

TRIBUNE

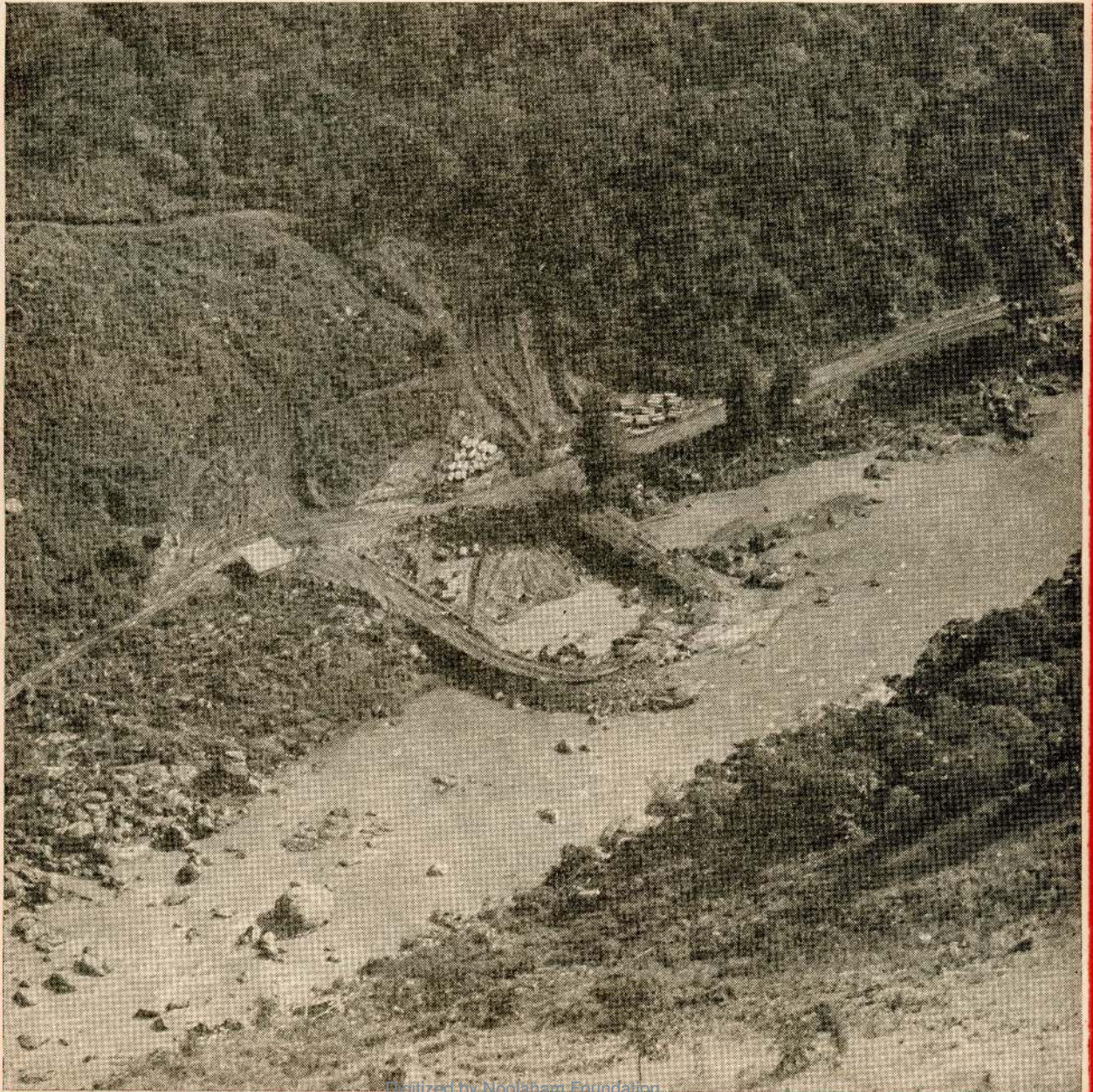
CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol. 27 — No. 44

August 20 1983

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- ★ NATIONAL CRISIS
- ★ SINHALA BUDDHISTS
- ★ HOLOCAUST
- ★ TEA'S FUTURE
- ★ CLIMATE
- ★ SARVODAYA
- ★ SPORTSCOPE



TO OUR READERS

To bring *Tribune* up to date we have decided to skip the two issues of the two dates on which we could not publish the paper, viz., August 6 and 13. The issue of July 30 which was already in print, when the disturbances broke out on July 25, was released last week end – with a postscript.

This issue carries the correct dateline, August 20, and is numbered Vol. 27, No. 44. This will ensure that every subscriber will get the 52 copies for his annual subscription. We are still hampered by practical and technical difficulties in production but we hope to overcome them soon.

As we mentioned in the last issue, *Tribune*, which has for sometime now been development-oriented, will devote much of its attention and time to questions of rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation. The feature *Focus on the Village* will henceforth be *Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and the People*.

We now have major problems of distribution. We do not know how many of our regular subscribers have been temporarily or even permanently displaced. Some have already sent us their new or temporary addresses. Furthermore, our network of sales agents in Colombo, Kandy and other towns has been shattered. We have to build anew and we look forward to our readers and wellwishers to help us restore our system of distribution in the different districts.

TRIBUNE

43, Dawson Street,
Colombo 2.

Tel: 33172

TRIBUNE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ON THE COVER We have a picture of the Randenigala Project site. It was the only one readily at hand in the disturbed and calamitous times which has enveloped us all. The future of the Accelerated Mahaweli Plan will largely depend on how soon the Government and the people, can restore the first signs of normalcy. This will not be easy to achieve. At least, the first, even faltering steps, to achieve national reconciliation and harmony must be taken. It will be difficult to console the victims and inspire that minimum of confidence to persuade them to come back to the mainstream of Sri Lankan life. Much more than rhetoric is necessary. The Indian offer of mediation which has been accepted by President Jayewardene is, to many, the first silver lining that has appeared on the horizon. There also appears to be much rethinking in many circles which had earlier tended to take a simplistic view of the problem. In the *Sun* of August 13, staff writer Minoli de Soysa had a center-page feature entitled AFTER THE VIOLENCE, WHAT? A headline suggested: NOW MORE THAN EVER, A LASTING PEACE MUST BE FOUND IF THERE IS ANY HOPE FOR SRI LANKA. After pointing out that the least the government must do was to offer a "reasonable alternative" to Eelam, the writer pointed out: ". The Government now has to look for this reasonable alternative. As Home Minister K. W. Devanayagam pointed out in his speech to the country, several dialogues initiated by President Jayewardene indicated a real willingness to find a solution. But the Home Minister went on to say there were many practical problems even in implementing provisions already enshrined in the Constitution. The language issue, for example, was difficult to implement because of the lack of translators and typewriters. Unfortunately, this could be misconstrued as a deliberate conspiracy to avoid the use of the Tamil language. The Government is now considering several measures to be put forward as a compromise. Emergency regulations for these measures, which include the activation of the District Development Councils in the north, are now being worked out. *Before launching into its multi-million rupee development projects, the government should have first ensured that a more solid relationship existed between the different communities living in Sri Lanka. Without such a base, no economic development can be strong or sustained.* The recent violence indicated clearly that the progress achieved over several years can be destroyed in a day. Now, more than ever, a lasting peace must be found if there is to be any hope for Sri Lanka's future." *This is a very welcome and salutary stance but it is something that should have been thought of a long time ago. Chauvinistic slogans, rhetoric, threats and violence, from whatever quarter, cannot solve problems. Without national harmony and unity Sri Lanka has no future.* In the *Sun* on the same day, August 13 the wellknown writer Simon Mawattegama in an article entitled TEARS OF THE INNOCENT AND SHAMEFUL FIRES OF WRATH said: "The blazing fires all round us have died down by now as if for ever. The sky is clear of all the unpleasant clouds of smoke. Still our hearts seem to be gloomy, heavy with all the black memories of killings, want on looting, deliberate lies, dangerous and suspicious gossip and the consciousness that I, you and they are all equally responsible for the suffering inflicted upon so many thousands of innocent children, and their loving parents. These memories will continue to keep ablaze the fires of regret and sorrow in all hearts of the people still left with a conscience, an iota of sensitivity. The question is not whether a minority of political extremists among the Tamils or the Sinhalese or the underworld thugs were responsible for this calamity; it is far more a question of an individual and a national choice of responsibility. Need anything more be said ?

Appeal to Buddhists

Colombo, August 16, Under the compelling strain and stress of the current situation we cannot do better than adopt a statement by Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne President of Sarvodaya, issued on August 1 appealing to his Sinhala Buddhist brethren to rise to the occasion to bring peace, calm and harmony by rendering service and succour. At a time when many people in high places should have made similar appeals, Dr. Ariyaratne was the first and only one to speak out — besides doing yeomen service in the refugee camps. This appeal of Dr. Ariyaratne, has appeared in full or in part in some of the daily papers.

Dear Sinhala Buddhists : This is the hour, the Nation needs your noble service !

It is after one full week of mental and physical fatigue accumulated during day and night that I found this little respite to write this letter. This fatigue is the result of my determination to fulfil my duty as a Sinhala Buddhist at this lamentable moment by over 8,000 refugees including infants, children, pregnant women, the aged and other men and women who are stricken with fear and grief. In writing this letter, I am deliberately using the subject 'I' in firstperson singular, to bear the responsibility thereof by myself without burdening it over anybody else.

I am of Sinhala Buddhist descent, and as I am aware of, I have not blood relationship to any non Sinhala, non Buddhist. I possess no private property or material wealth, worth protecting. Neither do I hold any political or official power, nor position, to be safeguarded. Yet, there is something that cannot be valued in terms of money, which has to be preserved and safeguarded at all costs, during a man-made political crisis or disaster caused by Nature. That is the rich Sinhala Buddhist code of ethics and value system we inherited from our dear ancestors who preserved it for us for over 2,500 years. It is our spiritual and moral heritage which earned respectability to our nation. Hence, the greatest service a Sinhala Buddhist is capable of performing is to preserve these values even risking his very life. We were made to eye-witness the gruesome carnage and violence which far surpassed even those committed here by the religious fanatics during the Portuguese era. It was our spiritual and ethical code and value system that got killed first by these heartless criminals through these indescribable acts of barbarism even un-heard of in any other civilized country. How would our great heroes of the past who rightly discerned between the Law of Righteousness and Martial Law and preserved the Sinhala Race and Buddha Sasana for our sake, look at this modern generation from their graves ?

It is very easy for each person to justify one's own self and pass on the onus of these barbaric cruelties to others being guided by selfish motives. I am of opinion that the blame should be squarely shared by all the adult citizens of Sri Lanka in common. At the same time every single one of us should honestly and sincerely look within our own selves with fully awakened mental faculties and analyse our own minds and correct them at this decisive moment, if we are to make good the destroyed value system and wipe out this indelible national scar even after a millenium.

To what extent did we allow ourselves to be guided by narrow political racial, religious and economic ambitions and profit motives and degrade ourselves to become participants of this destruction of humanism, compassion, truthfulness and uprightness the time-honoured national heritage of the Sinhala Buddhists ? Didn't we selfishly and cowardly participate in this destruction of our national values, dishonestly siding with injustice because we lacked courage to oppose it ? Instead of behaving according to Buddha's exhortation, He who protects the Dhamma is being protected by the Dhamma, to what extent did we, being shielded by wealth and power, and overcome with bribery, corruption and fraud, harass the helpless and established a society where injustice reigned ? If these idess do not arise at this moment itself, amidst this tragedy, nothing will be left of the Sinhala race and the Buddhist Sasana to be preserved.

We are all aware of the attempts made during the past 28 years by a certain educated and wealthy Tamil faction to break up this country into two. We, who know our recent history, should remind ourselves as to how these privileged sections who owed their position to the foreign imperialists and despised Buddhist, and Hindu values, voiced their opposition to the granting of Universal Suffrage to us in 1931. We should also recollect the deliberate attempts made by them ever since to drive a wedge between the Sinhala and Tamil people, who upto then worshipped together in the same temples and kovils in harmony.

These very same elitists, under the guise of further increasing the minority rights did so over those of the majority undermining the rights of the common man and shrewdly scheming and manoeuvring both at national and international levels, entrenched themselves more securely in their privileged positions. We know the local and foreign anti-nationals voiced their demands in the cries, for 50 — 50 in the 1940s and for federation thereafter, to be followed by a separate state next. This reached the critical climax, making use of parliamentary privileges within the legislature and the democratic social environment prevalent outside. The final act of this tragic drama was the Tamil terrorism that reared its ugly head in the North during the last few years. We too have spared no effort to avert this tragedy

exposing this trap to the Sinhala as well as the intelligent Tamil people. But unfortunately, all these were in vain; the anti-national forces swelled in power to brutally massacre the youth in our Defence Forces. Thus, the folly of everyone paved an easy way to looters, criminals and petty party politicians to participate in the country's destruction which has been now accomplished.

