press has as a result an accumulation of 387 final Hansards to be printed. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning held a series of meeting in London with Ministers of the New British Cabinet. Rexine seat covers are stolen from trains and sold to certain motor garages for seat coverings in motor vehicles; this racket was bared on Thursday when Railway Security men caught a man redhanded at the Maradana railway station—*ST*. The national carrier, Air Lanka, has by its own admission been negotiating apparently without the government's consent for an air link with Taiwan which, if successful could easily sabotage the government's foreign policy by causing a diplomatic incident with China—*WK*. Thai gem buyers are planning to hit back at the Sri Lanka Government's decision to restrict the period of their visas from one month to one week by boycotting Sri Lanka for a short period, according to informed sources in the gem trade. The MP for Chavakachcheri Mr. V. N. Navaratnam is expected to keep away from Parliament from July 21 when the life of the parliament elected in July 1977 expires—*IS*.



PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON

The Arms Race

Stockholm, June 23: The Soviet-American arms race could reach a "point of no return" this year if arms control efforts fail and new nuclear weapons are introduced in Europe, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has warned. The authoritative watch dog on arms control in its 14th annual report today said the world arms race was accelerating partly due to US President Ronald Reagan's arms buildup. "In the history of weapons procurement and deployment, certain years mark a new stage in the process of military confrontation. This year is such a year" the Institute report said. Once new deployments have been made, they are rarely reversed. They usually prove to be "points of no return." If no agreement is reached and new missiles are deployed, it could set back the possibilities of progress in arms control for a lengthy period", the report further stated.

However, the Institute report said if the United States and the Soviet Union reach agreement in Geneva on reducing their intermediate-range nuclear arsenals the way would be open for further reductions

in number of weapons. The SIPRI yearbook, a 681 page volume is considered to be one of the most reliable gauges of the State of world armaments. The Institute is funded but not controlled by the Risksdag, Sweden's Parliament, and employs international experts in various arms fields. In an interview Frank Blackaby, the Institute chairman, said British and French nuclear arsenals should be included in the talks because "they simply cannot be ignored any more". Britain, France and the United States have rejected Moscow's demands on the ground that the weapons are only for national defence and are not included in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's tactical plans. "The point is that while the United States and the Soviet Union are discussing reductions to a limit of 5,000 (strategic nuclear warheads) each, the French and the British have plans to increase the warheads", said Mr. Blackaby, who is British. He said Britain and France may have between them more than 2000 warheads aimed at the Soviet Union by the turn of the century. He further adds he makes no distinction between strategic or intercontinental and tactical or intermediate - range, nuclear missiles because both can easily cross international borders with devastating effect. Mr. Blackaby denied the Institute's stand follows the Soviet line. "Another point of ours, which is not a Soviet point is that, if the Soviets reduce parity, they should not just move their missiles to Siberia but they should dismantle them."

—AFP.

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USSR SUPREME SOVIET

The International Situation

Moscow, June 16: "In the present-day tense international situation everything must be done to halt the arms race, get back on the path of detente and enhance peace" the USSR Supreme Soviet said in the resolution "On The International Situation and the Soviet Union's Foreign Policy" adopted at its Session today after discussing the speech delivered by Andrei Gromyko, first Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and USSR Foreign Minister. The enhancement of peace "would in a large measure be facilitated by all the other nuclear powers following the example of the Soviet Union and making the pledge not to make first use of nuclear weapons, as well as by implementing the proposal of the Warsaw Treaty countries for the conclusion of a treaty between themselves and the NATO countries on the non-use of armed force and the maintenance of relations of peace. One of the most pressing tasks at the moment is to put an end to the nuclear arms build up. To accomplish this task would be a major contribution to lessening the danger which overhangs the peoples. "Proceeding from this," the resolution says, "the USSR Supreme Soviet charges

the Soviet government to address a proposal to the governments of the United States of America, Great Britain, France and the People's Republic of China for a simultaneous qualitative and quantitative freeze by all nuclear powers of all nuclear armaments possessed by them. Such a freeze could enter into force first with regard to the Soviet Union and the United States from a certain date, subject to agreements, implying that the other nuclear powers would act in a similar way."

"The USSR Supreme Soviet expresses the hope that the Supreme Legislative bodies and governments of the United States of America, Great Britain France and the People's Republic of China will, adopt a responsible, constructive position as regards the nuclear freeze proposal and display political will in order to break, at last, the vicious circle of the arms race in the interests of all people's of our planet," the resolution says. The resolution fully approves the activity of the Soviet Government on practical realisation of the Leninist foreign policy course of the CPSU and the Soviet state. The Supreme Soviet expressed full support for measures on maintaining at a proper level the defence capability of the Soviet Union and ensuring the security of its allies, undertaken with consideration for the actually developing military-political situation in the world. "These measures", the resolution says, "are aimed at maintaining the existing balance of forces which is a reliable guarantee under the present conditions against the outbreak of nuclear war."—Tass/APN

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GROMYKO

Soviet Foreign Policy

Below are extracts from the report by the first vice-chairman of USSR Council of Ministers, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Gromyko at the Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He outlined the main directions of the USSR's foreign policy. They are protection of the national interests of the Soviet Union and consolidation of the positions of world socialism, support of the people's struggle for national liberation and social progress, prevention of aggressive wars, attainment of universal and complete disarmament and consistent implementation of the principle of peaceful coexistence of states with differing social systems. *Andrei Gromyko* said that the course of international events was governed by the confrontation of two lines; preserving and strengthening peace on the one hand, and at undermining its foundations — on the other. The Soviet Union, the other socialist countries and the overwhelming majority of nations, including those which

belong to different social systems, unequivocally stand for peace. Turning to the serious deterioration of the international situation in recent years, Andrei Gromyko noted that this was going on because the cockpit of Washington's foreign policy had come to be occupied by representatives of the circles with clearly expressed imperial ambitions, who were preaching the cult of strength in international relations and claiming to refashion the world after their own fashion. These were exactly the things that resulted in the shift in the US policy towards the drive for military superiority. *They should know it in Washington, Gromyko said, that there will be no winners in nuclear war.* This is the view of scientists, sober-minded politicians and all those who do not conceal the truth in their honest evaluation of the grave danger inherent in any nuclear conflict. Gromyko pointed out that Washington was putting the stake on changing the strategic balance of forces to its advantage. This is the principal objective of US policy in international affairs which is spreadheaded against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. But it is targeted against the world in general too.

Andrei Gromyko spoke of the Soviet initiatives at strengthening peace and security on the planet and at reducing armaments, including nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union rejects the very idea of nuclear war as reckless and calls it as criminal. We proceed from the assumption that everything must be done to make sure that nuclear weapons are never employed. It would be reasonable, the Soviet Foreign Minister said, to agree at least on halting further stockpiling of nuclear weapons and freezing the nuclear arsenals of both sides both quantitatively and qualitatively. It can be stated with clear conscience that the Soviet throws the entire prestige of its foreign policy, its entire vast peace potential on to the scales in favour of peace, for averting nuclear catastrophe. Andrei Gromyko stressed that it would be a tragedy for mankind if outer space became a source of discord among states, to say nothing of a sphere of their military clashes. The paramount task in this connection is concluding an international treaty on the non-deployment of any weapons in outer space, which has been suggested by the Soviet Union. "We are ready to go still further and agree on prohibiting the use of force in outer space and from outer space with regard to the earth. We are prepared to immediately start such talks. another urgent problem, noted the speaker, is the earliest prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, one of the most barbaric means of mass annihilation which Washington used not long ago in the war against the Vietnamese people."

Andrei Gromyko then said that peoples upholding their national independence and social progress are playing an ever more significant part in world politics. It is up to them to choose their road of development.

TRIBUNE, JULY 9, 1983

Outside interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign nations is inadmissible. This firm provision of the charter must be strictly fulfilled. The Soviet Foreign Minister pointed out that the Soviet Union still regards as its internationalist duty to back the liberation movements of Asian, African, and Latin American peoples and the struggle for consolidating the independence and sovereignty of the countries of those regions. The Soviet Union welcomes the growing role in international affairs of nonaligned nations which are ever more resolutely holding anti-imperialist and anti-war stands. This is demonstrated by the result of the recent nonaligned forum in New Delhi. The speaker stressed the Soviet Union's solidarity with the developing countries' struggle for a international economic order—APN.

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IRAN

Tudeh's Appeal

Dear Compatriots, The freedom-loving Iranian people,

Four years of incessant intrigues and conspiracies by internal and external reaction against the Iranian revolution of 1979 have dealt a heavy blow to its gains. The foes of independence, freedom and social progress, despite the selfless actions of progressive and freedom-loving forces, including the Tudeh Party of Iran, have managed to seize the levers of power and key positions in the country's administration. Reaction has started an onslaught on the Tudeh party of Iran, a working class party the name of which is written into the history of our country thanks to its forty-year-long activity, the innumerable sacrifices made by it, the long jail and exile terms of its members, the inhuman tortures suffered by them and its entire heroic struggle against the Shah's dictatorship.

