

TRIBUNE

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- ★ WISHFUL ?
- ★ SINHALA DILEMMA
- ★ 28 YEARS AGO
- ★ HATTON
- ★ DENZIL PERIES
- ★ TEA REPORT
- ★ DOCTORS IN U. K.



The World Health Organisation has declared the decade of 1981 - 90 as a "International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade" with a call to provide protected water to all the people in the world by the end of 1990. A great deal has already been done in Sri Lanka under the guidance of the Prime Minister Premadasa. In fact, he had launched the campaign to provide safe drinking water in our towns and villages no sooner the present government came to power in 1977. Water is a basic need of life, and yet more than 80 percent of people inhabiting the developing world, especially in the rural areas, have no access to safe water. The non-availability of safe drinking water has direct bearing on the working conditions and the health of the people and their capacity for fruitful production. It has also been pointed out that the lack of a safe drinking water supply is responsible for many water-borne and water-related diseases according for 60 to 70 percent of diseases in this country.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	1
— <i>Wishful Thinking ?</i>	
EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK	2
— <i>Sinhala Dilemma</i>	
MAHAWELI	5
— <i>28 Years ago</i>	
FILM FOCUS	7
— <i>Hatton Cinemas</i>	
SRI LANKA CHRONICLE	9
— <i>Sept. 5 - 11</i>	
FOR THE RECORD	12
— <i>Denzil Peiris</i>	
— <i>Bhikku Sammelanaya</i>	
— <i>Naga Vihare</i>	
— <i>Maoist View</i>	
— <i>Jaffna Posters</i>	
AGRICULTURAL DIGEST	15
— <i>Forbes & Walker</i>	
— <i>Herbal Teas</i>	
— <i>Water Management</i>	
— <i>French Beans</i>	
RECONSTRUCTION	20
— <i>Sarvodaya Appeal</i>	
— <i>Town Saved</i>	
— <i>Mental Breakdown</i>	
— <i>Who Are "We" ?</i>	
SPORTSCOPE	24
— <i>Spotlight, Chronicle</i>	
CONFIDENTIALLY	28
— <i>Doctors In UK.</i>	

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

IT IS (SOMETIMES) GOOD TO SEE OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US. This is a cliché to which we have attached the word "sometimes". In these difficult days of what some call the "return to normalcy" many tend to be carried away by their own slogans and rhetoric or are subject to paranoid fits of wishful thinking, or have become victims of hallucinatory self-delusion that all was well. It has therefore become necessary to view our thinking and our actions in the mirror not only of self-criticism but also of outside comment. It is not merely the "everything is back to normal" boys who have to do some rethinking in the light of reactions abroad but also all others who think they have panaceas for the ills of Sri Lanka. In this connection, the comments in the column *Travellers Tales* in the *Far Eastern Economic Review* (FEER) (8/9/83) by its Editor Derek Davies has a great deal of relevance. He first deals with some indignant panacea-wallahs. "As for Sri Lanka, the *Review* has received many letters largely from Tamils in exile, who have vented their bitterness against their country's politicians, past and present, against the military, the police, the economy and their status. Their grievances may be many, but it seems to me that they must forfeit some sympathy if they claim full citizens' rights as generations-old residents of their adopted country as at the same time support a party committed to secession. And the parallel with Canada does not work, for neither the French nor the Anglo-Saxons can claim to be 'native sons' of the large tract of soil..." These remarks came after an introductory preamble that the *FEER* review had for many years "been filling most of its pages with articles recording the progress and stability achieved by countries of East", and went on to say that "the number of pages in the period we have had to devote to reports of violence, apart from the bloodbath in Cambodia, has been minimal. Within the space of a few tragic weeks, violence has featured in the headlines again. The stories below them have not altered the truth of the general tenor of our East Asian coverage, but may well have done much to reinforce the prejudices of those elsewhere in the world—whether they write editorials or assess country risks. First, Jakarta admitted that the hundreds of suspected criminals shot to death in recent months have been deliberate extra-judicial executions carried out by a special squad of army crime fighters. Then, in Sri Lanka—an island which under the rule of President Junius Jayawardene has determinedly attempted to achieve progress along East Asian patterns, turning to Singapore for help and guidance and seeking a link with ASEAN—suddenly erupted in communal violence. The anti-Tamil riots brought death and destruction to an island once deservedly dubbed Serendip—a paradise capable of producing surprises, but of the happy variety". Then Derek Davies turned to the "back to normal" mantra. He said that the *FEER's* Manik de Silva had reported: "... of the harm the riots have done to the island's vital tourist industry, causing untold damage to the image of peaceful, white-sand beaches and waving palm trees, of ancient temples, friendly elephants and of a hospitable people which has—with every justification—been so assiduously promoted in advertisements. I learned from his report with surprise that the continued appearance of the ads had been the result of a deliberate decision—an attempt to counteract the bad publicity given to the riots. It was, in my view mistaken: how often in the past few weeks has one opened a magazine to find a double-page glossy advertisement for Sri Lanka... A Taste of Paradise—only to turn the page and be confronted by pictures of the ruined and looted buildings and the victims of communal violence." The tragedy is that both illustrations were accurate reflections of Serendip today." *Would it not have been better for the "back to normal" mantra boys to have waited a little before trying to persuade the world that everything was hunky-dory for tourists in Sri Lanka ?*

Sinhala Dilemma

Colombo, September 17:

Last week, this column did a little "thinking aloud" on some aspects of the dilemma that confronts Sri Lanka Tamils. This week it proposes to do the same about what it believes is the dilemma facing the Sinhalese people. These "thinking-aloud" pieces in the *Tribune* are intended to provoke thinking, comment and controversy on matters of importance for the people of Sri Lanka as a whole.