Now, leaving it for His Excellency, the President to safeguard the unitary status of our state and to the Defence Forces to tame the Tigers, the Sinhala Buddhists should take over the tremendous responsibility of providing leadership for the re-building of our spiritual and moral value system from the very foundation itself, enlisting the unstinted co-operation of the Hindu Tamil population and the rest Christian and Muslim sectors in the country in this noble task. *There is no better opportunity than now, to make a start to realise this great national aspiration. I am sceptical whether we would be able to bring these two communities together for another thousand years if we do not begin now.*

My beloved Sinhala Buddhists! Thousands of tiny infants are found in conditions even below those befitting animals to exist. Destitute children, hus bands who lost their wives, women who lost everything other than the garments they were barely clad in, and thousands who lost their abodes, are ceaselessly trembling in fear in these refugee camps. I call upon you to come forth and show the human qualities of the Sinhala in any way you can, granting them protection and dispelling their fear and hunger. I spent full five days with over 8000 of these refugees. 40% of these have no property or relation either in the North or in the East. Not even one out of a hundred of these is responsible for being the innocent victims of a situation created for them by intrigue and machinations of both national and international origin. How can we, as parents bear to see innocent infants suffering from these treacherous cruelties? It is through this service that we can start re-building from scratch, our spiritual and moral values. If we fail to do this the very same situation will dawn again; before long, in a different form upon the rest of the population protected today. Dear Sinhala Buddhists, his is the hour, the Nation is in need of your noble service!

'May all who are subject to suffering, overcome suffering!

*May all those subject to fear, overcome fear!
May all those subject to un-happiness, become happy!!!*

*and,
May all living beings be happy!*



FOR THE RECORD

About The Holocaust

We publish three editorials each from The Island and the Sun to place on record contemporaneous comment (and exhortations) on the current situation. They were published, no doubt after scrutiny by the Censor, between July 28 and August 6.

The Island July 28.

SENSE AND SANITY

The country stands poised on the edge of a decisive turning-point in its history. Sri Lanka as a nation has weathered many storms before particularly in the contemporary period but there is almost near unanimity that the present crisis is the most acute in recent memory. Readers know what we are referring to for there is little need to state overtly what has been happening around us for the last few days. This is not because we wish to withdraw from reality or bury our heads in the sand but because there is little point at the present juncture in probing into that sordid reality. The need of the hour is sanity and clear-headedness. We have no doubt that the majority of the people of Sri Lanka love this land. This applies not only to the Sinhala people but the Tamil people in our midst as well. During the early days of Sri Lanka's contemporary history in every decisive struggle and on every vital issue the leaders of the two communities have stood and fought together. It will be a tragedy of national dimensions, if the war cries of a bunch of politicians and the nihilistic adventurism of a bunch of anarchist youth succeed in sowing the seeds of discord among out two peoples. This is the message that every responsible and right-thinking person must reiterate with all the vehemence at their command in the midst of the hubbub that has broken out. The country knows only too well the damage which communal discord can wreak on the body politic. A land where men turn against each other cannot prosper. A land riven by discord cannot flourish. A people consumed by hatred towards each other cannot give leadership to a nation. There will be a time for analysis and interpretation, for even recriminations. But this is not the time for that. It will be only the naive who will try to preach sermons shutting their eyes to the reality surrounding them. There have been deep-seated historical, sociological and psychological reasons which have brought the country to the present plight. It would be pointless to shut our eyes to them. The time will come when history will settle its scores with all those responsible for the present impasse. But the immediate priority is to save the country from plunging into disorder and confusion. The historical and contemporary examples abound. From Northern Ireland to neighbouring India the

inevitable and inexorable result of national divisions is only carnage and bloodshed. Sri Lanka is a country which has witnessed the happy and life-giving confluence of four great religions of the world. For centuries Buddhism and Hinduism, Islam and Christianity have existed side by side in harmony. It will be a tragedy if a country touched by these great faiths of the world, a land which has historically borne witness to the tolerance of these great religions is to be riven by hatred. We appeal to all responsible elements within the community to do everything within their capacity to restore sanity and instil a sense of clear-headedness. The Government must take all measures possible to prevent the situation from deteriorating. Political parties and social service organisations, community workers and youth groups must mobilise themselves in this hour of challenge. The authorities must show no mercy to those who seek to hasten the slide towards anarchy. This is the hour of Sri Lanka's greatest test.

The Island, July 29

The Shame And The Agony

THIS is the hour of Sri Lanka's greatest agony and shame. There is an incubus of shame which every nation has to carry on its conscience until the end of history and what has been happening since Monday will be Sri Lanka's till the end of time. It was frightening to see all the old certainties being attacked and all the cherished values and proprieties being overturned. But as we said yesterday the time has still not come for any sober analysis or interpretation for passions are still high and the urgent task of the hour is to douse the flames. The main task that awaits all responsible elements within the community is to dispel as best as they can the climate of tension within the country and put to rout the forces of ugly rumour. Behind the arsonists have come the looters., the Minister of State was quoted yesterday as saying; and, behind them have come the rumour-mongers. The Government through the Secretary to the Ministry of State has brought some of these out into the open and countered them but it is the responsibility of all thinking people too to explode these (sometimes fantastically absurd) canards within their own circles. It is these rumour-mongers who by their vile words will seek to reverse whatever attempts have been made to restore normalcy. The second is to see that there is a constant supply of food and fuel particularly in the context of the extended curfew hours which have been proclaimed. The Ministry of State must ensure that there is no breakdown in supply and that the food, which the Trade Minister has assured the public is available in abundance in the Food Department's godowns, are despatched in time to the point of sale. The Ministry should also do whatever they can within the admitted limitations imposed by the curfew etc: to bring to book that bunch of vile racketeers among the

petty trading class who have begun jacking up prices and fleecing the consumer. No mercy should be shown to these exploiters of the people.

The third urgent priority is to see that all measures are taken to help the victims of senseless violence. The refugee camps which have been established must be placed under the care of dedicated people who will ensure that the agony of these uprooted people will not be prolonged by bureaucratic red-tape and rituals. The service organisations in our midst must rise to the challenge of the hour and supplement Government's efforts to bring succour to these helpless people. The fourth priority of the hour is to arrest as soon as possible the wave of violence and arson which the country has been witnessing during the last few days. The Government must take every measure possible to see that there is no fresh eruption of these incidents for the consequences can be incalculably grave as we have already seen. Protection must be provided to all vulnerable sections and institutions and the armed forces must be mobilised in full force to restore order. The leaders of the Government must make use of radio and the more immediately potent medium of Television to urge the people to be calm and desist from violence. It is only the Government and the responsible sections of the people acting together who can salvage the country from its agony. We would be naive if we do not draw the lessons from this week of shame and try as speedily as possible to repair the damage.

The Island, August 2

What the Government Can Do

HARDLY was the ink dry on our appeals for sanity last week. when on Friday there was a fresh resurgence of that violence which has hung like an ugly cloud over the country since last Monday. Friday was perhaps the worst day of this whole shameful period for that day quite a few lives were lost prompting the Government to impose the curfew during the entirety of the weekend. Will these forces of intolerance ever be put to rout and sanity ever dawn on this land again? From Monday last week any person with even an iota of humanity within him had been horrified by the acts of violence and arson, the killings and the maimings which had been staining the country's name and reputation. Is it that our much vaunted sense of national compassion and tolerance, our humanism and sense of moral values have been so eroded that the mealy-mouthed votaries of a fake patriotism and the street-corner thugs can hold a nation to ransom and whip up a people into demonic fury? Whatever the reason it is time that the full stop was placed on this chapter of shame in the country's chronicles. The international cost of

this week of disaster, the damage to the country's good name and the hurt to its global reputation has been immense. If the people of Sri Lanka truly love this land, in whose name after all, all these atrocities have been committed, then they must return to the path of good sense if the country is not to be arraigned in the dock before world opinion.

There cannot be a repetition of what happened on Friday and towards this end the Government must take the toughest measures possible to deal with the trouble-makers. The Police and the armed forces have begun moving against the looters and this campaign must be reinforced. The sharpest vigilance must be mounted against attack from any quarters and no room should be left for any interested party to ignite a fresh outburst of violence. Meanwhile there are several concrete measures which the Government can take to repair the damages and hasten the return to condition of normalcy. The first is with regard to food supplies. The current shortage of food is bound to get acute soon and Government should take early measures to combat these shortages. There will be consignments of food in private shops which remain closed and the authorities must take measures to requisition these stocks of food and put them on sale. The toughest measures possible must also be taken against those traders who have shamelessly jacked up their prices. It is a sorry commentary on the absolutely mercenary mentality of the petty trading class that in the immediate aftermath of the violence a coconut should have been sold at Rs. 10 in some parts of Colombo. The next priority area is that of giving back employment to that mass of men and women who were flung into the streets overnight by the foul work of the arsonists. The Government itself has estimated that the number rendered unemployed is 6,000. The extent of the damage inflicted by these senseless acts of arson in human terms can be fully understood only when one considers the families who have been affected by the burning down of the factories. The cruellest irony is that the victims of this phony patriotism are largely Sinhala people, many of them young women. Who is to compensate them for the agony of their blasted future? Who is to alleviate the misery in these homes where all hopes have been blotted out by the vile deeds of men gone mad?

It is imperative that the Government takes early measures to help build new factories and assist in installing machinery to give gainful employment to the army of unemployed. The Insurance companies must process claims quickly, specially for industrial establishments. The Finance Minister must give his mind to providing tax incentives and low interest loans to entrepreneurs so that the damage to the national economy inflicted by last week's violence may not be prolonged. Not only have these incidents augmented the ranks of the unemployed but seriously eroded the country's export economy since almost

all the burnt down factories were export-oriented. Therefore the urgency of resuming production early need hardly be laboured. All these measures, of course, pre-suppose the return to normalcy, the restoration of order in the country. While the Government must take all measures possible to hasten the return to normalcy all responsible citizens must firmly resolve to do everything possible to see that this chapter of shame in Sri Lanka's history is ended soon.

Sun, August 2

Return To Normalcy

After one week of violence that has left a miserable trail of death and destruction as well as shame and disgust in the hearts and minds of Lankans, the country is still in the grip of unpredictable and volatile tension. The deadly mines set up by the sinister masterminds of terror are still around. Some of them have been detonated according to plan with results best described as a holocaust. Others are still being organised according to the blueprints chalked up by the traditional exporters of revolution and political destabilisation. The government is apparently not willing to take things lying down from any destructive source local or foreign. State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis was bold enough to reveal the presence of an unmistakable foreign hand in the current Lankan dilemma. The very fact that ethnic violence was manipulated and exploited with motives best known to the master minds should make the culpable Lankans hang their heads in shame. For they have been used as gullible pawns by some cold, calculating players of political chess, hell bent on checkmating their rivals in the game called Global Supremacy.

The tough measures taken to deal with the local counterparts of these elements are laudable and indeed realistic in dousing the fires that are being fanned up with sinister motives. The real solution to the current fiasco is with the people themselves. If they act with common sense and restraint not falling easy prey to the machinations of the ruthless elements then things are bound to change for the better. And normalcy will once again return to this battered land. What the people must realise is that they must never again let themselves be taken for a ride and fall victim to organised false propaganda calculated to arouse animosity, panic and fear. These insensitive but self-centred forces know exactly what they are doing. And they seem to win all the same, to the utter detriment of the country and the people who love to ensure its peace and prosperity. The masterminds are waiting with their baskets for the rotten apple to fall from the tree. The maggots they have spawned were doing all the dirty work to hasten the process of eradicating this nation in stages.

Towards A New Lanka

The price Lanka had to pay for a separatist cry by sinister and insensitive misanthropes is colossal. The death, the destruction and the trail of misery left behind in the July holocaust cannot really be described in mere words. The agony and the anguish and the trauma experienced by many of our brethren may never ever be overcome. There is no gainsaying that the roots of the current ethnic disharmony grew out of a seed of discord called separatism. Like a poison ivy it grew to monstrous proportions to envelope this peaceful land in fear, panic and anxiety and ultimately exploded as it did last week in demonic violence. Nobody, except a handful of traitors would want Lanka divided. It had remained intact for a millennium. And the mere suggestion to bifurcate this beautiful island sounds preposterous if not criminal.

The initiative taken by the Government to once and for all do away with the demand for that loathsome cry for Eelam is most decisive and commendable. The present holocaust could possibly have been avoided if the politicians particularly those in the opposition did not hesitate (as they did so with intransigence and self-centred motives) to participate at the roundtable conference called by the President. Instead as the Minister underlined to the press on Wednesday, the extremists retorted with violence against the militia thus sparking off the current hecatomb when evil forces took advantage of a volatile situation. It is clear to everyone now that separatism was the satanic force which nurtured the venomous germ that did its worst in Lanka in the last days of July.