The blind striving for a monopoly of power and the religious sectarianism of a handful of imaginary authorities and usurpers of people's power; the steadily growing influence of west-worshipping big landowners and capitalists in state agencies and their almost complete predominance in these agencies; and the feebleness, impotence and capitulationism of the comparatively radical wing in ruling circles that is increasingly retreating in the face of the far-right elements — all this is a mortal danger threatening under the cover of Islam and the Islamic republic the very life of our people. False claimants to the role of defenders of morality, conscience, justice and freedom, these usurpers of people's power are humiliating the honest patriots of our country, in their medieval dungeons they are

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either killing or breaking them under barbaric tortures. They call the acts of lawlessness committed by them the freest methods of government, and the plunder being carried out by big capital an Islamic economy and a free-from-exploitation classless society. On each who raise the slightest voice of protest they stick the label of an "enemy of Islam", a "foreign agent", a "spy", "subversive element" and "hypocrite". To gather "evidence" for such accusations and for the eradication of dissidence, they use the most cruel methods of influencing their defenceless victims. The people of Iran have not yet forgotten such inhuman methods of the time of the Shah's rule.

Abject poverty and unemployment stalk the land. The country's economy, which is holding only thanks to oil riches, is nearing collapse. Tens of thousands of political prisoners have been flung into prison for their dissidence. Under cover of a struggle against exploitation and plunder and for the creation of a society of Islamic justice, the regime is depriving hungry peasants of an opportunity to receive and own land. In the interest of merchants who hold power the regime gives these "respected and true believers", complete control over foreign trade while depriving workers of the right to create organisations and defend their rights by labelling them "Tudehists", "Fedayeen" and "Mujahedeen" driving them from their jobs. All this is being done to establish so-called "Islamic justice". We tell them; "If you are not afraid to take into your hands the constitution, which, in spite of all its obvious shortcomings, does nonetheless partially reflect the will of the people, and if it doesn't burn your hands, then open it and read it. Read, for example, articles, 20, 23, 24, 26, 29, 38 and 40 and realise what an enormous gulf lies between you, who call yourselves the executors of the will of the people and their genuine will. All realise whom it is necessary to bring to court! Those who trample under foot the Constitution or the true defenders of independence, freedom and social justice — these defenceless victims of your despotic and illegal courts? *The protest and resentment of ordinary people in Iran against the anti-democratic actions of the despotic regime is growing each day. More than even before, freedom loving Iranians are filled with a desire to set up a united front of struggle against reaction.* This is the desire of all the patriots, regardless of their ideological, philosophic or religious persuasions. Our revolution, now in mortal danger, badly needs such an effective means of its salvation as popular unity. History will forgive nobody his passiveness in this matter. — *The External Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran,*

3 June 1983.

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SOUTH AFRICA

Squeeze On Neighbours

Durban: South Africa which is surrounded by independent African countries is trying to squeeze into submission its African neighbours in an attempt to dissuade them from providing sanctuary for some 14,000 ANC freedom fighters. This is the view of prominent academics and political observers following the move by South Africa to slow down traffic to the tiny, land-locked kingdom of Lesotho and the air force strike into Maputo on 22 May, reports Press Trust of South Africa (PTSA). A prominent lecturer in African political studies at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, Mr. Tom Lodge, disclosed that the Pretoria Government was worried about the African National Congress (ANC) freedom fighters who were poised to enter South Africa. Mr. Lodge, who is considered to be an expert on the ANC, claimed in an interview, that 7,000 young members of the ANC had undergone full scale guerilla training and another 7,000 are presently in training camps.

One of the first countries to feel the muscle of Pretoria is Lesotho, which is completely surrounded by South Africa. Immediately after the Bloemfontein blast, South Africa introduced strict security measures at all border posts with Lesotho and, in the process slowing down traffic into the land-locked country. South African Foreign Minister Pik Bokha, intimated that the traffic slow down was part of Pretoria's punitive measures against Lesotho when he announced that his Government would not tolerate what he called ANC elements in Lesotho. In addition to the border slow down, Pretoria is also putting the squeeze on Lesotho by delaying the transportation of arms and ammunition which Lesotho had ordered from a foreign country. Although the arms and ammunition have been stored at the Durban harbour for the past three months, South Africa is showing very little enthusiasm in releasing the military hardware. A Pretoria official stated that the measures against Lesotho was an attempt to demonstrate to the tiny kingdom that it was dependent in South Africa for its day to day survival. In addition, political observers and commentators believe that Pretoria will use its military might like the Maputo air raid to warn countries, such as Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Tanzania not to grant sanctuary to trained ANC freedom fighters. They are, however, of the view that Pretoria's military and economic blackmail will not be able to solve the political situation inside South Africa. Former editor of the banned Johannesburg *World Newspaper*, Percy Qoboza, summed up the feelings of most people when he said that incidents such as the Pretoria car bomb blast would continue unless South Africa redefined its role in

bringing about a just solution to the country's political problems.—PTI



STILL STRONG

Pillars of Apartheid

Johannesburg: Blacks can stay at the five star Cariton hotel in Johannesburg, but they can't see movies in the Kine Centre theater complex across the street. Those two facts of South African life reflect the contradictions of apartheid in 1983. Thirty-five years after the National Party won power on a platform of white domination, there are halting steps away from the most visible segregation. Yet the ruling whites stand firmly behind the pillars of apartheid, denying fundamental citizenship rights to the black majority. Blacks now use some public libraries, parks are often open to all races, some hotels and restaurants have received 'international' status permits, allowing multi-racial clientele. But toilets in libraries and other public buildings remain segregated, as are public schools and bars and movie houses.

Most relaxation of apartheid laws, such as integration of sports stadiums and stage theatres 'is done by means of permit', said Professor John Dugard, head of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwater Stand in Johannesburg. That way the Government 'can stand up in the country and say 'we haven't changed any racist laws,' Prof Dugard added. 'At the same time., it can come to Johannesburg and says, look how we've relaxed three laws, look how we are moving with the times, aren't we liberal.' Apartheid foes say too much attention is paid to 'petty apartheid', obscuring the Government's steadfast commitment to 'grand apartheid', the system relegating blacks to ten tribal homelands.

Prime Minister P W Botha's Government has embraced a plan to create two new chambers of parliament: one for the 'coloured' (mixed race) minority of 2.7 million and another for the nation's 850,000 Indians. Both groups are now excluded from national politics. Even the hint of power-sharing with other races has prompted a surge in support for ultra-right-wing parties in recent special elections, although the country's five million whites would retain effective control. But broader criticism comes from the exclusion of South Africa's 21 million blacks from the new Constitution.

The National Party believes blacks should have citizenship rights in ten rural homeland covering 13 percent of the country on the premise that apartheid prevents racial friction. Four homelands have been declared independent, but they are not recognized

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abroad. Since the late 1950s hundreds of thousands of black families have been removed from white land and resettled in the bleak overcrowded homelands, where malnutrition is rife and the cross domestic product averages less than 100 rand (90 dollars) per person a year. The Institute of Race Relations estimates three million blacks were resettled from 1960 to 1980. The pass laws constitute one of the major enforcement tools of 'influx control' — stopping the flow of blacks into white South Africa. In 1982, 206,000 blacks were arrested for pass law offences up from 160,000 the previous year and 112,000 in 1980.—AP.



JUDICIAL CHANGE

In South Africa

Washington, June 28: There are two good reasons to believe that peaceful change can be achieved in South Africa: the country's independent judiciary, and its distinguished bar — institutions which tie South Africa to the finest traditions in Western democracy. Our faith in them was rewarded again last month by a ruling from the country's highest court on the right of black migrant workers to live in the urban areas where they work. Our belief that the forces of reform are gaining strength in South Africa was reinforced last week by the announcement that the Government will abide by the Court's decision. The court struck down part of the complex Residency Law that restricts black workers from living permanently in cities. The ruling does not constitute the total freedom of movement for all South Africans, black and white, that is their right. But we believe that it does represent a definite step forward.

We hope it also represents a step toward rebuilding the rule of law on South Africa. We have been concerned in recent years by new acts of Parliament, and by Police practices that prevent the courts from reviewing executive action. This is especially apparent in the system of detention, where the right of access to those held by the Police has been restricted. Such a system leads to abuse. And limitations on the ability of the courts to correct such abuses play into the hands of those who prefer violent revolution in South Africa to peaceful reform. The independent judiciary of South Africa can be a powerful means of achieving justice. South Africans of good will regardless of their race or political philosophy understand this, and we support them in their efforts.