The people on both sides of Elephant Pass can now rest assured that the last nail has been driven in the coffin on this odious and demented cry for a separatist state. Lankans can now heave a sigh of relief and be grateful that constitutional initiatives have been taken to ensure this. The handful of Eelam wallahs operating from the safety abroad would have by now realised how their wild ambition turned Lanka into a nightmare of destruction. They should not fail to realise that nobody, least of all India is willing to listen to their hollow cry for separatism. The leadership there has made it quite clear in unmistakable terms. This is the finest hour for Lanka to settle the minority problem in a meaningful manner. The President is willing to discuss the issues and even take conciliatory steps towards a final political solution. Everybody must heed the President's call for conciliation.

Confidence Building

The President made forthright and very serious disclosures to his Parliamentary Group on Thursday. He gave elaborate details about the dastardly masterplan that was hatched by the sinister forces to wreak murder and mayhem in order to gain their political ends. The very basis of this plan stinks. The victims of their diabolism have been hundreds of thousands of innocent people as well as the country itself. Whoever is responsible should not be allowed to remain free. For they can still cause further havoc. Now that the bedrock of violence has been exposed it is not so difficult to untangle the octopus like links that have admittedly been established. The details set before the Parliamentary Group by the President bear ample testimony to a monstrous jigsaw. It is up to the law enforcers to launch a comprehensive counter offensive to hound out the culprits without fear or favour. The prevailing Emergency regulations facilitate the security forces to undertake this particular task. But they must act with extreme caution as there is a possibility of making mistakes all the same. The pattern of violence Lanka experienced during the so-called Black Week of July is not a typical phenomenon.

They have the hallmark of disturbances set in motion by the blueprint makers of Export Revolution. And it would hardly mean that only one big power could be responsible for such overt and covert activities. Their so-called 'dirty tricks departments' are active in more than one foreign country. As the Premier said in his winding up speech in Parliament the gravity of the foreign involvement will be known only at a later date. But the fact that the Government has not hesitated to take the people into confidence and keep them informed day in and day out about the prevailing situation is most commendable. That is the right policy. It would not only build up mutual confidence but will also provide the general public a realistic insight into the undercurrents and acts of subterfuge, resorted to by sinister and insensitive ghoul and vultures. Concerned foreigners have already expressed their sympathy. Indian Premier Indira Gandhi proved how objective she could be in dealing with the volatile situation. The country is grateful. A word of reassurance from the European Community in not involving themselves about Lanka's domestic crisis despite certain overtures is also laudable.

Why some super powers remain silent without even a murmur of consolation in Lanka's tragic hour seems rather unusual.



Mahaweli

By Malcolm Jansen

Mike had two long days to revel in the water and most important of all, do a spot of fishing. He had been researching on *Labeo dussumeri*, a river fish species in the floodplain swamps of the Mahaweli. He told us that this species must find its way with the annual floodwaters into the villue to reed. The breach series were strung across the river and drawn in at regular intervals. The catch was measured, weighed and then pickled in a mixture of formaldehyde and acetic acid for detailed gut and reproductive investigation in the laboratory. Macrobrachium or the large fresh water shrimp abounded in the river. After three nights and two days since arriving at Kandakadu, we set off on the next stage of the river journey, being just in time to catch the early morning bird orchestra. White-bellied Sea Eagles Great Stone Plovers Little pratincoles Egrets Green Shanks and a Brahminy Kite added colour to the already beautiful sunrise. Perched on the branches of a dead tree was a Hawk Eagle and we heard the harsh notes of the Crimson-backed Woodpecker. A family of Purple-faced Langurs lined the edge of the river as the canoes passed below.

The canoes continued to make steady progress-down the river, passing chenas of tobacco on both banks Peafowl were numerous on the treetops their harsh shrill disturbing the calm; scratchings of porcupine were prominent in the sand. The river now bifurcates and on the right, the wide arm of the Verugal Aru was choked by sand. Water flowed only through the left channel which is much narrower than the main river. This is the Adampan Aru through which the main flow of the river has been diverted because sand blocked the river. The Adampan Aru rejoins the main river again nearly ten kilometers downstream.

We reentered the Mahaweli junction after noon and continued to make fairly rapid progress. This was the general deltaic plain of the Mahaweli which possibly commences with the first distributory-the Kandakadu Aru. The depth of inundation at times of flood peaks is not so great as that of the upper floodplain regions of the river near Manampitiya since the flood waters spread far and wide over the surrounding lands. Here trees were more common and widespread than in the upstream villus; with Hibiscus tiliaceous and *Erutjroma variegata* predominating. Still tall jungle ran down the banks thick kumbuks, bakmi and mee lined the water's edge. On the right bank it was the Somawathiya Sanctuary that continued; this section being the

the least-disturbed part of the reserve and contains one of the finest forests of the dry zone. Valuable timber species like milla halmilla buruta and kaluwara are well represented in the stands yet it contained a high percentage of riverine species too. An important feature of this area was the high proportion of halmilla in the forest-about fifteen percent of the trees in the stand. A major share of the island's supply of halmilla wood comes from this forest.

Numerous elephant trails and slides cut the banks for the rest of the journey that evening. Shortly afterwards we spotted a huge elephant wading slowly across the river. An hour later we encountered a herd of elephants which had come to the river to drink. We drew the canoes to the edge of the water not wanting to disturb the animals. A pile of chalky droppings and a fresh belly print on the sand indicated that a large crocodile had just taken to the water.

The verdant curtain of the jungle that adorned both banks of the river dramatically parted to reveal large expanses of barren and idle land; on the left bank was at a tobacco farm which is now in a state of neglect and ruin. Only tall illuk now stands on the land; the high forests were now represented by only a few, almost dead, leafless skeletons, which nevertheless yet serve a very useful purpose to the numerous peafowl and other birds that need a perch or a branch to roost for the night. Looming ahead the new bridge, bathed in brilliant evening sunshine came into view. This bridge had just been completed, and connects kantalai with the very important and interesting temple of Seruwawila and the great, ancient but newly restored Allai tank. This road serves also as the northern boundary of the Somawathiya Sanctuary. Kumbuk and halmilla line either side of the road, typifying the floodplain character of the forest.

The next day's start was rather late — the last lap of the river journey; our sights now on Koddiyar Bay. The river was fairly deep, but the slow flowing waters and the windy condition made the going very sluggish. Surprisingly, patches of forest still ran down along the banks, but abandoned chenas and newly opened tobacco fields were not uncommon. Elephant activity in the form of giant slides were still conspicuous on the banks. The lower reaches of the river stand for the exceptionally abundant and varied bird life. Right through the day we observed that most of the larger trees carried a rich assortment of birds. Waterbirds like Black-headed Ibis, Painted Storks, Egrets Cormorants, Grey-headed Tank Eagle and Night Herons occupied every conceivable tree perch. Pied Kingfishers, Serpant Eagles, Green Shanks, Crested Hawk Eagles, Plovers, Shrikes, Pratincoles and Peafowl contributed towards the variety of avifauna in the area.

Just after noon we saw the first palmyrah palm and soon it turned out to be a common feature of the landscape, standing tall above the general strata of the surroundings. When we reached the branch of the Koddiyar Aru, a deep and narrow arm of the Mahaweli, all signs of elephant activity ended. Just three miles from the mouth, the vegetation on the banks changed. Dens mangroves extended into the water and Rhizophora with its extensively branched prop roots colonize the water's edge. Behind was an association of other salt tolerant species like Avicennia, Lumitzera, Sonneratia and Acanthus.

Tall Hibiscus iliaceous exists along the land margins of the mangrove swamps. Nearer the coast the mangrove swamps have been substantially destroyed for fuelwood and in some instance the swamps reclaimed for other uses. This area remains one of the last extensive areas of mangrove swamps left in the country. Just after four in the evening we reached the sea at the mouth of the river at Gangai, near Mutur. The numerous branches of the river had given to rise to the need for four vehicular ferries on the coastal road that links Mutur with Trincomalee. It was well past five with evening shadows fast creeping in, we scampored into the launch and set off for Trincomalee across the wide but shallow Koddiyar Bay.

Concluded

x x x

FILM FOCUS

Coming Home

"They fought a war that nobody finally wanted, and came home to in differences, hostility and shame. They have mostly lived in a kind of enforced silence, burying their memories along with their medals, out of sight, even from their own families. The story of the 1.6 million returns of combat in Viet Nam has gone largely untold, because nobody has asked them to tell it" — *Time* (14.12.81).

COMING HOME: In this United Artists Production, directed by Hal Ashley, America bares its conscience, its morbid moods of silece and the shame of a meaningless war that left behind a warped message in its homes even as peace broke in and after. It is an honest film and brilliantly prortrays just one case history, among the many traumatic experiences, that cast deep shadows on many lives — not merely those who were on the front as "mass mercenaries" to take violent issue in an ideological wave of horror that swept a cleaved nation. The American might was put to the test in all its fury, but failed to fire its

points home except to leave many mauled minds that could not readjust themselves to their post-war lives. Many of them just could not master their acquired "paranoias" or the numbness of their souls that kept them away from responding to therapists for many years.

This film could not have been complete without actress Jane Fonda who saw the hopelessness of the Viet Nam conflict and voiced her feelings publicly. She even visited the fronts and returned home, to expose the hypocrisy behind it all, and the powerful nation did bow its head in utter shame. However this film strictly does not depict a war story, but one that surfaces the scars in its aftermath, around a love story that was thrust in the home and hearth of one such leading on to an adulterous affair. Jane Fonda roles Sally Hyde in the film, an officer's wife who volunteers (in M. A. S. H. style) for work in a hospital for the wounded, while her husband (Bruce Dern) is on the action front. Jan Voight that fine actor is an embittered and wounded Viet Nam victim, whose misplaced love for Sally Howes, turns too sentimental but helps him to regain a new sense of values in his life. This film won three academy awards, for best actor best actress (Voight and Fonda) and best screenplay. Holding the reins throughout was Fonda and associate producer Bruce Gilbert, who were closely associated with the Anti Viet Nam campaign. The love story that emerged was transquised, yet tragic and Fonda's convictions even drove her to a few reluctant nude clinches to get her message across, making even her Oscar winning performances in "Klute" as a harlot look rather tame — such was her fervour and dedication to the story. The background music was a soothing to the tender moments of an imposed and illicit love, born out of sheer pity. The goal set was pseudo patriotic and the pious platitudes sandwiched between block buster bombs from Headquarters seemed so hollow in concept. The final confrontation of the trio caught in the coils of what passed off as true love proved strangulating — as one of them took the easy way out leaving the crippled adulterer to preach to the greenhorns of war about what could have been its glories. The all the way winner was Jane Fonda who packed sufficient punch to prevent such US military involvements in future. A Brilliant film that one cannot afford to miss. It is recent history of a blind war that humbled America.

James N. Benedict

x x x

July 18 - Aug 7

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*—Eelanaadu; *IS*—Island; *DI*—Divaina; *IDPR*—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, JULY 18: The TULF has declined President Jayewardene's invitation to participate at a meeting "to discuss the activities of terrorists in Sri Lanka and decide a united course of action to combat them." The new Women's Affairs, Teaching Hospitals and Family Health Ministry is considering a patient's charter setting out the rights of patients seeking treatment at government hospitals. In Lebanon's third successive day of serious violence, rival militias around Beirut have pounded each other with artillery fire, killing at least one person. Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat Baghdad yesterday at the end of a three day visit to Iraq the Iraqi news agency reported—*DN*. Air Lanka will add three more new destinations on its fast growing Europe and Middle East run linking Vienna Copenhagen and Beirut with Colombo beginning November this year—*CDM*. One of the terrorists shot down by an Army assault group in a rare confrontation in the trouble-torn north on Friday has been identified as the leader of the military wing of the outlawed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. A proposal to mobilise home guards to protect vulnerable public property in the northern and eastern provinces is being worked out by the Ministry of Home Affairs, according to official sources—*SU*. Today's meeting of the Executive Committee of the SLFP is expected to be a stormy one as the question of appointing new members to the politbureau is to be discussed. The Sri Lankan consultant engineer nabbed at Heathrow airport with a bag containing 67 kilos of ganja in October last year along with a British woman, has been arraigned before a British court on charges of narcotics smuggling. Government departments within the Jaffna Districts have been asked to park their vehicles in a central place of safety in the nights instead of on their own premises—*IS*. There is no need to rush rice imports from abroad even though his year's Yala crop has fallen short of the target by nearly 12 to 17 million bushels on account of throught — *EO*.

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 20, 1983

TUESDAY, JULY 19: If there is a token strike or sympathy strike in any of the universities, we will close it down altogether. Dr. Stanley Kalpage Chairman of the University Grants Commission said yesterday. The Court of Appeal dismissed without costs the applications filed by the All Ceylon Tamil Congress challenging the TULF nominations to the Jaffna Municipal Council and Trincomalee Chavakachcheri and Valvettiturai Urban Councils. Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of American made military equipment flows into Iran each year despite a US ban on all arms sales there *Time* magazine said on Monday. Polish communist authorities are pressing ahead with laws and regulations tightening control of society as they prepare to lift martial law on Friday—*DN*. Press censorship was imposed on all matters pertaining to the tertiary education sector; this includes all Universities polytechnics and all institutions providing post secondary education for publication here and abroad—*DM*. The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry was yesterday attempting to establish the whereabouts of a pirate radio station operating on high frequency channels; this follows a report from the Ministry of Defence which brought of details of the station to their notice. Three opposition parties which said "no" to President J. R. Jayewardene's invitation to "discuss activities of terrorists and decide on a united course of action" were rethinking their stances yesterday; the Communist Party, Mahajana Eksath Peramuna and the Tamil United Liberation Front will reconsider their earlier decisions—*SU*. The Communist Party and the TULF will meet in emergency session today to discuss once again whether to attend the roundtable conference called by President J. R. Jayewardene as the scope of the conference has been enlarged—*EO*. The All Party Conference on the Tamil problem is likely to take place tomorrow as scheduled with practically all parties represented in Parliament including the TULF attending it instead of boycotting it as intended earlier. Trading activity picked up yesterday in Colombo's financial markets in view of the dollar depreciating by one cent after a lapse of twelve days. Revamping of the ferry service between Sri Lanka and India will be one of the major issues to be discussed at the five-nation International Conference on Railways to be held at Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya from July 21 — 23 Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed disclosed yesterday—*IS*. As stocks have been exhausted, petrol diesel etc., will not be distributed in Jaffna today—*DP*.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20: In a hard hitting speech at the Gas' conference yesterday, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said there was massive tax evasion in the country and charged the Inland Revenue Department of falling down on its job. The TULF Parliamentary group meets in Colombo at 9 a.m. today to decide whether they will attend the round

table summoned by President Jayewardene to decide on a course of action to end terrorism; TULF sources said that the party was watching the approach of other opposition parties. The Legislation Committee of the Egyptian Parliament has approved a controversial new electoral law which has angered the tiny opposition parties and sparked divided press comment on the need for it. Two of President Reagan's senior aides told congressional investigators yesterday they were unaware of any Regan campaign use of materials secretly obtained from the Carter team during the 1980 elections—*DN*. A big racket in the issue of bogus GCE O Level examination certificates was discovered yesterday by Officers of the Bribery Commissioner's Department; on a tip off, Bribery Squad officials posed off as applicant for a GCE O Level certificate with the results and approached a labourer of the Department; the moment the bribe of Rs. 5,000 in marked notes was passed to the labourer and the certificate issued he was arrested along with two accomplices and taken into custody/*CDM*. The first step in the government's concerted offensive against terrorism in the north gets underway today when President J. R. Jayewardene presides over the all-party summit to discuss the problem of terrorism. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the country's major opposition political grouping will not take part in today's all party summit to discuss the problem of terrorism. A Government Member of Parliament from Sabaragamuwa is learnt to have been found guilty of violating United National Party discipline during the recently concluded local government by-elections—*SU*. All SLBC transmitting stations and the Rupavahini repeat stations at Kokavil will be provided with additional security by the Forces in the north, according to a Defence Ministry source. The Ceylon Workers' Congress will outline the reasons for the emergence of the separatist cry and the growth of terrorism in the north at the All party talks to be held today at 11.30 a.m. The Tamil United Liberation Front may not participate at the All Party Conference scheduled for today at 11.30 a.m.; although the TULF is scheduled to meet this morning to finalise its decision today, the consensus amongst the MPs is that they should not participate at today's conference—*IS*. The Conference of the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, to work out a strategy for the North will be held even though any of the parties invited do not attend the meeting, according to Presidential Secretariat sources—*EO*.

THURSDAY, JULY 21: The round table conference summoned by President J. R. Jayewardene to discuss the activities of terrorists in Sri Lanka was held as scheduled yesterday with representatives of the United National Party and the Ceylon Workers Congress (political wing) attending. Press censorship covering terrorism, terrorist activity, related

acts of violence and security operations of the armed services and police connected with these matters became effective from noon yesterday. The US Defence Department announced yesterday that an eight-ship battle group had been diverted from a planned cruise to the Indian Ocean and sent to the Pacific? Coast of Central America where it would remain in international waters during US military exercises in Honduras planned for next month. Nicaragua is ready to begin multilateral peace talks and has designed a six point plan to end Central America's conflict, Junta leader Daniel Ortega said yesterday—*DN*. President J. R. Jayewardene received high praise for his efforts to solve problems faced by the Tamils in Sri Lanka from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran who referred to him as a "good person". The State Printing Corporation is facing a problem of disposing 1.3 million exercise books which have been lying unsold at the stationery factory—*CDM*. Government yesterday charged India of interfering in Sri Lanka's internal affairs and warned that acts of this nature could damage the good relations that exist between the two countries. The Government yesterday clamped a censorship on all news pertaining to terrorism, terrorist activity, related acts of violence, security operations of armed services and the police. Government yesterday decided to increase the prices of petrol, diesel and several other petroleum products. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday agreed to a CWC proposal to widen the scope of the round-table talks when its representatives met the UNP and the Cabinet of Ministers—*SU*. Letters to political parties represented in Parliament to attend the second conference initiated by the President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, to find a political solution to the Tamil problem will go out today—*EO*. The Government of India yesterday informed Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in New Delhi, Mr. B. P. Tillekeratne, that it was deeply concerned with the recent developments in Jaffna informed sources in Colombo said yesterday. The SLFP's letter refusing to participate in the All Party talks on the Northern situation was an attempt to draw a red herring to confuse the purpose for which the conference was called. President Jayewardene has said—*IS*. The export of cattle to Dubai from the Trincomalee harbour has been banned—*DP*.

FRIDAY, JULY 22: President Jayewardene has told a CWC delegation which interviewed him recently, that the problem of stateless people of Indian origin will be resolved within the next three months. Rural Industrial Minister S. Thondaman told a Colombo meeting yesterday. More than 1,100 Sikhs are in jail and awaiting trial in Punjab according to an Interior Ministry report disclosed in New Delhi yesterday which described those held as extremists. A Nicaraguan Cabinet minister painted a gloomy picture of his country's economy and blamed many

of its problems on mounting pressure from the United States, including moves to block international loans—*DN*. India denied today that it was meddling in Sri Lanka's affairs by making its views known about emergency measures to combat a separatist movement in the North of the country—*CDM*. Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali told Parliament yesterday that whether the opposition parties participate or not, the government will go ahead with its plans to wipe out terrorism—*SU*. The Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, yesterday told Inland Revenue officers that the services of Grama Sevakas and Government Agents should be enlisted to rope in tax dodgers—*EO*. The Food Department has launched a crash programme to rush foodstuffs by sea to the Jaffna peninsula to combat the prevailing food shortage in the north caused by the crippling of transport facilities due to recent terrorist activity. The Colombo tea trade is optimistic about Middle East countries not reducing their tea imports from Sri Lanka. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation yesterday announced an increase in fuel prices with effect from today—*IS*.

SATURDAY, JULY 23: The Government yesterday used the Public Security Act to take effective control of the universities and enable their heads to act speedily and positively to ensure that discipline was maintained and the best use made of public funds spent on higher education. Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama, MP for Kalawana, was unseated yesterday by election judge, Justice L. H. de Alwis on the election petition filed by Mr. Lionel Gunasekera. President Reagan praised the House of Representatives for approving funds to build the controversial MX missile and said similar action by the Senate would increase the leverage of US arms negotiations in Geneva. A senior Nicaraguan field commander has predicted fresh fighting in the north of the country bordering Honduras and said the Honduran army had deployed six battalions along part of the frontier—*DN*. Finance and Planning Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel replying to matters raised by Mr. Lakshman Jayakody SLFP Attanagalla regarding taxation said that the tax structure of the country should be rationalised in the nation's interest—*DM*. Bus and rail fares will go up from Monday, following Thursday night's fuel price hike; Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed who was attending an Asian Railway Ministers conference at Nuwara Eliya yesterday directed the chairman of regional transport boards to repare the new fare structure and submit them for Ministry approval during the weekend. The TULF is to decide today whether its MPs should remain in Parliament or not; a party spokesman said that the issue would be decided at the party convention scheduled to be held in Mannar today and tomorrow—*SU*. Over 40 percent of vital equipment in the government health service has broken down and cannot be repaired due lack

of funds authoritative sources in the Health Ministry said yesterday. President Jayewardene has removed all key university academic officials including all vice-chancellors under the Emergency Regulations with effect from July 21. The Sri Lanka Central Transport Board and the Ceylon Government Railways are expected to increase their fares by approximately 35 percent—*IS*.

SUNDAY, JULY 24: Primarily what the Government has achieved is much more than the numerous projects which have been successfully launched; the biggest revolution that has taken place is that after nearly 25 years the economy has been freed by removing controls; so said the Minister of State Dr. Anandatissa de Alwis commenting on the government's first six years in office—*SO*. The purchase of a tanker for Lanka Tankers Ltd., a subsidiary of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is in the balance; the tanker was to be purchased for lifting of crude oil for the Corporation from the Arabian Gulf to Colombo. President J. R. Jayewardene in a proclamation under the provisions of the Public Security Act removed all Vice Chancellors and Directors of the University colleges and reappointed them within hours with all powers of the University Councils and the various other controlling bodies vested in them—*ST*. New laws and administrative measures are to be introduced by the government to conserve energy in a bid to ascertain the areas such laws should be listed as national priority, President J. R. Jayewardene is to hold a special meeting with Ministers and Government MPs shortly. President J. R. Jayewardene has as a policy ordered that the entire coastal belt south of Batticaloa up to Tangalle should henceforth be out of bounds for any further tourist development, authoritative sources disclose—*WK*. A series of changes in the Government Parliamentary Group and at Cabinet level is expected to take place in August, according to authoritative UNP sources. All Parliamentary Members of the Tamil United Liberation Front will tender individual letters of resignation to the party Secretary General Mr. A. Amirthalingam today; the party will also not attend the round table conference schedule to be held next Wednesday; the decisions taken by the General Council however will be subject to ratification at the delegates conference today—*IS*.

MONDAY, JULY 25: What will be the impact of the TULF decision that its MPs will vacate their seats on the parliamentary equation; this was the big question animating political circles yesterday; the TULF General Council meeting in Mannar decided that the Party MPs will resign their seats and this decision was due to be submitted to the party convention yesterday for ratification. Iranian forces advanced into Northern Iraq on Friday night and yesterday seized a key Iraqi artillery base on the King Heights overlooking the Iranian town of

Prinshar, Teheran Radio reported—*DN*. Although a ten per cent drop was shown in the accident rate in the country when statistics are compared for the first quarter of 1981 and 1982 Police hold the view that the rate might have increased since then—*CDM* Thirteen Army personnel — one officer and 12 soldiers—were killed in the early hours yesterday in an encounter with northern terrorists, the government announced yesterday. Nearly 20,000 minor's savings books are lying in the cupboards of the workmen's compensation board without claimants—*SU*. The Tamil United Liberation Front which resumed its third annual convention yesterday decided to launch a non-violent campaign of opposition if three demands were not granted by the end of this year. The President has ordered an inquiry into an alleged US\$ 17,000 foreign exchange swindle where two officers of the Central Bank are said to be involved. A series of measures to prevent malicious acquisition of lands under the Land Acquisition Act will come into operation with immediate effect—*IS*.

TUESDAY, JULY 26: A curfew that was imposed at 2 pm yesterday was continued throughout the day.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27: Strong governmental measures, including the shooting of looters and curfew violators yesterday helped to reduce the intensity of the rioting in the Greater Colombo area. Ven. Sirimalwatte Ananda Mahanayake Thera of the Malwatte Chapter yesterday said that destruction of live and property will not help to solve problems. Libya told the UN Security Council on Monday that it would not stand idly by if the Chad Government of Hissene Habre tried to recapture the mineral rich Rouzou strip on the border with Libya and which Libya has occupied for the last decade—*DN*.

THURSDAY, JULY 28: Government yesterday ordered the deploying of all available resources to ensure the welfare of displaced victims of the rioting as the security forces moved to end the violence; the supply of food and other essentials to the community has also been given top priority. The Government yesterday announced that the political round table to which President Jayewardene had invited all parties represented in Parliament had been postponed due to the present unsettled situation in Colombo. Cuba's armed forces are ready for action if the United States invades or occupies the Caribbean Island. Cuban President Fidel Castro said here on Tuesday. Iraq was warned that a new Iranian offensive is imminent on the central Gulf war front as Teheran reported its forces have taken more Iraqi positions during a cross-border thrust in the northern sector—*DN*. The Ministry of Trade and Shipping yesterday put Ceylon Shipping Corporation vessels on stand by to carry refugees to Jaffna. Notes were exchanged at the Ministry of Finance and planing on July 22

between the Government of Japan and Sri Lanka for the extension of 1,500 million Yen for the Sri Jayewardenapura General Hospital Project—*DM*. The Government has noticed a well orchestrated attack on business houses and private homes during this week's outbreak of violence in the western province Cabinet spokesman and State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis told newsmen last morning following the weekly Cabinet meeting. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao on Wednesday expressed concern at reports at "atrocities" against members of the Tamil minorities in Sri Lanka; they said, however, that they were unable to interfere in the internal affairs of another country. Members of the Sinhala community living in Jaffna are not affected by the present situation and some of them are at the Naga Vihara, Jaffna—*SU*.