It is clear to us that by one means or another, South Africa's domestic racial system will be changed. Black South Africans will gain fuller participation in all aspects of South African society and politics. So our

policy is directed not at whether a non-racial order is in South Africa's future, but as how it can be achieved. Anything that strengthens the rule of law in South Africa also strengthens the hand of those who reject, as we do both alignment with the current racial order and violence as a means of ending it.

—VOA/USIS



LIFE-SAVING FRUIT

Lime

LESS HARDY than other members of the citrus family, Lime trees are rarely found outside tropical and semi-tropical regions of the world. They can easily be damaged by low temperatures as well as by sudden heat waves and strong winds. However, adapted to most types of soil and, as their roots are shallow, require no more than four feet of drainage. The tree, with its spreading branches and irregular short, stiff twigs, is shrub-like in appearance and does not attain any great height. It has pale to dark green leaves and white flowers which, though small, are produced in large numbers and have a distinctive perfume. From these flowers, globular or oval fruits, with a nipplelike protuberance at the apex, are formed. They vary in size (but are generally between one and two inches in diameter), flavour, acidity, juiciness of the pulp, and thickness of the rind, according to variety. But they all differ from other citrus fruits in that, instead of being propagated vegetatively, limes are normally grown from seed the skins of the fruit are greener in colour, and they contain more acid and more sugar.

HISTORY The Lime was once regarded by some botanists as a variety of lemon and it was called *Wild-Lemon* or *Limonier Sauvage* because of its prickly branches. Others believed it to be hybrid between the orange and the lemon but today it is

recognized as a separate species. *India is thought to be its country of origin as it has grown there since remote times, but it also has a very long history of growth on the north and east shores of the Bay of Bengal, down to Malaya and the East Indies.* Arab traders are believed to have taken it to eastern Mediterranean countries and West Africa some time before 1000 A. D., and returning Crusaders introduced it to western Mediterranean countries in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Among other citrus fruits the Lime travelled with Columbus, in 1493; on his second voyage to the West Indies where it has since become naturalized. Spanish settlers were later responsible for taking it to Central and parts of South America as well as southern Florida.

Sweet and Acid Limes Although there are many varieties of the fruit, they are separated into two main groups: the sweet and the acid limes. The sweet are so called because they contain a higher proportion of sugar but they have an insipid taste and are not considered to be of high nutritive value. For this reason they are not grown on any great scale. In north-west India they are used as rootstock for santia oranges and in other countries are grown for their curiosity value and their decorative appearance. Acid Limes, on the other hand, are extensively cultivated as their importance as food and medicine has been recognized for centuries.

Dietary and Medicinal Virtues : Acid Limes are an excellent source of free citric acid, natural sugars, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, calcium and phosphorus. The citric acid has an alkaline reaction in the system and together with the mineral salts present in the juice, helps the digestion by assisting in the absorption of fats and alcohol and by neutralizing excessive bile produced by the liver. The juice counteracts the effects of greasy food and, because it acts as a buffering agent and reduces gastric acidity, it is particularly valuable to people suffering from peptic ulcers. In addition, the vitamin content increases the body's resistance to disease, aids the healing of wounds, and prevents damage to the eyes, teeth and skin. Lime juice is also excellent for those on a reducing diet; it has a sedative effect on the nerves; is useful, when diluted, as a refreshing tonic drink in cases of feverish and inflammatory illnesses; and if half a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda is mixed in a glass of Lime juice it relieves the worst attacks of indigestion.

Vitamin C : Although for a long time a deficiency of Vitamin C has been known to be the cause of numerous ailments it was not until the 1920s that many of the functions of this vitamin were recognized. This was the result of research done by the Hungarian chemist Szent-Gyorgi, who had been working on its nature and chemical structure. At that

time he was able to explain how important the presence of Vitamin C is in the human diet but now there is reason to think that further study will uncover other beneficial uses and, in many countries, experiments are being carried out to this end. However, it was for their anti-scorbutic properties that Limes became important to Europeans.

Limeys : That the lack of fresh fruit and vegetables caused the dreaded, and all too often fatal, disease of scurvy among seamen was understood by Jacques Cartier, the French explorer, in 1535. But little was done to rectify the situation until 1600, when the British East India Company was formed. Because the year-long voyages, covering 10,000 miles without opportunity to take on fresh supplies, would have been tantamount to sentencing the crews to death, the sailors were provided with sufficient oranges and 'lemon-wafer' to keep them healthy. Known anti-scorbutic provisions, as well as other foods, sent as an experiment by the Navy and Victualling Boards, were put aboard Captain Cook's ship, the *Endeavour*, in 1772, ready for his second voyage round the world. Over three years later Cook returned, having lost only one man through sickness. However, the Royal Navy was not protected in this way until 1795. A short time before, a particularly bad outbreak of scurvy had occurred and the Admiralty began seriously to study the reports that Cook had left behind. The result was that a regular ration of Lime juice, considered to be the most potent anti-scorbutic, was ordered to be served on all Navy ships, and a little later the Board of Trade issued the same order to all merchant ships. From this practice grew the nickname 'Lime-juicers' to denote British ships, while the sailors became known as 'Limeys'.

Modern Cultivation : There are two main types of Lime of commercial importance, the small *Mexican* (also known as West Indian or Key Lime), and the *Persian* (or Tahitian) Lime. Both are extensively cultivated in parts of India; the Mediterranean region; the west coast of Africa; the West Indies, notably Montserrat and Dominica; central and south America; and the southern United States. As their name suggests, the Mexican Limes are particularly popular in Mexico, the West Indies and Florida where, it is said, you haven't lived if you've never tasted Key-lime pies. The harder Persian Lime, which is thought to have evolved from hybridization between the Mexican Lime and the lemon has larger thin-skinned fruits which are almost seedless and interest in this type is increasing. Despite the fact that there is an apparent lack of demand for Limes in this country, (UK) for we import only fifty tons of the fresh fruit, we consume Limes in a number of different guises including marmalade, jellies, cordials and squashs.

Oil of Lime : In the West Indies and the southern citrus-growing regions of the United States the production of Lime oil is becoming an increasingly important subsidiary industry. Two kinds of oil are obtained by different methods. From the rind the essential odour-bearing oil is extracted under pressure. This is made up from a mixture of complex organic compounds and is characterized by its ability to evaporate quickly. Distilled oil from the juice of fresh, green fruits has different constituents and is produced in larger quantities as it has a wide range of uses. Lime oil is chiefly employed in the flavouring of liqueurs, soft drinks, sweets, confectionery of all kinds, and to a lesser extent in medicine and perfumery.

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SL AGRICULTURE—7

Fertilisers & Farm Power

By Dr. S. N. de S. Seneviratne

SUBSIDISED FERTILIZERS AND INPUTS to reduce the cost of cultivation and attractive guaranteed prices for agricultural commodities are fully justified in the Sri Lankan context. Of course money lenders to Sri Lanka will twist the government's arm against such incentives. Yet the issues are clear and no one can plead ignorance. It was New Year's Eve 1978 and Jimmy Carter President of the United States paid a glowing tribute to his Middle East policeman: ".....Iran under the great leadership of the Shah is an island of stability in one of the most troubled areas of the world. This is a great tribute to you your Majesty and to your leadership and to the respect admiration and love which your people give you". Not long afterwards, the island of stability exploded. Six million people who stormed the streets of Teheran had a single slogan, "Down with the American Shah!" His Majesty had to flee from the respect, administration and love of his people and seek refuge in one sanctuary after another. *The Shah is dead and gone. The convulsions in Iran due to causes which generated bitterness, resentments and anger are still going on! There is a lesson for Sri Lanka too. In matters relating to the agricultural sector, whether the introduction of new crops or the pricing of fertilizers, it is prudent to be cautious in responding to the pressures from national and international forces. Unless judicious decisions are made, the consequences can be disastrous. Examples where planners and decision makers have failed miserably to understand and anticipate the country's long term needs for agricultural development are not wanting. Fertilizers and farm power are two areas where these failures have been particularly costly.*

By the mid 1950s, it was evident that fertilizer responsive rice varieties and the increased use of fertilizers generally could boost agricultural production. About this time the exciting prospect of manufacturing nitrogenous fertilizer locally by an electrolytic process using hydro power attracted attention and in 1957 the Seven Virgins Project in the Maskeliya Valley was conceived by a Norwegian Consultant, Hans Peter Pfeifer. With a 2700 feet head, the project envisaged the production of 120 000 tons of fertilizer annually in addition to the generation of hydro power. In the 1950s fertilizers were available cheap in the world market. Oil was cheap too and in due course an oil based fertilizer plant dependent on imported feedstocks was more attractive to the decision makers than a plant operated on local resources which could have been developed. *So the project conceived in 1957 was aborted by 1960. We are paying dearly today for the sins of the planners and decision makers of an era that is past just as much as future generations will pay an inestimable price for the ill-conceived decisions opportunistic choices and follies of the present time.* With the escalation of the price of oil the white elephant at Sapugaskanda the urea factory, which has cost over Rs. 27,000 million to construct has become a financial liability, its operational cost is uneconomical and the high price of the urea produced prohibitive. The required quantities of fertilizer necessary to reap the full benefits of the improved rice varieties are not being applied to crops, attainable production levels are not being achieved and the research efforts of many years have been partially negated.