FRIDAY, JULY 29: President Jayewardene yesterday told the nation that legislation will be presented in parliament on Thursday to ban the separatist movement and proscribe separatist parties. The government yesterday relaxed the curfew hours to enable the public to obtain their requirements of food and other essential supplies. Sarvodaya leader Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne yesterday appealed for assistance from government, private organisations and individuals to help persons displaced by the disturbances. About 12 Soviet ships are heading for Nicaragua carrying arms for the leftist Sandinista regime there, US Defence Department sources said on Wednesday. Eight alleged gunrunners were arrested yesterday after what officials said was a plot to sell two billion dollars worth of military equipment to Iran and 15 million dollars worth of home made high quality machine guns to the Irish Republican Army—*DN*. In an emotion filled tone of voice President J. R. Jayewardene addressed the nation over the radio and the national T. V. and appealed to the people to lay down their arms; he solemnly promised that he will safeguard the rights and the privileges of the majority community — the Sinhala people. Major organised acts of violence have eased off but individual acts continue. Douglas Liyanage, Secretary to the Ministry of State told a news briefing yesterday. Adequate stocks of petrol are available and there will be no cause for any shortage, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Chairman Daham, Wimlasena said yesterday. Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi telephoned and expressed sorrow and concern over incidents in Sri Lanka; she has offered aid to Sri Lanka, the Government said yesterday—*SU*. Vandals have destroyed 17 major industrial factories in the last few days which has resulted in the immediate loss of 6,000 jobs, Secretary of the Ministry of State Mr. Douglas Liyanage announced yesterday; most of these factories are large textile and garment factories turning out products for exports. Several International aid

giving agencies, based in Sri Lanka have assured the Government all assistance in its efforts to rehabilitate victims of the five day mayhem let loose in the country and to rebuild the country's economy—*IS*.

SATURDAY, JULY 30: The curfew that was imposed at 2 p.m. yesterday owing to spate of violence based on a rumour that the Tigers were attacking Colombo in strength was continued today.

SUNDAY, JULY 31: The Government yesterday proscribed three leftist political parties suspected of having organised this week's country wide riots and suspended all political activities by them with immediate effect; these parties are the Moscow affiliated Sri Lanka Communist Party, the Marxist-Leninist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and the Trotskyite Nava Sama Samaja Party. India today reported continuing ethnic violence in neighbouring Sri Lanka and said it was sending a ship to evacuate Tamil minority refugees from the riot-ravaged areas of the country. The Secretary to the Ministry of Internal Security yesterday mobilised Home Guard units which were formed last year to be activated in a situation similar to that of today. Government has taken a series of steps to ensure there is no shortage of essential consumer items and fuel—*WK*.

MONDAY, AUGUST 1: The JVP, the pro-Moscow Communist Party and the Nava Sama Samaja Party have been proscribed because the government believes that they "have committed or are likely to commit actions prejudicial to public safety, law and order and the maintenance of essential services", Mr. Douglas Liyanage Secretary to the Ministry of State told a Colombo news briefing yesterday; asked why no order proscribing the TULF has been made, the Secretary said that the present situation cannot be directly attributed to the TULF. Clashes between factions in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah group spread towards the Eastern Lebanese town last night, raising fears of a serious escalation of the feud. A new effort has been launched by the Lebanese Government to end the simmering mountain war between Christians and Druze Muslims, reports from both sides said today—*DN*. The political parties that were proscribed on Saturday by President J. R. Jayewardene were maintaining personal links with the Northern Tiger terrorists and were therefore responsible to a great extent for what happened throughout the island last week. Several burglaries have been reported from the City of Colombo and from outstations during the weekend—*CDM*. Violence has been brought under control and communal incidents decreased yesterday with most parts of the country being quiet, the Government announced. The curfew which has been in force for the past 48 hours ended at 4.30 a.m. this morning. It will be reimposed at 2 p.m. today through Sri Lanka and will continue till 4.30 a.m. tomorrow—*SU*.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2: A number of arrests have been ordered by the Government following the proscription of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, the JVP, and Nava Sama Samaja Party, the Secretary to the Ministry of State Mr. Douglas Liyanage said yesterday. Total number of refugees at the 14 camps in the Colombo district was yesterday estimated at 52,000. Vice President George Bush said today the Regan Administration did not favour either sending combat troops into Central America or trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government—*DN*. Commissioner-General of Essential Services Mr. Bradman Weerakoon in an exclusive interview with the *Daily Mirror* said that essential food items such as rice, flour and sugar along with dry provisions such as dhal, dry fish and milk foods are available in plenty—*CDM*. The number of inmates at the refugee camps has stabilised at around 52,000 and the minimum requirements of these persons are being provided by government. A number of arrests have been made after three political parties (Communist Party, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and the Nava Sama Samaja Party) were proscribed, Douglas Liyanage Secretary to the Ministry of State said yesterday. Investigations into whether or not there is any foreign power collusion or organisation behind the islandwide arson, looting and nationally disruptive actions of the past week will be investigated by Government in the course of its overall investigations into these events, the UNP's Chairman N. G. P. Panditharatne told foreign newsmen at a press conference at Sri Kotha yesterday—*SU*. According to a spokesman for the Committee headed by the Colombo District Minister, Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi it has been able to streamline the distribution of food rations to the 45,000 odd refugees in various camps throughout the island. The Competent Authority appointed under the Public Security Act for censorship of news yesterday enforced stricter censorship rules which will cover events in other countries which might be prejudicial to the interests of national security. Police reports indicate that there has been a great improvement in the law and order situation in and around Colombo, Mr. Douglas Liyanage Secretary to the Ministry of State said yesterday—*IS*.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3: Several JVP leaders including Rohana Wijeweera and NSSP leader Vasudeva Nanayakkara have gone underground following the proscription of three leftist parties under Emergency law last Sunday. Life began to return to normal throughout the country yesterday with the security situation improving to an extent that enabled the curfew to be further relaxed. Lebanese President Amin Gemayel has rejected any partial withdrawal by Israeli Syrian or Palestinian forces unless they are carried out as part of an agreed complete withdrawal—*DN*. Kollupitiya will be the temporary venue for one of the biggest wholesale market storage and

distribution points shortly and this will keep Colombo and suburbs thoroughly supplied for the next two months—*CDM*. Nineteen members of the proscribed parties including a former MP, a retired Army officer and trade unionists have been arrested in connection with the recent wave of disturbances, Douglas Liyanage, Secretary to the Ministry of State announced yesterday. The Ceylon Workers Congress does not subscribe to the idea that the recent savage violence against the Tamil speaking people of Indian origin is a Sinhala uprising; "Our thinking is that it is the work of well organised groups", states S. Thondaman, President of the CWC in a statement yesterday. Stewart Slavin, a United Press International correspondent, was asked to leave Sri Lanka yesterday for transmitting a story which was not allowed by the censor—*SU*. Sri Lanka will set up a special rehabilitation and reconstruction fund to help to repair the damage caused in last week's race riots across the island, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said today. A few big time industrialists whose factories were damaged by the recent wave of violence have decided to pay the displaced workers an advance of their July wages. The Security situation is fast returning to normal, Mr. Douglas Liyanage, Secretary to the Ministry of State said yesterday—*IS*.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4: The Supreme Court has ruled that the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution except for two provisions dealing with the forfeiture of movable and immovable property, was not inconsistent with the Constitution. The new head of the agency which channels development aid from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said today that OPEC may have to temporarily cut aid to the third world. The Palestine Liberation Organisation opens a high level meeting in Tunis today expected to confirm the legitimacy and authority of Yasser Arafat's leadership that dissidents from the Fatah guerilla group are challenging—*DN*. A Ministry under the purview of President Jayewardene will go into action to rehabilitate displaced persons of recent violence; this ministry is expected to be set up either during the week end or on Monday; this was announced by Cabinet Spokesman and Minister of State Dr. Anandatissa de Alwis at a press briefing—*CDM*. There will always be conciliatory efforts towards a political solution to the present problems; President J. R. Jayewardene is prepared to discuss any of these matters as long as there is no demand for a separate state, State Minister Dr. Anandatissa de Alwis told the weekly press briefing yesterday. The curfew which lapsed at 4 a.m. today will be reimposed at 5 p.m. this evening and will be effective till 4 a.m. tomorrow. The two centres run by the Women's Bureau and the Children's Secretariat in Colombo continued to receive contributions for relief to displaced persons—*SU*. The sixth amendment to the Constitution which will be presented to Parliament today is not a law to ban the Tamil United Liberation Front; The law is not aimed at the

TULF; b5 all MPs, Municipal Councillors, Members of DDCs and UCs will have to take an oath that they would not espouse the establishment of a separate state, Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis told a press conference yesterday—*IS*.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5: Prime Minister R. Premadasa yesterday told parliament that the Sixth Amendment to the constitution, expected to be comfortably passed early today will ensure that the TULF or any other party with similar objectives can no longer exist in this country. Palestinian leaders decided last night that a special committee should be set up to arrange and supervise a ceasefire in Lebanon's Bakaa Valley between supporters and opponents of Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasser Arafat—*DN*. President Jayewardene addressing the Government Parliamentary Group meeting yesterday morning outlined to Members of Parliament the strategy behind the recent disturbances—*CDM*. The security situation in Sri Lanka has returned to normal Government spokesman Douglas Liyanage announced at the daily press briefing yesterday. The curfew hours for today (Friday) would be 5 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Saturday. More than 3,000 refugees have left for Jaffna it was revealed yesterday. India is giving top priority to Sri Lanka's request for essential aid for refugees in the stricken island republic, a Government spokesman said today. The bus and rail services in the country will gradually come back to normal as the curfew hours are reduced, Transport Board and Railway sources said—*SU*. Parliament last night was poised to debate early into the morning the sixth amendment to the Constitution with the Tamil United Liberation Front abstent and the two factions of the SLFP expressing supporting for it. Officials from the Labour Department headed by Deputy Commissioner C. D. Dissanayake is now conducting a survey of the number of workers displaced by the recent destruction of large industries and businesses in the Colombo city—*IS*.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6: A task force comprising senior officials of the Ministries of Finance, Industries, Trade and the Central Bank has been appointed by the government to survey the economic damage caused by last week's violence in Colombo and some other parts of the country. Jaffna has been surprisingly much quieter and much less tense than it had been for a long time Mr. Douglas Liyanage the Secretary to the Ministry of State said yesterday. The anti-aircraft missiles supplied by the United States to the regime of Hissene Habre and brought by some American military advisers have arrived in Chad just as according to the authorities in Ndjemeina Libyan bombing has spread to localities in the east of the country—*DN*. The Government still has hopes of finding a solution to the present crisis regarding the Tamil people through a dialoguh outside parliament; this was revealed by Mr. Lalite

Athulathmudali Minister of Trade and Shipping at a press conference yesterday.—*CDM*. Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali categorically stated yesterday that the Government would not allow any power to use Sri Lanka as an anti-Indian base. Government yesterday decided to relax the curfew by another hour: on Saturday the curfew will be imposed at 6 p.m. and will be lifted at 4 a.m. on Sunday. Over 300 delegates representing 70 non-governmental voluntary organisations in the country met yesterday at Royal College Colombo to formulate a comprehensive work plan to help those in distress. No incidents of violence or arson were recorded in the past twenty four hours.—*SU*. The Secretary to the Ministry of State Mr. Douglas Liyanage, quoting the Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry described as baseless and untrue the UPI report that Sri Lanka had asked for military assistance from certain countries to be used against India. He said the Government of Sri Lanka was distressed to read this news item. Parliament yesterday morning unanimously passed the sixth amendment to the constitution prohibiting the advocating of a separate state with all MPs present voting for it to chalk up a "Yes" vote of 150 in what Parliamentary observers considered a unique case in legislative history.—*IS*.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7: The Government has now mapped out the entire process of reconstruction and rehabilitation, said the Commissioner General of Essential Services Bradman Weerakoon. President Jayewardene is sending Mr. H. W. Jayewardene to India on Tuesday for talks on the situation arising out of ethnic violence in the island republic. It is in India's highest interest to maintain friendly ties with Sri Lanka and not do or say anything that could leave a permanent scar on this relationship, states the Indian express in a recent editorial titled "Lanka's Agony." Galabodarachhige Nihal Stanley an active member of the JVP was among the five suspects taken into custody by the Mount Lavinia Police yesterday with looted jewellery to the value of Rs. 200,000 a police source said.—*SO*. People who had earlier criticised the open market economy should eat their words if they had any self respect because today people have not only plenty of foodstuffs but also at prices cheaper than in normal times; this claim was made yesterday by Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali when he opened a large wholesale rice market in Kollupitiya.—*ST*. President J. R. Jayewardene, will not tolerate any intervention or interference by members of the Government Parliamentary Group or anyone else if any UNPers are arrested for involvement in incidents of violence or looting sparked off recently. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday told Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi that the situation in Sri Lanka has returned to normal; he has also scotched rumours that had been spread regarding Sri Lanka requesting military assistance from foreign

countries. The curfew which ended at 4 a.m. this morning will be reimposed at 6 p.m.; it will be effective till 4 a.m. tomorrow.—*WK*. Government is to invalidate by law all negotiations for the sale or transfer of houses and property to parties other than the original tenants or occupants displaced by the recent spate of violence in the country; initially regulations to this effect will be moved under the Public Security Act before incorporating them in the permanent legislation of the country. Kandy Esala Perahera will be held as scheduled without any change in the programme said Mr. Niranjan Wijeratne, Secretary to the Diyawadana Nilame, Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne. The prices of vegetables and coconuts in retail markets around Colombo and the suburbs have dropped considerably in the last few days.—*IS*.