THERE IS A VIEW that a conversion to enable the use of coal rather than oil to work the Sapugaskanda urea plant is possible and that such a conversion will substantially reduce operational costs. This possibility received the attention of a concerned decision maker but with his eclipse the matter may have been dropped. Again, possibilities also arose for the production of nitrogenous fertilizer by an electrolytic process with Norwegian assistance. The files if they are to be found at all are probably in some ministerial archive somewhere. *One reason why the Seven Virgins Project was dropped was because the large hydro power plant was considered too big in terms of the country's needs of power!* Had there been foresight, perhaps the destruction of the Dumbara Valley would not have occurred; the price of oil would not have crippled our economy. Oil now accounts for 50% of all imports. During the first half of this year (1982) oil imports cost the country about Rs. 4,000 million, a little less than the total value of the tea, rubber and coconut exported. (Meanwhile, gas turbines have been installed to ease the power shortage. Three French 20 MW gas turbines recently purchased for power generation each cost some Rs. 275 million and one French gas

turbine costing Rs. 275 million has already malfunctioned!) Had we appreciated the value of our endowments as our forefathers had done, had we placed greater reliance on our natural resources, we would not have been dependant today, to this extent at any rate, on imported oil or French gas turbines, the cost of which we cannot control. And we would have had the necessary nitrogenous fertilizer produced locally at a cost within reach of the farmer.

FARM POWER, for hundreds of years, the water buffalo has been an integral component of the village rice farming system. But with "modernisation", the tractor was given precedence over the humble buffalo. *A foreign expert once gave expression to his feeling, when he declared that he will not be happy till the last buffalo was eliminated from Sri Lanka's paddy fields. Understandable. The foreign experts was a representative of the Ford Foundation and Ford is famous for its tractors!* Yet, if the foreign expert's wishes have not been fulfilled and the buffalo eliminated, this invaluable draught animal in the Sri Lankan context has received very little attention in systematic research. The villager, however knows its worth. A simple country dweller estimated its value succinctly: The buffalo, stuff some straw into his mouth. He will oblige with a deposit of valuable dung from the other end. He will do the job in the fields. The tractor guzzles expensive oil — it emanates poisonous fumes from its exhaust!

Such a view is an oversimplification perhaps. Yet it is well to draw attention to this underexploited tropical animal and to sound the alarm that tractor useage has damaging and destructive effects leading to new problems. In the Walawe for instance, tractor ploughing has resulted in the formation of a hard pan with increased water retentivity thereby causing excessive water consumption in those areas supplied first, and shortages in tracts further away from the source. Again, tractor threshing causes considerable damage to seed paddy. Tractor threshed seed paddy is "physically inferior" to buffalo threshed seed paddy, the physical damage caused to the former resulting in reduced germination besides other problems during pre-sowing operations.

To Be Concluded

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TUBER WEEVIL

Sweet Potato

Unlike Cassava which is relatively free of pests and diseases, sweet potato is susceptible to serious damage by the tuber weevil. The twin objectives of breeding in this instance are therefore high yields

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combined with weevil resistance. Three selections show these combined qualities. Norin (3 months), Bentota A Sel. 11 and Cinchi (4 months), which have doubly outyielded the current Wariyapola recommendation. An interesting research finding is the direct relationship that exists between "neck length" and varietal resistance. The "neck" is that portion of the stem of the vine between its attachment to the tubers and the first node. The longer the "neck" the greater the resistance to weevil attack, and vice versa. *Wherever possible therefore cultivators should be persuaded to grow the moderately resistant varieties recommended by the Department of Agriculture, or to make suitable selections themselves on the basis of "neck length". It is very important however to ensure that harvesting is not delayed, since the life cycle of the pest is very short — a few days — and the longer the crop is left in the ground the greater the chances of infestation. Lifting the tubers even 7 — 10 days before the time of maturity is acceptable in order to minimize the risk of weevil damage.*

Suitable insecticides have also been identified for controlling the tuber weevil. In experimental plots Carbofuran granules (*Furadan*) have been applied at 20 kg/ha. Better results have been obtained with *Chloropheniphos* at 2 lb. a.i. per acre or *Diazinon* (10%) at 20 lb/ac, given at planting and when tuberization commences. There is a belief that cuttings taken for planting from old crops produce diminishing returns. A trial conducted at the Central Agricultural Research Institute (Peradeniya), with seven varieties and two types of cuttings taken from old vines and freshly sprouted tubers, has confirmed this hypothesis. Five of the seven varieties tested gave significantly higher yields when fresh cuttings were used. In the circumstances, regular rejuvenation of the planting material is recommended. This should be done once in every 3 or 4 seasons. Select plants that give 3—4 large smooth tubers. Bed these tubers side by side in a well manured nursery and take your planting materials from this source. About 35 sq. metres of bedding area will provide enough slips to plant up to one hectare.—*Research Highlights*



PAKISTAN

Plan for Agricultural Surplus

Islamabad, Pakistan's highest economic decision-making body has approved a new five-year economic plan aimed at making the country a significant agricultural exporter and expanding domestic energy sources. The official *Associated Press of Pakistan*

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reported that the proposed expenditure of 493 billion rupees (38 billion dollars) is more than double that of the current five year plan ending 30 June. Officials said President Mohammad Zia ul Haq described the new plan, approved by the National Economic Council but still requiring finalisation by the Planning Commission, as an important milestone in the march towards a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan.

The new plan would include an expenditure of 295 billion rupees in the public sector and 200 billion rupees on the private sector, the news agency said. A sizable amount would be spent on energy projects with 100 billion rupees allotted to schemes like oil exploration and electrifying villages, it said. The new plan would allocate almost 90 billion rupees to gariculture and endeavour to turn Pakistan into a significant exporter of commodities like wheat, sugar and vegetables as well as to reduce imports such as soyabean and other edible oils.



COMPUTER —CONTROLLED

Wind Turbine

Britain's first wind turbine to generate electricity for the national grid has come on line in South Wales. The 200 KW turbine built for the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) by James Howdān, a Scottish engineering company, will generate about 380,000 KW hours yearly — enough to power a small village — and is the forerunner of a larger 4 MW wind turbine and the CEGB plans to order next year.

The 24.3 m high, three-bladed design is operated by computer to ensure that the sweep is always facing the wind. Turning at a constant 30 revolutions a minute, the machine starts to generate electricity in gentle breezes of less than 13 kph and achieves its maximum 200 KW rated output in winds of just over 48 kph.

If the machine is faced with storm winds or develops vibration or a systems failure, special drag flaps on the blade tips are activated automatically to shut it down. Even so it is designed to withstand hurricane winds up to 241 kph.



BIOFERTILISER FOR RICE

Azolla

The increasing cost of chemical fertilizers has prompted research workers to study the effects of

Azolla as an alternative biofertilizer for rice. Azolla is a floating aquatic fern with blue-green algal in its leaves. The algae are able to harvest solar energy and fix nitrogen.

The agronomic value of this symbiotic relation has long been recognized in Vietnam and Thailand. And since this fern is also found growing freely in the wet zone of Sri Lanka it was decided to test its efficacy as a biofertilizer for rice at the Ambalantota and Peradeniya (Gannoruwa) Research Stations. A similar program has been started at the Bombuwela Research Station, but as this is yet in the early stages, only the results from Peradeniya and Ambalantota are reported here.

The great advantage of Azolla is that it can be raised in nurseries and added to the rice fields where it multiplies profusely to 6 — 7 times its original biomass in just 2—3 weeks. The results of an experiment carried out in a farmer's field at Menikawela (Kandy District), with the imported "Bangkok" strain and a local strain collected at Sigiriya, illustrate this phenomenon:

Azolla Strain	Added Fresh Wt. (t/ha)	Fresh Wt. after 15 days (t/ha)
Bangkok	3.50	21.29*
Sigiriya	3.50	25.80

* Low-biomass is result of wash-away during heavy rains.

The chemical composition of Azolla prior to incorporation is given below:

Biomass (kg/ha)	N (Kg/ha)	K (Kg/ha)	F (Kg/ha)	OM (Kg/ha)
21.29	42	31	1.06	937
25.80	47	46	1.09	1187

Source:— Central Agri. Res. Institute, Peradeniya.

AN INTERESTING FINDING is that Azolla also contains a high percentage of potassium in addition to nitrogen. Research workers at Peradeniya expect that it can supply about 45% of the nitrogen and potassium requirements of the rice crop. It also adds about one t/ha of organic matter. Trials at Ambalantota have indicated an even higher fertilizer-saving, equivalent to about 80 kg N/ha or 170 kg Urea/ha. The thick covering of Azolla has also helped to reduce the weed problem by about 50% at this station. Best results were obtained with the Debokkawa strain of Azolla, native to the area.

However, the time and method of incorporating Azolla in the soil differs at the two stations. At

Peradeniya, Azolla is introduced to the fields 3 weeks prior to transplanting the rice crop. The water is drained away after 2 weeks and the Azolla turned into the soil with mamoty, where it is allowed to decompose for one week. The rice crop is then transplanted. At Ambalantota, rice and Azolla are dual-cultivate. Water is drained out at about 4, and 7 weeks, Azolla is turned in with a rotary-hoe, and water reintroduced soon after each operation. Both at Peradeniya and Ambalantota, the recommended quantities of phosphorus, potassium and nitrogen fertilizer were supplied in the form of a basal dressing. Azolla was substituted for the top-dressings. It is important to remember that the inadequacy or lack of phosphorus can lead to poor growth. In the circumstances, the recommended basal dressing ('V' mixture) is a *sine qua non* for successful Azolla culture.

— Research Highlights

FOCUS ON THE VILLAGE

FOR THE RECORD

Gam Udawa 83

From The Daily Press

EACH DAY SEES LARGER CROWD : The Gam Udawa 83 exhibition in the little village of Vitikuliya in Nikaweratiya is drawing large crowds with the attendance increasing each day. Saturday's (25/6/83) crowd was over two lakhs, the biggest so far at this year's exhibition with crowds from the neighbouring electorates still seen entering the exhibition grounds as late as 11 p.m. The main attraction this year seem to be the home garden cultivation, a cow producing milk and a bio-gas project in each of the 59 houses in this new model village. The Prime Minister brushed aside protocol and mingled with the crowds at one time seeing how, men, women, and children were enjoying themselves and at other times supervising the working of the womens sections in the 35 acre exhibition grounds. The models of the Kotte Parliamentary Complex and the Town Hall, Colombo, the pandals which were at President's House and at Temple Trees during Wesak (now shifted to the exhibition grounds) were among the other attractions. All this and more for a two rupee ticket as admission fee, as the ticket also carries a daily prize.

The chief guest at Saturday's exhibition was Mr. Shiva Pasupati, Attorney General. He was among the large gathering which watched the colourful Gam Udawa procession which came from the two electorates of Wariyapola and Hiriya. Each day there is a procession from two of the 14 constituencies in the Kurunegala district and flots in these are an added attraction. On Sunday, (26/6/83) the chief guest will be Dr. P. R. Anthonis. on Monday the chief guest will Alhaj Nalim Hadjar, President of the Sri Lanka Islam Revival Movement, and Tuesday's will be Dr. W. M. Tillakeratne, Secretary Ministry of Finance and Planning.

ATTORNEY GENERAL : GAM-UDAWA WILL SOLVE PROBLEM OF URBAN MIGRATION ,

"I believe that the soul of a nation -lies in the village rather than the town. It is the village that reflects the culture and civilisation of a people." Mr. Shiva Pasupati, the Attorney General, said at the Gam Udawa '83 exhibition at Vitikuliya in Nikaweratiya on Saturday. Mr. Pasupati and his wife were the day's chief guests at the exhibition grounds. The Attorney General and Mrs. Pasupati toured the exhibition area which includes a 59 home model village. Each of the new houses have a home garden and facilities for livestock. "A lot of effort has gone into this exhibition and the achievemants reflects the work done by various agencies. What we see here is a solution to the problem of urban migration which many countries face", the A—G told newsmen at the exhibition. He remarked that when rural people, looking for a better life, migrate to the towns a variety of problems including housing, sanitation, education and the provision other amenities in restricted land areas arise. Thus it was necessary to give the village the benefits of urban dwellers in the rural areas themselves, preserving the many advantages that country-living had. What Gam Udawa was all about was giving rural people a better life, Mr. Pasupati said. He said he had been told that Vitikuliya was an elephant infested area not so long ago. What had been achieved there would have been a dream a few years ago. But today all of that was a reality thanks to the dedicated effort that had been made. He paid a glowing tribute to Gam Udawa exhibition saying it "carries a message and a lesson to people in villages on how they too could be self reliant and contribute for their own welfare as well as for the welfare of the country. The Attorney General said that This type of exhibition and results it had achieved were not possible if not for the team spirit of all officials of the ministries, departments and corporations who were engaged in this task under the advice and guidance of Prime Minister of R. Premadasa."

SURGEON RECALLS HIS DAYS AT NIKAWERATIYA : Dr. P. R. Anthonis, Chancellor, Colombo University, who was chief guest at the **TRIBUNE, JULY 9, 1983**

Gam Udawa '83 Exhibition at Nikaweratiya on Sunday (26/6/83) said that he has come there 47 years ago to serve as a doctor. The area then resembled the name it connoted "Weratiya" which means in Sinhala a dried twig. But today the area is teeming with activity, he said. Dr. Anthonis addressing a news conference at the Gam Udawa Exhibition Secretariat after touring the exhibition grounds, said that as a surgeon he was a man who paid great attention to details. Naturally his mind went in search of detail at the exhibition. He could say without hesitation that there had been great attention paid to detail in the organisation of the exhibition. It was that attention to detail that made every venture a success. Behind it was tremendous work. "I knew at once that the hand of the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa was behind this" he said.

Dr. Anthonis also said. "I am very much impressed by the Sinhala word "Udawa" given to Gam Udawa. It means awakening. Nowadays one is given to coin jawbreaking terms. The name *Udawa* struck me forcefully as a short word conveying a big meaning which strikes your mind instantly and could not be easily forgotten. Dr. Anthonis said his association with the Prime Minister made him aware that the Prime Minister was a versatile man. He matches his thoughts with action. The Gam Udawa '83 Exhibition no doubt would have given a major uplift to the area. He saw everybody buoyant, happy and full of hope. He said that he hoped that this rural awakening exercise would continue as it brought multiple benefits to the country and its people. It will bring about tremendous changes in society. It is not only the brick and mortar that counts but the benefits the social changes it brings about is beyond belief.

Dr Anthonis said that as a person born and bred in the city he was of opinion that if they developed only the towns neglecting the villages it would cause, tremendous problems. Eighty per cent of the people of Sri Lanka still live in the villages. When towns are developed ignoring the villages people rush to the cities resulting in slums and makeshift shelter. The Prime Minister's village re-awakening movement was a timely action and brought a salutary change. This exercise is no doubt the brain-child of a great man who understood the value of village life.

TILLAKARATNA: MAN IS THE ULTIMATE BENEFICIARY OF DEVELOPMENT :

The Secretary Ministry of Finance and Planning Dr. W. M. Tillakaratna, said yesterday that the Gam Udawa or the Village Re-awakening Movement was a way of developing the village to reach the ultimate beneficiary of development — man. Dr. Tillakaratna, who was chief guest at the Gam Udawa '83 exhibition at Nikaweratiya on Tuesday (28/6/83). At a news

conference, he was asked what he thought of the opinion expressed in certain quarters that investment in housing and setting up of human settlements was unproductive and caused inflation and should receive low priority. Dr. Tillakaratna posed the question "What are we developing and for whom are we developing?" He went on to state that the ultimate beneficiary of development was mankind. Nearly 70 per cent of the people in the country, he said, lived in villages. Development of man means development of the village. Village development is the beginning of development. The Village Re-awakening Movement re-awakened man by providing him with decent shelter.

Dr Tillakaratna said that three of the basic essentials of mankind for living were food, clothing and shelter. Shelter was an important aspect. In the process of providing this there would naturally be inflation because other sectors of the economy had not been responding. The supply of other essential items like vegetables and paddy too had to increase to meet the demand to beat inflation. There was also a demand by the Mahaweli Sector to be met. However, as time went on supply would respond and inflation be reduced. Therefore, during this time lag there was naturally a period of inflation the impact of which had now been smothered because of improved supplies.

Commenting on the Gam Udawa '83 Exhibition he said that he was impressed with the Exhibiton and he had no doubt that it was glad to note that the exhibition was self-financed and did not involve government funds. It was important that this type of knowledge be brought to the people by such exhibitions as otherwise they would feel frustrated. As an economist he was most interested in the display of bio-gas and solar energy at the exhibition particularly because of the danger of an energy shortage. He was also impressed by the vast strides made in the handicraft sector.

Commenting on the one million houses program launched by Prime Minister R. Premadasa, Dr. Tillakaratne said that the kind of approach envisaged in the program where state is to intervene minimally and where the key word self help was a step in the right direction. He said that they had to accept the fact that housing was a weak sector where there had been a tremendous backlog demand. This program would no doubt not only cut down on extra expense in construction but these reach a wider section of the people. He said that through subsidies government had made the people too dependent on the state. *The approach adopted in the one million houses program was a good way of making the people self-reliant. When asked what he thought of the*

efforts made by the Prime Minister to collect funds from voluntary donors and through exhibitions and lotteries like Gam Udawa 83 to build houses for the needy, Dr. Tillakaratna said that this was a praiseworthy effort as it helped to pump more money into savings.