MEDIUM TERM INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME —2

Tea Rubber, Coconut

By any measure of economic standard, *Tea* is by far the most important export crop of Sri Lanka. It is the single largest source of foreign exchange amounting to 30% of the country's export earnings. The industry has a labour force of around 600,000 workers or about 11% of the national work force in the country. Tea, accounts for 4.7% of the Gross Domestic product and contributes a significant amount by way of taxes and duties towards the development and welfare budget of the country. Tea cultivation in Sri Lanka is classified under three broad elevational categories; High country (above 1200m), Mid country (600 - 1,200 m) and Low country (below 600m); their share of tea area and production are given below:

TABLE 3 — EXTENT AND PRODUCTION OF TEA UNDER ELEVATIONAL CATEGORIES

	Share of tea area	Share of tea production
High Country	32%	38%
Mid Country	39%	28%
Low Country	29%	34%

The High Country tea is renowned the world over for its flavour. The Low Country tea is noted for its liquoring characteristics and appearance. The tea from Mid Country is in demand for use in tea bags which is a growing segment of the tea market. Tea is harvested throughout the year in all three elevational areas. Sri Lanka has been one of the world's major producer and exporter of tea. However, during the last two decades, Sri Lanka's share of the world production has shrunk from 20% to 10% and exports from 35% to 22%. This is in marked contrast to the performance of all other major tea producing countries. India, the world's largest producer and exporter of tea, has increased her production by nearly 60% during the last two decades. Kenya has made impressive gains in her output by more than doubling her production during the last ten years. Indonesia, Bangladesh and other East African countries have recorded substantial increases in their tea output since 1970. But Sri Lanka's tea production has been continuing to decline. The reasons for the decline in output are many.

The poor production performance in the 1970s was primarily attributable to the uncertainties associated with the land reform. Fall in international tea prices, overvalued rupee, and erratic weather patterns fuelled the decline. But the fundamental cause for the continuing drop in production is the inadequate investment inputs into the industry. More than half of the tea bushes in Sri Lanka are over 70 years old and are well beyond their level of economic viability. The infilling of vacancies due to bush deaths (resupply) has been long neglected. Replanting has lagged behind the national targets. Essential agricultural practices such as soil conservation measures have been deferred. Most of the tea factories are continuing to operate with machinery and equipment installed prior to World War II. All these factors have combined to adversely affect the output of tea.

Next to tea, rubber is the most important crop in Sri Lanka. It accounts for 11% of total export earnings, generates 8% of agricultural employment and accounts by way of duties and taxes for 4% of Government budgetary revenue. The main rubber growing districts are situated within the Wet Zone in the South West quadrant of Sri Lanka. The ownership of rubber lands is distributed in the proportion of 30% in the State Sector and 70% in the private Sector, which consists predominately of small holdings.

In the mid 1950s, Sri Lanka's rubber output was 100 million kg which was 5% of the total world output. In 1968, rubber production rose to 149 million kg which constituted 5.5% of the world production. Sri Lanka's rubber production is currently at about 125 million kg per annum, which is below the record production level of 159 million kg reached in 1970 and accounts for only 3.5% of the total world production. The main reason for the decline in production is the drop in the level of replanting. The Government sponsored replanting scheme was started in 1953. During the first few years of the introduction of the scheme, the operation was very successful averaging about 7600 ha per year. Since 1963, the area replanted continuously declined until 1976. This has resulted in over aged national stand which has reduced both the present rubber production as well as the potential for the next ten years. Nearly 87% of Sri Lanka's rubber production is exported. The major portion of the local consumption of 13% is used mainly for the manufacture of vehicles and tractor tyres channelled into the local market.

The Coconut Industry occupies an important position in the economy of the indigenous population. Out of approximately 451,000 hectare of coconut land, nearly two thirds consists of small holdings. The largest concentration of coconut plantations is found in the Colombo, Gampaha, Puttalam and Kurunegala Districts. The labour employed in the coconut industry is mainly indigenous.

The major coconut products exported from Sri Lanka are desiccated coconut, coconut oil and copra. In terms of nut equivalent, the annual volume of these exports amounts to 400 million nuts. Coconut production was averaging 2,500 million nuts. The application of fertiliser below the recommended level, of low level of investment inputs and frequent droughts have contributed to the current decline in coconut production.

To Be Continued

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CANADA

Tea And Coffee Trade To Help Third World

Drink a cup of Mark Wilson's coffee and you will also help fight poverty in the Third World. Twenty seven year old Wilson has become the Ottawa representative of Bridgehead Trading, a Toronto based alternative marketing organisation that imports tea and coffee directly from developing countries. By-passing multinational companies, Bridgehead encourages self reliance and profit

sharing among workers in the producing countries Canadian consumers, in turn, become more aware of the exploitation and difficult conditions under which the people work. A small but significant link between rich and poor countries is established. Bridgehead products include Nicaraguan filter coffee Sri Lankan Orange Pekoe tea and Tanzanian instant coffee. Bridgehead was started last year by four members of church and social action groups.

Profits from the sale of coffee and tea in the first five months of trading amounted to about \$ 7,500 leaving \$ 3712 after operating expenses for development projects in Nicaragua and Tanzania. Profits from the coffee go to Oxfam Canada to support a public health project of the Nicaraguan Agricultural Workers' Association, in which 60 women are trained in health and hygiene and then work among farmers in their communities. Profits from sale of tea, grown and packed in Sri Lanka, are passed on to the co-ordinating secretariat for plantation areas — a federation of Sri Lankan organisations seeking an end to the oppressed conditions of Sinhala peasants and Tamil tea estate workers— *Canada Weekly*

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REPORT FROM INDIA

Increasing Demand For Tea

ALTHOUGH INDIA'S TEA EXPORTS in 1982 was substantially lower than in the previous year, the long-term outlook seems to be encouraging in view of the rising trend in consumption of tea in many countries. Tea exports in the first six months of 1982 amounted to about 66 million kg valued at Rs. 1,200 millions compared to 112 million kg worth Rs. 1,950 millions in the corresponding period of 1981. However since consumption in Britain, West Germany, the USSR and several other markets is showing an upward trend, it should be possible for India to step up exports by augmenting production, intensifying promotional campaigns and suitably adjusting its strategy to meet effectively the challenge from China and other major competitors.

BRITAIN'S TOTAL TEA IMPORTS for consumption declined to 177,578 tonnes in 1981 from 186,721 tonnes in 1980, but of late, there has been a reversal of this trend. In its Tea Market Annual Report for 1981, released in July 1982, J. Thomas Co. of Calcutta had given an optimistic outlook about the prospect for increasing consumption of tea in Britain, saying there was "some evidence that the decline in tea drinking has been arrested

and, more hopeful, there are signs that its popularity has revived with the younger generation." *This forecast has now been confirmed by the International Tea Committee which pointed out that the efforts made by the U. K. Tea Council to promote consumption have begun to produce encouraging results.* Britain imports tea mainly from India, Sri Lanka and East Africa. In 1980, for instance, out of a total import of 211,035 tonnes, India supplied 64,167 tonnes, Sri Lanka 21,088 tonnes, and East Africa 81,454 tonnes while imports from China amounted to 5,881 tonnes and from Argentina 5,589 tonnes. Despite the keen competition, it should be possible for India to get a larger share in the British market especially by focussing attention on the younger generation which has been showing a growing liking for tea in preference to coffee and other beverages.

IN WEST GERMANY the per capita consumption of tea rose from 0.17 kg in 1972-74 to 0.22 kg in 1978-80, with the result the country's imports nearly doubled from 8,120 tonnes in 1971 to 15,185 tonnes in 1981. India's exports to West Germany steadily increased substantially from 2,401 tonnes in 1978 to 4,561 in 1979 and 6,431 tonnes in 1980 while exports from Sri Lanka declined marginally from 4,413 tonnes in 1979 to 4,179 tonnes in 1980. In the USSR consumption of tea per head increased from 0.43 kg in 1972-74 to 0.60 kg in 1978-80, and India's exports to it went from 40,388 tonnes in 1979 to 63,838 tonnes in 1980. India has been its largest supplier of tea. In 1980 exports from Sri Lanka were only 3,729 tonnes and from other sources negligible. *West Asia* also offers scope for more tea exports in view of the trend of increase in consumption in many countries of the region. But India's export performance in these markets has not been encouraging. Though exports to Iran rose sharply from 7,814 tonnes in 1979 to 10,302 tonnes in 1980, it only meant just about recouping from the earlier fall from the 1978 figure of 9,960 tonnes. Similarly exports to Sudan rose from 4,474 tonnes in 1979 to 11,503 tonnes in 1980. But India had exported 13,834 tonnes in 1978. The main supplier to Iraq has been Sri Lanka. While supplies from India to Iraq declined steeply from 8,189 tonnes in 1979 to 4,743 tonnes in 1980, those from Sri Lanka went up from 16,667 tonnes to 21,805 tonnes during the same period.

A NOTABLE FEATURE OF INDIA'S TEA EXPORTS have been the better performance of value added items. The export of packet tea went up from Rs. 580.7 millions in 1979-80 to Rs. 609.8 millions in 1980-91 ; tea bags from Rs 20.3 millions to Rs. 32.6 millions and instant tea from Rs. 30.5 million to Rs. 36.6 millions. But packet tea exports had earned as much as Rs. 787.4 millions in 1978-79. More-

over there has not been much diversification in terms of markets. For example out of the Rs. 699.8 millions of packets tea exported in 1980-81, West Asia and North Africa alone accounted for nearly Rs. 550 millions. This region also was the main buyer of tea bags valued at Rs. 26.8 millions. Similarly the United States alone absorbed instant tea worth Rs. 2033 millions.

Export earnings from packet tea bags and instant tea are expected to be lower this year mainly due to the reduced offtake by some countries in West Asia and North Africa. Tea production in the last few years has stagnated at around 560 million to 570 million kg per year. Production has not been stepped up to fully meet its domestic requirements and increase export earnings. According to the head of one leading tea producing country tea production had become increasingly unprofitable owing to cost escalation of all major inputs combined with wage increases, and the situation was further aggravated by what appeared to be a competition among the major tea producing states in increasing direct and indirect levies on tea production. — PTI Feature.

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CLIMATE

Why So Dry ?

By K. Kanapathipillai

IN MAKING A REASONED INQUIRY into the frequent occurrence of droughts in Sri Lanka, one will have to take into account the primary meteorological mechanism of the annual setting in and the retreating of the Monsoons. And so far as Asia is concerned we should know, this, that our weather and climate are closely tied up with the general conditions prevailing in Asia. It will have to be known, and a fact to be emphasised, that "land is disturbing and water is the ameliorating factor" in the distribution of climate and weather phenomena. And Asia being a continent suffering from the "tyranny of size", we have to expect the most varied, the most diversified, and the most unpredictable types of climate in Asia. *The coldest points on the earth's surface, and the hottest occur in Asia. The largest continental shield, that Asia, is, lies adjacent to the most expansive of water masses: the Pacific and the Indian Oceans, the latter extending far south into the Antarctic seas.*

And a number of peninsulas push out their tentacular protuberances south-westwards, southwards and south-eastwards. Arabia, Peninsular India and Peninsular South East Asia form the main projections. And what of the festoons of Islands forming the

East Indian Archipelago, Philippines and the Japanese Islands ? This is altogether a peculiar configuration. *The disposition and lay out of these land and water masses go a great way in determining the climate and weather of each and every country in Asia — whether it be insular, peninsular or continental.*

ASIA IS A CONTINENT OF PROBLEMS: problem of immensity of size, problem of the vastness of deserts, her immense mountain heights and the South-West to the North-East disposition of her mountain ranges, the problem of her climate, of her people and their varied cultures; their varied needs of these the problem of her climate is the most fantastic for the problem of her climate is a world problem. But the world appears to ignore this fact; and we in Sri Lanka, are it would seem, the least concerned about it. Temperature ranges are the highest in Asia, for the land is the dominant factor in the determination of climate. *And associated with the immensity of the continental shield is the recurring problem, nay, menace of drought. We, in Sri Lanka, are in no way exempt from this menace. Hence first and foremost, we have to have an intelligent and reasoned understanding of this brutal fact; that we are prone to be drought stricken.*

Bearing this fact in mind, we have to look ahead, make a very careful study of the vagaries of our weather, the treacherous disposition of our climate and of our environment; and adapt ourselves to the changing conditions. We have to be prepared for the modifications, small and great, local and regional, that might, from time to time, take place in the general continental scheme. *A slight quirk in the disposition of the high and low pressure centres over the land mass and the water mass might cause an appreciable tilt in the state of the weather and of the climate.* Our wind systems — the Monsoons — and even the cyclonic trends that are so frequent in the Bay of Bengal the Arabian Sea and the South East Asian waters are caught and pitched, as it were, between two great forces of nature, namely, the Arctic 'cul-de-sac of cold' centering on Verkhoyansk and the Indo-Pacific water mass that generates the so-called "lows" or depressions in winter.