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IN EVERY BACKYARD

Papaya

The papaya tree should be in the back garden of every house in model villages which should be also given land not only for cultivating pasture but also papaya gardens on a co-operative basis. The papaya is essential food and its papain has vast export potential. The papaya plant in Sri Lanka has for sometime been struck by virus or fungal diseases. The number of trees is fast decreasing. Production is dropping and prices of the fruit have already risen skyhigh. No research has been done to check this virus or fungus. Officials of the Department of Agriculture say that no funds are available for this kind of research. If the Department of Agriculture is not able to undertake this work (and also research on other home garden plants and fruit trees) the Gam Udawa Movement should set up a Research Department, with foreign assistance if necessary, to carry out investigations on the diseases that presently afflict fruit trees like the Papaya (and even vegetables like the Wattaka the production of which has dropped phenomenally thereby sending up prices). The Gam Udawa Movement should also establish its nurseries to produce a ready supply of planting materials for the vegetables and trees that should be in the home gardens and backyards of every village and even urban houses. We are publishing an article from the Madras "Hindu" on the attention being paid to the Papaya in India.

—Editor

PAPAYA (*Carica Papaya*) trees are usually dioecious i.e. female and male flowers are found on separate plants though there are hermaphrodite plants too. The popular varieties in Tamil Nadu, CO 1 and CO 2 are both dioecious CO 1 is a dwarf type producing the first fruits at a height of less than one-metre from the ground level. The fruits are medium sized, spherical and sweet. CO, 2 is

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recommended for both, table use and papain extraction. The fruits are longer and oblong in shape. The flesh is yellow in colour and sweet. If the seeds are collected from these dioecious papaya varieties and sown, 40 to 60 per cent of them will grow into female plants and the rest males, i. e. an average 50 per cent trees are males. It is uneconomical to have 50 percent males trees in any papaya garden since they do not bear fruits. The male trees bear their flowers on long pendulous panicles in the axis of leaves. The female flowers are larger when compared to the male ones. It is sufficient to maintain one male tree in every 10 to 20 female trees. The male trees should be well distributed in a papaya garden. *One or two papaya trees in the kitchen garden may bear fruit without a male tree. This is due to the presence of male papaya trees in the neighbourhood. Insects carry the pollen from these trees and pollinate the female flowers.*

There is no cent percent guaranteed method to identify the sex of a papaya tree at the young stage itself. They can be identified only at the flowering time, about four months after planting. Then how to maintain the ratio of one male tree to every 10 to 20 female trees ? Plant about four seedlings in a pit. Wait till the plant flowers, and then remove three plants so that one female plant is left in every pit. Likewise in every 10 or 20 trees one male tree can be retained. The male plants flower earlier than females in most cases. The recently released CO 4 papaya, with a purplish tinge on all parts of the plant, is also dioecious. The dioecious types require about 200 gm of seeds an acre or 500 gm a hectare. If one wants to plant only one seedling in every pit, one should go in for the 'Solo' papayas introduced from Hawaii. 'Solo' types are gynodioecious. They bear hermaphrodite (bisexual) and female flowers on separate trees, i. e. all, the seedlings of 'SOLO' papaya bear fruits. The hermaphrodite trees supply the required pollen to the female trees. Pollination is effected by insects as in dioecious types. The fruits of Sun Rise Solo are small red fleshed and tastier than the others. The fruits of the hermaphrodite trees are pyriform or pearshaped whereas the fruits from the pure female flowers tend to be larger and round. However in taste and quality both are the same.

IN HAWAII the consumer prefers the pear shaped fruits. Hence the Hawaiian grower goes in for hermaphrodite trees for commercial purposes. The seeds of a hermaphrodite fruit gives rise to hermaphrodite and female plants in the ratio of 2 : 1, i. e. approximately 67 percent of the seeds develop into hermaphrodite trees and about 33 per cent into females. As in the case of dioecious types sex identification is not possible at the juvenile stage. Hence if one prefers to maintain only hermaphrodite plants of Solo in the garden one has to sow three seedlings in a pit so that at the time of flowering only one hermaphrodite plant is retained. There may be some

exceptional cases where all the three seedlings in a pit may develop into female plants. Such places can be replanted with those hermaphrodite plants removed from other places.

Another interesting feature is that when seeds of a fruit from a female tree are planted, the resultant seedlings are in 1 : 1 ratio of hermaphrodite to females i. e., approximately 50 per cent of the seedlings develop into hermaphrodites. Normally seeds of a hermaphrodite tree are used. The recently released CO. 3 papaya from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University bears like 'Solo' as far as its sex is concerned. The flesh colour is red and the fruit is sweet. In size it is larger than 'Solo'. For home gardens, small fruited red fleshed CO 3 and Sun Rise Solo and CO. 4 papayas are recommended. CO. 4 is a good ornamental type also. For commercial purposes, CO. 2 can be grown.

S. Annadurai.

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MIRACLE TREE

Banana Plant

Researchers in the Philippines have come up with a whole host of products which can be turned out from its flowers, roots, leaves and even from the peelings. Some of these things may be known to our herbalists who still depend on the *banana plant* for some of the remedies they prescribe. Just consider the following : *from the leaves of the banana*, we are told, it is possible to get a dye, lye, gunpowder, activated carbon, fertiliser, fuel fibre, paper, medium for mushroom culture and of course medicine (a blood coagulant). *From the roots* we have medicine again (an anti-ferbrile and restorative enema for diarrhoea and a cure for-anemia). From the flowers, too, medicinal properties and this time cures for diabetes and dysmennorrhoea. The researchers have listed some of the ways in which these products have been extracted: there is pounding and bleaching, distillation, water extraction and evaporation (the traditional herbalists's methods) burning in the absence of air, soaking overnight and storing for several days—*Soyanews*

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A WARNING TO THE

Village Reawakening Movement

United Nations: The United Nations has called for global war on prostitution which is said flourished wherever money changed hands. A report prepared

for the UN Economic and Social Council spurned what it called the "widespread opinion" that prostitution was the world's oldest profession. "It was and still is unknown in many so-called 'primitive' societies," the lengthy document said "But it is true that it is found today to varying degrees in all organized states, in all cultures and in all parts of the world, especially where the population is very dense and where money changes hands frequently."

The report prepared in collaboration with several UN agencies said the fight against prostitution was "as necessary as the fight against the drug traffic and the fight against racism. It must be waged by the international community with the same perseverance and the same effectiveness." The report identified five principal international networks for the traffic of women and children for the purposes of prostitution. It said one flowed from Latin America to Southern Europe and West Asia, another from South East Asia to the West Asia and Central and Northern Europe, a European "regional market" with Latin American and French women, one supplying the richer countries of West Africa and Europe and the last a regional Arab market.

The report said few countries and regions were free of the traffic in women. "It would be more accurate to say that the movement involves the traffic of poor women towards rich man in all directions", it said. Prostitution was a three-way trade in market, "created by demand, which is met by supply". It categorized the activities of prostitutes in so-called legitimate enterprises like restaurants, holiday tours, marriage bureaux — any where erethe was profit. "The human imagination is limitless there there is profit to be made". The report was harshest on the procurere, pimp, or prostitute's business manager. Hatred of women, "congenial sloth and a total lack of morals are the characteristics that predispose a man to become a procurer", it said. Little or nothing is known about the prostitute's client, the report said "Since there are no laws or regulations that either punish or restrict the client, he can remain anonymous" it said. — *Development Forum*

Editors Note

It is necessary to stabilise economic activity and prosperity in a village to ensure that poverty does not drive our rural womenfolk to prostitution. What is happening in many other countries should be a warning to Sri Lanka.



TRIBUNE

SPORTSCOPE



SPORTS CHRONICLE

June 20 - 26

MONDAY, JUNE 20: Ananda B aided by Thusara Egodawatte's all round feat of 41 and 5 for 61 beat Veluwana B on the first innings in their under 15 Division III cricket tournament match played at Ananda Mawatha recently; Ananda B 207 for 9 and Veluwana B 173. St. Anthony's College, Katugastota scored their third successive win when they beat Sri Rahula College, Katugastota on the first innings in their schools under 15 cricket tournament match played at Katugastota recently; with this win Antonians head the Central Zone Group B table of points; Sri Rahula 35 all out and St. Anthony's 122 for 1 declared. Pujapitiya became champions of the Kandy District Elle tournament conducted by the Sports Ministry when they defeated Galagedera by one run in the finals played at Bogambara Stadium recently. A track and field athletics meet was held at Walagama Maha Vidyalaya grounds among the sports clubs of Galigamuwa AGA's Division sponsored by the Ministry of Sports; The Dewalagama-Uruledeniya Ekamuthu Sports Club with 160 points won the first place; the second place went to Galigamuwa Sports Club (134 points) and Dewalagama Bangalawatta Rantharu Sports Club (66 points) was third.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21: Department of Small Industries scored a narrow 15 run win over the Sports Ministry in the semi-final of the State Services A Division limited over knock-out cricket tournament match played at Vihara Maha Devi Park; Department of Small Industries 173 off 39.1 overs and Sports Ministry 158. Navaloka Group's A team qualified to meet Mobile Marine Engineering in the Mercantile C Division cricket final after their narrow 11 run win over Ceylon Tobacco C on Sunday at the BRC grounds; in reply to Nawaloka's 157 in 33.5 overs Ceylon Tobacco were all out for 146 in 42.3 overs. Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala trounced St. Mary's College, Kegalle on the first innings their Central Zone Group A under 17 school cricket tournament match played at Devans grounds; Maliyadeva 336 for 4 and St. Marys 135. St. Sylvester's College, Kandy, defeated Dharmaraja College Kandy 1—0 in their Kandy Schools Hockey Tournament match played at University grounds, Peradeniya.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22: CH Kabaragoyas beat Havelocks Bambaras by 6 points (one goal) to nil in their B division rugby tournament match played at Maitland Crescent yesterday. In a one sided game Police Griffins trounced Colombo University by 28 points (3 goals and 2 tries) to nil after leading 10 - nil at lemons in their B Division rugby tournament match played at Reid Avenue yesterday. Sri Luck SC Kurunegala became champions at the annual inter-club sports meet of the Kurunegala AGA's division held at St. Anne's grounds Kurunegala recently; Sri Luck SC obtained 206 points and Maliyadeva College SC with 160 points was placed second. Red Eagle Club, Dunture emerged champions with 66 points at the annual inter-club sports meet of the Yatinuwara AGA's division held recently at the Peradeniya Campus grounds; Sri Lak Sports Club Kadugannawa with 51 points was second and Forward Sports Club Pilimatalawa with 36 points third.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23: M. Ganeshan of Royal College Boxing Club who was adjudged the Best Boxer was awarded the Danton Obeysekera challenge trophy at the Intermediate Boxing meet conducted by the Sri Lanka Amateur Boxing Association and held at the Police Boxing Ring. A fine all-round performance by Senaka Bathmaga who top scored with 62 and took 6 for 76 helped Ananda College beat St. Sebastians A by 67 runs in their under 15 Division I cricket tournament match played at Ananada Mawatha recently; Ananda college 267 for 9 and St. Sebastians A 200. Kalutara MV defeated Holy Cross College Kalutara by four runs on the first innings in their under 17 schools cricket tournament match played on the Kalutara esplanade on Friday; Holy Cross 1st Innings 64 and Kalutara MV 1st Innings 68.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24: Moratu Maha Vidyalaya Moratuwa registered their fourth successive win in the under 17 Group 3 schools cricket tournament match when they defeated Hindu College, Bambalapitiya in the first innings; Hindu College 59 and Moratu MV 75 for 6 declared. Pakistan without key strokemaker Javad Miandad because of influenza were shackled and then undermined as Joel Garner and Michael Holding each snapped up an early wicket before Larry Gomes' off spin provided a bonus with the prize scalp of Zaheer Abbas for 30; Pakistan 184 and West Indies 188. England got away to a magnificent start only to see their middle order batting collapsed and their eventual score of 213 off exactly 60 overs never seemed a winning total; India by contrast always paced their innings well after they had weathered the early pace of Willis and Dillely; England 213 and India 217.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25: John Keels qualified to meet Don Carolis in the Mercantile B Division cricket final on the Bloomfield grounds turf tomorrow

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after their 84 run win over Aitken Spence in the replay match at the same venue yesterday; John Keels 250 in 50 overs and Aitken Spence 166 for 9 in 50 overs. Isipatana beat Vid'artha by 23 points (a goal, 2 tries and 2 penalties and a drop goal) to 3 (a penalty) in their schools rugby match at Nittawela yesterday. Kingswood beat Wasley by 20 points (2 goals and 2 tries) to nil after leading 4 - 0 at half time at Peradeniya yesterday. Army Bullets drew against Kandj Association's Football League one all in their soccer match played at Bogambara Stadium yesterday after a scoreless first half. Ladies College became All Island under 12 schools table tennis champions when they beat Anula MV 3 - 1 at the D. S. Senanayake hall.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26: After leading only by 3-0 in the first half the Sailors broke lose in the second to avenge their first round defeat away in the hills when they drubbed Kandj SC by 20 points (a goal, two tries and 2 penalties) to 3 points (a penalty) in their Clifford Cup return match at Galle Face yesterday. Royal College crushed St. Joseph's iCollege by 26 points (3 goals 2 tries) to nil in an nter-school rugby match played at Reid Avenue yesterday. Trinity beat Ananda by 26 points (a goal and 5 tries) to nil in their schools rugby football match played yesterday at Bogambara; at half time Trinity led 8 - nil. How much the scales of fortune can tilt only the Havelocks and Army could say when they battled out their Clifford Cup return at Havelock Park where the Park Club won by 9 points (a goal and penalty) to 6 (two penalties).

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ROWING

Opening Regatta

The Opening Regatta of the Club Year will be concluded this evening. The entries were: *Van Langenburg* — Novice Pairs - 880 yards; Haritha de Silva and Kamal Gunawardena; Deshan de Silva and D. Vedamuttu. *Gordon Armstrong Trophy*: Junior Sculls - 1000 yards: Randav Jayasuriya and Roshan P. Abeysekera; Jeroma Amarasinghe and A. Jayasinghe; M. Cadar and D. Gunawardena; S. Silva and T. Ranasinghe. *Stubbs Quaich* — Senior-Junior Pairs - 1000 yards : A. R. H. Fernando and M. L. de Silva; H. Anverally and J. S. Wickremasinghe; P. Daniel and Sanjiva Dassanayake; R. Jayasuriya and Ali Moheed; Dylan Perera F. Moheed; Percy Fernando and L. Randall; Kavao Ratnayake and Ananda Weerasinghe.

This year the *VanLangenburg* has attracted what is probably the smallest number of entries in the history of this race. In the *Gorden Armstrong* there are a number of our up-and-coming oarsmen,

scullers in this race. The *Stubbs Quaich* reads like a galaxy of the best this Island has, the junior component of each pair almost equalling in talent their senior partners, in one or two cases being far better. Ananda Weerasinghe makes a welcome return to rowing after a long absence abroad. The heats commenced on Wednesday 6th, and it is not possible to give the names of the finalists here.

Our Rowing Correspondent

OLYMPICS '84

Media Facilities

BY THE THOUSANDS they will come to look, to question, to analyse and then to report their findings to the world. Almost 8,000 media representatives from more than 150 nations are expected to converge on Los Angeles for the Olympic Games in 1984. The Organising Committee will be ready with all the facilities required to allow the journalists to complete the difficult task of covering a 23-sport Games to be gone through in 16 days. Special facilities for the written press, photographers and broadcasters will be offered and arranged. The *American Broadcasting Company* (ABC), awardwinner for its innovative coverage in prior Olympiads, will completely coordinate the needs of rights-holding electronic media as partners with the LAOOC.

FOR ALL WRITTEN PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS, the Main Press Centre is the hub of activity. The Organising Committee has rented the massive Los Angeles Convention Centre to use as the main Centre for the written and photographic media, and anticipate that all necessities for press work can be satisfied within its walls. On the main floor, which measures more than 19,500 square metres the major news agencies will arrange their offices, along with general news areas and photographic laboratories. Over 70 offices are available for the world's larger news organisations, with requests from around and the world now being sent to the LAOOC. (Los Angeles Olympics Organising Committee.) For non-agency journalists, the centre will offer a large working area, complete with tables, chairs and typewriters. *Brother*, the Organising Committee's official, supplier of typewriters, will offer up to 44 different keyboards. The majority of course, are expected to be in English, but numerous machines in the other Olympic working languages (French, German, Russian and Spanish) will also be available. They can punch their own tapes. A large telecommunication's centre will offer a variety of options for filing of reports: telephones, telexes and telecopiers for facsimile transmissions, Over 100 telephones, accepting credit card and reversed

billings will be at the disposal of the journalists as well as almost 60 telex machines with additional off-line machines available for those reporters who wish to punch their own tapes. Xerox telecopiers can send entire pages to national and overseas receivers at speeds from 30 seconds to six minutes. All of these telecommunications devices will be staffed by knowledgeable personnel from the companies providing the services.