THE OUTCOME OF IT ALL is the movement of a vast volume of air that shifts from season to season, causing the great atmospheric drifts — the Monsoons. When there is an outflow from the continental High Pressure cushion in Winter it goes out fanwise as the cold dry winter monsoon and deploys and gravitates outwards defying the planetary movements. *Here in Sri Lanka it has a North-Easterly component. It dries one's lips and cracks the skin. We get it mostly in January and early part of February.* And we are not the better for it for it brings the

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"Korean flu" and the Malayan fevers. It often sneaks in a slow-moving but sure enough "drought". A person with a sensitive nose can sniff it in the air. In fact the giant fish hawk of the east coast does now and again announce its arrival with amazing accuracy.

*The advanced quadrant of this typical winter monsoon is the "retreating monsoon" that brings the East Coast rain from September till the end of December. Most of this rain comes in the form of sporadic cyclonic showers. Now with the northward movement of the sun, after March or so the "Pressure Focuses" change. The continental cold cushion of High Pressure dissolves, the outflowing winds dissipate, and the interior of the continent gets heated up and becomes a region of low pressure, the lowest pressure zone being the "land of the five seas" — Iran-Iraq. The Indo-Pacific expanse now exerts its oceanic influence as a region of high pressure, and the winds, in consequence are drawn towards the continental low pressure centre. This vast body of moisture-laden air tends to be disturbed, becomes turbulent and literally "breaks" on our shores (the S. W. quadrant) as the *South West Monsoon* in the latter half of May. It turns out to be a veritable life giver and life restorer in most parts of Asia — India, Sri Lanka and South East Asia. It helps to swell the twin rice bags of Indo-China, China and the Indo-Gangetic plain and the peninsular deltas.*

IT WOULD APPEAR, and it has proved to be so, that the amount of rain brought by the various currents of the summer monsoon is not a constant feature. May be it is determined by (a) the amount of snow melting in the Arctic regions, (b) the presence of man in these parts, who by his nature-upsetting activities, has completely disturbed the order of events in nature, (c) the loading of the atmosphere with nuclear-test drop outs, (d) the presence of thirsty hot air strata in the atmosphere. Whatever it be, this fact forces itself on our attention. **The drought menace is becoming a recurrent reality, and a very unpleasant one at that, fraught with natural fears and national calamities. The only way to countermand this force is for man not to permit things in Nature to go haywire by restoring to these environment melioration exercises.** *One:* Maintaining the natural vegetation of the country at its optimal norm, and improving on it wherever it has been ravaged by man; in the Petanas, the talawas, the chenas and development areas shorn of their vegetation cover. *Two:* presenting an angry face and saying no to any form of nuclear power test and increase in nuclear armaments. *Three:* Preventing the scoring and scarring of hill slopes and the destruction of natural forest cover. *Four:* On the positive side there is a felt need for planting quick-growing trees, shrubs, grasses and improving on the existing

vegetational cover by setting afoot progressive methods and schemes of reclothing the naked landscape with suitable vegetational blankets and *Fifth:* Putting one's foot down on all cutting down slashing and burning of vegetation of any sort without the planting and maintaining of trees in place of the ones cut down.

52, Nalliah Road,
Batticaloa.

REHABILITATION RECONSTRUCTION AND THE PEOPLE

GERMANY

Foreign Influences

By Werner Strodoff

Every country is made up of several ingredients — ethnic cultural, religious, linguistic etc. Tolerance and understanding makes for harmony and unity. This is something many in Sri Lanka do not seem to realise or appreciate. This article about the "foreign influences that make up modern Germany" has many lessons for people in this island.

During the recent CDU party congress in Opladen, Germans were warned about an alleged danger of a "national and cultural" loss of identity. The speaker was Alfred Dregger, chairman of the party's parliamentary party. His language fitted in with the motto of the congress, which was: Let's change things now! Dregger was thinking about the millions of Turks in Germany as he spoke.

For him "the protection of the national and cultural identity of our nation by limiting the number of foreigners from alien culture groups" is one of the big tasks facing at least conservative politicians.

A disturbing and unfortunate turn of phrase. Particularly since this kind of talk will back up all those in Germany who think in the black and white terms such as "alien" and "native". And there are plenty who do.

Such words of warning can arouse nations which have slumbered for many years. The choice of words could have been more careful.

Mistrust and xenophobia lie dormant in many minds.

Dregger's party colleagues expressed their gratitude for his forthright statements by applauding him strongly.

After all he had differentiated his words somewhat by offering them a kind of cultural priority list. Austrians, Swiss and even those from South Tyrol, are welcome to "settle down in our midst". Indeed, they represent an "enrichment." Even Italians, Spaniards, Poles and French are welcome, providing they have become assimilated as they belong to the "Christian culture group." Moslems, i. e. the non-Occidentals do not however fit into Dregger's picture unless they are "intergrated and assimilated." What did the former Lord Mayor of Fulda mean when he spoke of the "cultural identity of our nation"? Religion, perhaps or language morals art philosophy, everyday (and Sunday) life — the whole cultural civilisation of central Europe? And what does "identity" mean in this context? Anyone who thinks seriously about cultural phenomena, relations and stimulations will soon find that he must ban such concepts as "identity" into the realm of culturally chauvinist illusion. *The artificially created contrast "cultural identity" here and "alien culture group" there is just as invalid for Germany as it is for other European and non-European countries.*

Openness has always produced the best cultural achievements, whereas protectionism and delimitation — both expressions of weakness — have led to isolation, insist and finally to desolation. The large numbers of Islamic worshippers in Germany have led to greater social friction. However to insist on the "cultural identity of our nation" would only exacerbate problems. Anyone who sets up barriers does nothing to help improve the relations between social groups. Lively discussion on the other hand can remove barriers and in the long run do more to enrich cultural life in Germany.

This also applies to those — whether Turks or Germans—who do not feel that they belong to their country's "intellectual elite." Culture takes place and develops at all levels not only at the so-called "higher" ones. It's much too early to judge what the confrontation between the German industrialised society and the immigrant Turks will mean for the identity of both groups. There are many religious and educational problems involved. One thing is certain culture withers if barriers are set up against everything which is "alien".

The Goths moved to the West, the Teutons to the South, the Romans found their way to the Mediterranean as did the Greeks. The Arabs left their cultural

marks in Spain and Italy. The Turks once got as far as Vienna: now they're in Wanne-Eikel. *The history of the peoples of this world is the history of intermingling.* No-one knows this better than those who come from Germany's Rhineland. Carl Zuckmayer once wrote of them: "They were some of the best, my friend! The best in the world! "And why? Because they are a mixture. The peoples have mingled, just like the waters from the springs, brooks and rivers flow together into a mighty torrent." This kind of mixture leads to the "identities" of the living present. A century later, Hermann Hesse wrote: *Der Weltgeist will nicht fesseln uns and engen / Er will uns Stuf um Stufe heen, weiten* (The Weltgeist seeks not to limit and blind us/it lifts us step by step extends out understanding)

And hasn't the Orient extended our understanding that includes Germany's, over the past thousand and more years? *Ex oriente lux. Let us look for, "orientation".* Christianity, for example, is undoubtedly of Oriental origin. Where does incense come from, oil and wine, everything which belongs to the Christian cult? Where do we find the sources of the Medieval minnesong, the gay "courtly" culture, falconry, medicine, rhymes? Go East, young man!

Where does paper originate? In China. We use Arabic numerals. Venice with its "fairy-tale" beauty is inconceivable without the influence of the Orient. The architectural brilliance in Granada all of Oriental origin. The art of gardening with its fountain, courtyards rosees and narcissi. The Crusaders brought us velvet silk and jewels, fabrics spices, perfumes. They are ginger honey and pepper cakes (Printen) marzipan and almonds syrup and rock candy. Even the venerable imperial "German" eagle was imported from this "alien" culture. Just as were the Turkish crescent coffee, moshah alchemy, science, fairy tales, 1001 Nights.

What would there be left of our "cultural identity" if it were not for the Orient? It is not coincidence that the idea of paradise is associated with the Orient and its myths. Nobody would have been able to visualise the Golden Era as Walhall or Nebelheim. Not even the "German" Romantics.

Cultural identity of our nation?

The more we open ourselves up to others, remove barriers borders accept that which is "alien", the sooner we will come to understand that culture and the world are identical.

German Tribune

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Rural Market - 3

By A.S. Ganguly

This is the third instalment of the speech made by the Chairman of Hindustan Lever, Mr. A. S. Ganguly on "The Growing Rural Market in India". The second instalment appeared last week. What Mr. Ganguly has to say about the rural market in India has great relevance in Sri Lanka where the future prosperity of the rural community depends a great deal on developing and servicing the market outside the urban areas —Ed.

The need for a selective approach: There are wide regional variations in the prosperity levels of the districts and hence in their market potential. These need to be analysed and understood sectorally in order to determine the methods for approaching them. A socio-economic survey undertaken in four progressive districts, one from each part of the country—Tanjore, Ludhiana, Burdwan and Kolhapur—revealed a healthy per capita income growth of five per cent per annum against a national average of 1.5 per cent. This has come about through improved use of land, coupled with a reduction in family size.

There can be a number of attributes on the basis of which a prosperity index can be worked out. However, a very reliable indicator of the growth of market potential and the development of a cash economy is the growth in bank deposits. Further growth in bank deposits in a district not only reflects the growth in income or inward remittances it also shows the kind of expenditure investment activity taking place, both in the private and Government sectors. An analysis of the growth of bank deposits was carried out recently in a number of progressive districts. The growth rate ranged from 113 per cent per annum in Ludhiana to 145 per cent per annum in Trichur. Further the growth was mainly in (a) areas which were agriculturally prosperous; and (b) areas like Trichur and Kutch which get large amount of remittances. While it should not be the aim to preferentially cater to the needs of the more progressive districts analyses confirm the dangers of applying an uniform approach for the rural market.

Problems in reaching the rural consumer: There are about 576,000 villages in India 79 per cent of them with a population less than 1,000. Almost 80 per cent of the villages do not have all-weather roads. Rural consumers are also far less homogenous than their urban counterparts and differ from region to region.

Therefore it is not possible to merely extend urban products to rural markets. The low density of population and inaccessibility makes the problem of servicing these villages individually difficult and often uneconomical. Direct delivery of goods to even the top 1 per cent of villages costs twice as much as servicing urban markets. Therefore in the initial stage it may be better to concentrate only on the larger villages "mandi" towns and towns with large agricultural hinterlands that act as foci for distribution. The semi-wholesalers and retailers servicing smaller villagers can obtain stocks from these places or the villagers themselves can buy the necessary items.

Studies conducted by the Marketing Research Department of Hindustan Lever showed that about 90 per cent of the farmers visit the nearest town at least once a month to sell their produce and purchase their requirements. In other words the town with large agricultural hinterlands can become the gateways for entry into the rural market. Under the rural road construction programme, the Government plans to link villages with a population of 1,500 or above with all-weather roads. Progress in this has been somewhat tardy. By the end of 1985, at least 20,000 such villages would be linked. If this project succeeds, the entire complexion of the rural market could change.

Literacy and media habits: Despite the low level of literacy in rural areas the growth between 1971 and 1981 is significant. Five crore more people have become literate in the course of the last decade, a figure almost equal to the entire population of France. Growth in literacy levels is expected to continue, and this in turn will lead to greater awareness of products. Some market research studies done on the media habits of farmers in Andhra and Haryana/Punjab are quite revealing. They clearly show that contrary to popular belief organised media has a significant role in supplementing efforts to reach rural consumers. Over 70 per cent of the population listens to the radio; about 65 per cent in Andhra goes to cinemas. The corresponding figure of Punjab and Haryana is 26 per cent. In both areas, over 30 per cent reads newspapers regularly.