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEDIA will find their needs completely covered by LAOOC sponsors *Canon* and *Fuji*. As at past Games, Canon will offer a complete camera repair facility for all brands including a loaner programme for those with untimely equipment failures. Fuji will process popular brands of black-and-white films as well as all E-6 process colour reversal films. It is anticipated that some 250,000 rolls will be developed during the Olympic period. Photographic and press lockers, transportation information, newsstands, banking, postal and air freight facilities will also be located within the Main Press Centre. Food service will be conveniently provided by the Convention Centre's 220-seat restaurant, 484 seat cafeteria and 124 seat cocktail lounge and dining cove.

Well-equipped Conference Hall : Upstairs, a giant hall for news-conference will be equipped with microphones, multiple-output boxes and seats for approximately 1,000 journalists. Daily sessions will be held by the Organising Committee, as well as some of the leading nations participating in the Games. Transportation will be provided to take media personnel from designated media hotels to the Main Press Centre, and then to all competition venues in Southern California. This system will allow journalists to travel conveniently between sites without having to rent private cars and drivers. At each venue, seats will be reserved for media, both with and without special tables. Radio and television commentators making arrangements with ABC will use specially designed commentator booths equipped with television monitors showing the live signal being produced at that venue. For both broadcasters in commentator booths and written media at seats with tables, a quantum leap in information systems will be available.

AT MOST VENUES, LAOOC sponsor American Telephones and Telegraph will provide Electronic mail terminals capable of providing messages, global communications and Olympic information with ease and speed. Not only will media be able to send personal messages through this system to other media and Olympic officials (who will also have access to terminals in other areas), but journalists using the telex and telecopier networks will be able to enter their reports on the terminal screens and send them through these systems worldwide. Results

will be broadcast to these terminals automatically, and a user will be able to inquire about any result or start list for any event in the Games. Further, special registration and biographical information about the participating athletes will also be available through this network.

Adequate information : Never has so much information been placed literally at the fingertips of the reporter in his Olympic press seat. Typical post-session interview facilities will be set up at each venue, as will a complete media sub-centre. Each sub-centre will have available a working area, telephones, telexes and telecopiers, an information centre (with additional Electronic Mail terminals) and offices for the LAOC Press Services staff.

TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTERS will find their needs accommodated by ABC with state-of-the-art equipment and technical assistance. A specially designed International Broadcast Centre will be set up in Hollywood; to provide for the editing, office and studio needs of electronic media. In each venue, a "world" signal will be produced for the use of all broadcasters, who may then edit it to their own needs. All signals will be available at the Broadcast Centre, where the daily programmes and summaries will be compiled. Satellite circuits will be used to transmit the vision and sound of the Games home to an estimated two and a half billion people — over half the population of the earth. Early estimates show that ABC will provide American audiences with an unprecedented 207½ hours of coverage, much of it live. Australian audiences will see over 250 hours of coverage and European television entities will have a staggering 450 hours of coverage to pick for their viewers during the 16-day festival. With over 3,600 representatives of the printed press and 4,200 broadcasts commentators and technicians expected, the coverage will be superb. The Organising Committee, in concert with ABC and the media themselves, is working toward the preparation of facilities and conditions which will enhance the coverage even more.

**SRI LANKA RATIONALIST ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC LECTURE**

Dr. Merlin Peris (J.P.); B.A. Hons. (Cey); B.A. Hons. (Lond); M.A. London; Ph.D. Lond; Head, Department of Classical Languages, University of Peradeniya, will deliver a public lecture on "The Greeks and The Irrational" on 10th July at 5.p.m. at Thurstan College Hall, Colombo 3; under the auspices of the Sri Lanka Rationalist Association.

37/2 Sri Dharmapala Road, **M.A.B. Perera**
Mount Lavinia. Hon. General Secretary

Govt



Notice

Notice Under Section 9 of the Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition Amendment Act No. 28 of 1964.

Ref No. ATH 19/39

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. 250/9 dated 23. 6. 83

DRO's Division : Kaduwela
Village : Battaramulia & Thalangama South
Name of Land : Paragahakurunduwatta, Maym Kumbura, Mawathkumbura alias Mawee kumbura, Bilibanakumbura alias Bilibana Welyaya and Panikkiyawatta, Marangahakumbuta, Thalangamawatta, alias Melwatta
Lot No. : 01-29
Plan No. P. P. Co. : 5725

H. C. Gunawardena
District Land Officer,
Colombo District.

The Kachcheri Colombo.
20. 06. 1983

Seed Scandal

IS IT NOT TRUE that the Lanka Agriculturist Association, according to the *Evening Observer* of June 27, "has protested to the Director of Agriculture against the shabby treatment meted out to potato cultivators by certain Agricultural Department officials at Oliphant. When a team of officials had gone to inspect the potato plots, the farmers had made numerous complaints against the issue of diseased local seed potatoes and thereby the potato crops being affected by wilt. Meanwhile, a team of officials from the Department of Agriculture are investigating on the issues of 150 tons of local seeds purchased by the Department of Agriculture from cultivators at Rs. 900 per hundred weight and issued to cultivators at Rs. 600 to overcome the demand of imported seed potatoes in the Nuwara Eliya district. The cultivators have complained that these seeds were of low quality and were prone to high percentage of wilt. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Research is scheduled to visit Nuwara Eliya on July 2". That the complaint is against the shabby treatment meted out by officials of the Agricultural Department to farmers when the latter had made complaints against the issue of bad or diseased local seed ? That the report also refers to an investigation into an obvious malpractice by officials who bought what they called seed potatoes at Rs. 900 per cwt. and issued them to cultivators at Rs. 600 "to overcome the demand of imported seed potatoes " ? That the complaint is that a major portion of this seed was diseased ? That the report also states the "Permanent Secretary" was visiting Nuwara Eliya on July 2 presumably to look into this problem as well ? That at the time of writing these notes, nothing has been released about the outcome of the Permanent Secretary's (they do not exist anymore) visit and inspection ?

THAT IT IS NOT LIKELY that the report of the Investigation Team of officials will ever be published if the findings are such that they cannot be white-washed ? That a *Tribune* reader in Nuwara Eliya says that the investigations will not be complete if the Investigators do not go into the following questions : whether Rs. 900 a cwt. was actually paid to the "cultivarors" for potatoes which could easily have been identified as "diseased" ; whether the amount paid was in the region of Rs. 400 a cwt. and whether about Rs. 500 a cwt. went into a pool to be shared by persons unknown ? That this "seed" potato was later foisted on over-anxious farmers who paid the official price of Rs. 600 a cwt. ? That the Government thus officially subsidised this quantity of seed potato (said to be 150 tons, but may be more) at Rs. 300 a cwt ? That on this deal the government

was charged Rs. 900 a cwt ? That more lots of 150 tons could have been purchased in the same way ? That whilst the Government lost Rs. 900,000 for every lot of 150 tons, the operators made over Rs. 1 million in this buying and selling deal ? That though this "story" or allegation sent to us by our reader may be only a malicious canard, it is a matter that merits investigation ? That the same Nuwara Eliya reader has pointed out that the backdrop to this seed potato deal was the newspaper-radio propaganda barrage early last year that Sri Lanka was "almost" self-sufficient in seed potatoes ? That this, according to our reader, was only a smokescreen for operation seed ? That if imports were restricted or stopped, operators "close" to officials of the Agricultural Department could have opportunities of buying poor quality potatoes from some "chosen" cultivators (willing to give receipts or sign vouchers for Rs. 900 a cwt. after getting only Rs. 400 a cwt.) and thereafter making a cool million or more on passing them off as good seed potatoes under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture ? **That is it not funny to see officials of the Department of Agriculture hanging a halo over their heads when they talk of plant protection and keeping this country free of "imported" pests through the import of rootstock, planting materials, seeds etc. ? That whilst they are entitled to shout their heads off about keeping "imported" plant pests and virus out of the country and insisting on the strict implementation of the letter of the Plant Protection Ordinance they forget that the prime objective of this law and all other agricultural laws is to increase production ?** That they also have a duty to do research about indigeneous pests and virus that afflict our vegetables and fruit trees and also to supply adequate quantities of certified locally produced seeds and planting materials ? That it does not need much investigation to know that little or no research has been done in anything but rice and that local production of seeds and planting material is totally inadequate for the country's needs ? That the Department proudly proclaims that it has a wide network of certified seed growers ? That *Tribune* has received several letters from readers about this matter and we would like the Department or the Ministry to publish the list of such certified seed farmers ? That *Tribune* is aware of instances where departmental officials who are expected to promote seed production have discouraged even educated farmers from embarking on scientific seed production by telling them that only Government farms are equipped to produce them ? That *Tribune* is also aware that seeds are "bought" from favoured cultivators and that they are dumped together with what is produced on some farms and sold to the public in "official" packets That it also known that lime seedlings and other grafts are obtained from private farmers and sold in government farms as their own?

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