Constraints in developing the rural market: In making out a case for opportunities that are rapidly developing in the rural market I do not wish to underestimate the several daunting problems in planning for growth. The marketing effort for manufactured consumer goods as well as agricultural inputs in rural areas constrained by (a) high distribution costs; (b) high initial market development expenditure (c) inability of the small retailer to carry stocks without adequate credit facility; (d) inadequate infrastructural facilities (like connecting roads, warehouses, media availability etc.)

The development of the rural market will involve additional costs both in terms of promotion and distribution. This cost of market development will have to be built into the pricing policy for specific brands. It would be a welcome step if the additional distribution cost which is incurred in the development of the rural market is recognized by the Government in the interest of a uniform pricing policy for both rural and urban consumers. On the contrary, legitimate marketing activities such as advertising and promotion are now being penalised. This can be the single greatest impediment to the future rate of growth.

In rural marketing, often it is not promotion of a brand that is crucial but creating an awareness concerning a particular "product field" for instance fertilisers. In such a situation syndicated advertising may bring down the market development expenditure. Other less traditional forms of communication might also be considered. A recent study done by ICICI shows that stocks serviced are often constrained by inadequate credit facilities. Banks can play a very constructive role in this context by increasing the volume of credit to the village/agro town stockists, so that they are able to service higher volume of trade at lower margins.

To be continued

* * *

SUCCOUR AND ASSISTANCE

Sarvodaya Appeal

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER primarily to our Sarvodaya members abroad and friends of Sarvodaya, who may have already heard about the traumatic experiences that we in Sri Lanka went through during the last one week. At the very outset, I would like to assure you that except the shock we all went through during this nightmare, the members of the Sarvodaya Movement both Sinhala and Tamil, are safe. While communal emotions, political incitements, petty personal rivalries and hooliganism were sweeping through, leaving heavy carnage, hundreds injured and nearly a hundred thousand Tamil refugees, we were the first people's movement to come forward courageously with a call for RELIEF, REHABILITATION and RECONCILIATION. While certain refugee camps are directly in our charge, we are co-operating in relief work in general, with the governmental and other non-governmental organisations in almost all the refugee camps.

On 23rd of July another act of brutal violence was committed in Jaffna in which 13 Army personnel were killed by the Tamil Ealam terrorists and with the conveyance of their dead bodies to Colombo on

Sunday a spontaneous wave of vengeance blazed in the capital destroying Tamil property and rapidly spread into other major towns. This emotional outburst gathered quick momentum on Monday afternoon and swept across to other areas with the hooligans taking over what began as communal vengeance and by evening the destruction caused to shops houses, private property and the very lives of he people is inestimable.

Sarvodaya Movement personally led by Dr. A.T. and Mrs. Ariyaratne and their grown up children, were the first to enter the field, bravely calling for immediate relief to the victims. From Tuesday morning while disturbances were still going on, the first refugee camp at Ratmalana Airport was organized in the hangars by Sarvodaya with the help of the Airport Authority, the Police and Army personnel and close co-operation from the Hon. Minister of Trade and Shipping in whose constituency the Ratmalana Airport is situated. What was thus begun, still continues even amidst fresh violence that broke out on Friday evening with direct threats being aimed even at Sarvodaya including Mr. Ariyaratne in person.

Ceaseless and steady assistance directed by the Secretary to the Ministry of Planning and Plan Implementation, Dr. Wickrema Weerasuriya, through CARE, Save the Children's Fund and government co-operation, including the Port Authority which supplied solid food to all the refugees, continued to flow in and Sarvodaya offered her services in all possible fields with special attention being paid to the most vulnerable groups, viz., the infants, the babies, the children, the lactating and pregnant mothers, the aged and the sick. All available relief workers including the doctor, the health team and the ambulance of Suwa Seta were released to attend to all health, sanitary and medical requirements in the camp and in addition, the entire fleet of vehicles of the Headquarters was kept at its disposal. The Sarvodaya team ably enlisted the assistance of the health and medical personnel who volunteered from outside as well as those found among the refugees themselves.

It should be mentioned with gratitude that the vast majority of the Sinhala people who did not join in this rampage, graciously rushed in, voluntarily, to support our efforts, both in word and in deed, in addition to their material contribution in terms of collected medicines, clothes and food.

Immediately after the outbreak of violence the National Radio broadcast an appeal from the Sarvodaya president to all the Shanthi Sena (Peace Army) Units scattered over the island and its member Buddhist monks to commence relief work among the afflicted. A circular letter sent out by Sarvodaya President to all the District Co-ordinators in the

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island asking them to give urgent priority to relief work in the afflicted areas has received commendable response with regular reports of their progress flowing in. On Tuesday morning, while disturbances were still on, Sarvodaya Movement issued a message over the radio and the national newspaper to its members to step out courageously to provide care and protection to the afflicted. A special appeal was also made to the Sinhala Buddhists to take up the challenge at this critical moment to re-establish the traditional value system of Compassion and Humanitarianism which were the time honoured binding forces between all communities in Sri Lanka.

At the moment a rough total of about 79,000 refugees in Colombo has been made. According to available information, about 70% of these cannot, and do not want to, leave their homes in the Sinhala areas where they have been living in perfect harmony with the latter for generations. Taking all these into consideration the Sarvodaya Movement proposes to have a special scheme to handle RELIEF, REHABILITATION and RECONCILIATION. For this a Fund has been already created with local contributions. We congratulate and sincerely thank these philanthropists for their spontaneous generosity, which we hope will prompt many others to follow as an example, in this needy hour of national crisis. To this Fund. Initial contributions have already been promised by OXFAM (America), OXFAM (U.K.) (whose Field Director Mr. Jeff Alderson from Bangalore, personally visited the Sarvodaya Refugee Camp,) HELVETAS (Switzerland), and FNS (West Germany), and we earnestly expect our other collaborators to follow suit soon.

Sarvodaya is currently working in about 6,000 villages irrespective of caste, creed and race, and nearly a 1,000 out of these villages are Tamil speaking, situated in the North, East and Plantation areas. Sarvodaya is conscious of the unique role it has to play and our workers are determined to take up this challenge. With this in view, the Movement proposes to take the following steps with courage, confidence and determination, :-

- (1). Continue the relief work in the Sarvodaya Refugee Camp in co-operation with the governmental and non-governmental agencies ;
- (2). Participate similarly in the general re-habilitation work ;
- (3). Undertake specific rehabilitation programmes, such as re-settlement of the afflicted families under the care and protection of the Sinhala communities ;
- (4). Intensify the Sarvodaya Programme for Communal Amity, which has been carried on for a long time, by finding more resources.

We continue to work along the above mentioned lines. We are confident that our THREE "R" Programme will take concrete form once the country returns to her normality.

I wish to extend my most sincere and hearty thanks to every one who sent us messages of encouragement and pledged promises for help and we hope to receive their continued and unstinted support in this most urgent task.

Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne,
President,
SARVODAYA.

4th. August 1983.



SPOTLIGHT

● Hockey

The usually exciting and interesting local world of sport was shocked into disbelief with the uncalled for assault on a player with a hockey stick during an interesting inter-school match played on the Colts Grounds at Havelock Road recently. It is shocking when one considers the fact that this was only an inter-school match. Usually this type of robust play can be expected in a club match. Even so players in opposing teams never resort to this type of thuggery which is to say the least is a blotch on the school from which the player concerned came. The attack was uncalled for. According to the two umpires McIntyre and Perera the player at the receiving end was not at fault in any way and from what they saw and the rumours doing the rounds the attack was premeditated.

This clash between St. Benedict's College, Kothahena and D. S. Senanayake Maha Vidyalaya was eagerly looked forward to by everyone. It is also said that there was feverish excitement weeks before the match with each team promising to get the better of the other come what may. In fact it was said that threats and counter threats were made by players and their supporters long before the "bully off" and some of the parents had even requested for Police protection. There were three constables at the venue, but once the incident took place the constables were helpless as the crowd went berserk. The incident

could have escalated into ugly scenes but for the cool of some of the boys present who saw to it that things did not get out of hand. The tension after this uncalled for cowardly act by a player has still not died down and it has certainly strained the good relations that existed between the two schools.

The umpires who were blowing on the occasion have made their report and ALLROUNDER hopes that the culprit will be dealt with severely. If the player concerned is to get away with a light sentence, it will then mean that thuggery and hooliganism is allowed to raise its ugly head on the sports fields. The game promised so much. It was cruelly cut down only after 13 minutes of play. According to the organisers of the tournament the game will be replayed only if the two schools consent to do so. At the time of writing nothing has been heard from the two schools. It is hoped that the two schools will bury the hatchet and the game played for the sake of sport. The cowardly act by one player should not be allowed to spoil the good relationships that exist between these two institutions. This game, in addition to the excitement it was going to provide, was also unique in more ways than one. Firstly, two brothers Joy and Yoga Selvaraj were captaining the two schools. Then also in the Benedictine camp were two other brothers Ravi and Andre Irrugulbandara. The Selvaraj brothers are the sons of former Sri Lanka hockey "cap" Batcho Selvaraj who captained St. Benedict's and played for the Old Bens and Sri Lanka. "Batcho" was a brilliant right extreme and his play and strike work were of a very high calibre. "Batcho" now devotes all his time to coaching and helped the Army to win the Andriesz Shield by breaking the dominance of the Burgher Recreation Club. As a coach he is fast improving and before long should stake a claim to coach the national squad. Talking of brothers in terms, apparently the Benedictines have a knack for producing many of them. The Fernando pulle brothers take top billing because all of them kept wickets for St. Benedict's. Then are the Fernando brothers, Stanley, Homer and Subash who all sported Sri Lanka hockey colours, the De Mel brothers, the Sugathadasa brothers, the Sarangapany brothers and a number of others who are too numerous to mention. While all the newspapers devoted a lot of space to this ugly incident condemning it has a bad thing for sport, the *Sunday Times* carried an excellent editorial on page one which we are glad to reproduce: "Many vintage sportsmen will reckon themselves lucky not to be on the field today. Thuggery during their time was seldom heard of and the standard of sportsmanship was high. Now thuggery among partisan spectators can catch up with the players. This is a dangerous trend for in a hard-fought game players neither ask nor give any quarter. Competition should be keen for the improvement of standards but even a semblance of thuggery which is a poor substitute for teamwork and versatility on the field

should not be permitted. Players carry cricket bats, hockey sticks etc., that can be wielded as lethal weapons in the same manner thugs are using theirs, with little thought for the consequences. "We refer to the felling down with blows on the head with a hockey stick of the St. Benedict's college hockey captain by a D. S. Senanayake Maha Vidyalaya player during a hockey final last Monday. The boy with a gaping produsely bleeding wound on the head collapsed on the field. His brother captained the D. S. Senanayake team and their parents were among the spectators. The injured boy was rushed to the Accident Service. Fortunately, prompt medical attention was given. According to the umpires this assault was unprovoked. The offending D. S. S. player was not even obstructed, a common offence in a hockey match. "Such an assault outside the field of sport can constitute a charge in a court of law. Injuries to players in the course of any game is an accepted hazard and such injuries never maliciously inflicted are viewed in the true spirit of sportsmanship. We understand that the Hockey Federation will meet shortly to decide on action against the offender. Every schoolboy player should be made to realise that it is the better side that wins and that the greatest honour is to take part and display that degree of sportman ship that will bring credit to one's school". An excellent editorial on sport and we hope that it would be read and digested by every sportsman, woman and spectator and of course school-boy sportsman.

ALLROUNDER,

As *Tribune* has been temporarily compelled to reduce its pages owing to the exigencies of the current situation, the *Sports Chronicle* and the *Confidentially* will appear next week. Many of our other features too have been held up. However, we hope to emerge soon as a brighter and better paper mainly devoted to problems of national reconciliation based on rehabilitation and reconstruction.

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Tenders for the construction of Post Office at Aturugiriya will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Transworks House, Colombo 1, upto 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 31st August, 1983.

Tender forms could be inspected and/or obtained from District Engineer, (Buildings) Colombo South, Department of Buildings, Torrington Square, Colombo 7, upto 4.15 p.m. on 26.08.83. Tenderers should be registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of the Department of Buildings for a sum above Rs. 400,000/- and evidence of same should be produced before issue of Tender Forms. A refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 400/- should be paid at the Department of Buildings or any Kachcheri outside Colombo and the receipt produced for issue of Tender Forms.

Tenders will be opened immediately after the time and date of closing of tenders. Tenderers or their authorised representative may be present at the time of opening of tenders.

Tenders in respect of Private Companies tenderers should declare the names of the current Directors and the Shareholders and in regard to Public Companies the names of current Directors.

Any further particulars could be obtained from the above Engineer.

K. C. Samaraweera.
DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS.

Department of Buildings,
P.O. Box 504,
Colombo. 1983 August, 15.

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