SRI LANKA is multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-linguistic. In the 1981 census, the total population of the Island was 14,850,001. The ethnic composition was: Sinhala 10,985,666 (73.98%); Tamils 1,871,535 (12.60%); Moors 1,056,972 (7.12%); Indian Tamils 925,233 (5.6%); Malays 43,378 (0.29%); Burghers 38,236 (0.26%) and others 23,951 (0.20%). The Sinhalese are mainly Buddhist and the Tamils mainly Hindu. proportionate percentage of Christians among Tamils is greater than among the Sinhalese. *On the 1981 Census, a little over 74% of the Sri Lanka Tamils lived in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Today, after the July holocaust the figure may be nearer 80%. In any consideration of the Tamil problem this fact should be given due consideration.*

What is the main dilemma facing the Sinhalese people today?

In our view it is that the political parties representing the Sinhalese people, in the thirty-five years after Independence, have not only failed to solve the problems of Tamil national minority but have also been unable to overcome the economic ills (poverty and unemployment) that afflict the Sinhalese and the other inhabitants of the Island.

IN CONSIDERING this dilemma presently facing the Sinhalese people, there are a few fundamental premises that must be constantly kept in mind. First from the time adult franchise was introduced in 1931, the Sinhalese have become the overwhelming political factor in the country. This is an inherent right of a majority in a democracy under the system of parliamentary democracy. The framers of the Donoughmore (1931) and the Soulbury (1946) Constitutions, however, had hoped that non-communal political parties, as in the United Kingdom, would dominate the scene. But their hopes, based on the wishful belief that 150 years of British rule would have weaned the people from communalism, were not fulfilled. *No doubt, serious and concerted attempts were made by newly formed parties of the Right, Centre and the Left to give a non-communal orientation to political*

growth in the Island. Though such efforts met with some success in the first two decades after Independence, in recent times no political party is able to say that it can speak for the Sinhalese as well as Tamils. And, after the July disturbances it is even more so than before. Some of the parties continue to preach their non-communal homilies, but unless the problem of the Tamil minority is resolved the question of a united people and a united country in a unitary state will remain a will-o'-the-wisp tantalising a few, frightening many and for ever reminding everyone of another holocaust.

Second, in the years just before and after Independence, many political parties were established on Sinhalese initiative. They were the UNP, SLFP, MEP, LSSP and the CP. There were also a large number of splinter parties but except for marginally influencing some of the bigger parties they did not come very much into the political spectrum. In more recent times, the JVP, also a Sinhala Party came into the scene. It must be remembered, however, that real political power for the last thirty five years has been exercised by the UNP or the SLFP in conjunction with one or more of the parties mentioned above, except the JVP. In some periods, the political parties of the Tamils have also collaborated with UNP Governments. The UNP in 1947-1956 had the All Ceylon Tamil Congress as partner and in 1965-1968 the Federal Party. From 1977 the UNP has as partner a party of the Indian Tamils, the political wing of the Ceylon Workers' Congress. Every government, however, has had Tamils as Ministers, some as members of the ruling party and others as Independents but such participation did not help to solve the problem of the Tamil minority.

Third, all these Sinhala-based parties—UNP, SLFP, LSSP and CP—which claimed to be 'national parties' have no doubt recruited members from all communities and had branches in all Tamil districts. The manifestos of these parties speak of a united nation composed of all communities and proclaimed that they would solve the minority question during their term of office. At the beginning these parties were able to win some support, however marginal, among all national minorities. But the support among the Tamils began to dwindle little by little. And now, after the holocaust, it has virtually disappeared. It is useful to recall that from 1815 the British had built up and maintained a colonial type of communal unity mainly on the basis of a Christian elite and a common language, English. But after the British relinquished power, the political parties that exercised power and influence were not able to sustain this kind of unity. *But what was worse was they failed to replace it with a new kind of unity based on national independence and communal harmony. Instead all governments after Independence introduced policies to promote sectarian interests that eroded national unity.*

THE PROCESS OF DISINTEGRATION began with (i) the implementation in 1947 of three streams in the

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

educational system where instruction was given in Sinhala, Tamil and English in segregation. The early disappearance of the English stream (which was a unifying factor) made matters worse. This three-stream system was hailed by the western-oriented elite as the ultimate in the educational system to use the mother tongue to banish "cultural imperialism". Those who introduced it and enthusiastically promoted it did not realise the damage it did to the national fabric. (ii) Then came the disenfranchisement of the Tamils of recent Indian origin in 1951, the Citizenship laws dividing the population into citizens by (a) descent, (b) by registration and (c) "distinguished" and the nebulous and indeterminate Indian and Pakistani Residents Citizenship Act. All these tended to accentuate divisive trends and disunity. (iii) The Sinhala Only Act of 1956 then initiated the Great Divide; (iv) thereafter Constitution of 1972 (SLFP-LSSP-CP) made a mockery of S.W.R.D's. Reasonable Use of Tamil Act (1957/58) and reduced Tamil to be only a discretionary concession.

The 1978 Jayewardene Constitution made Tamil a national language with Constitutional validity and guarantees and though this retrieved the position a little other more corrosive factors had superimposed themselves on the political scene; (v) The media-wise and district wise standardisation for admission to universities in 1972/73 laid the foundation for frustration among Tamil youth from whom the terrorists have been recruited. (The UNP in 1978 had endeavoured to reduce the impact of this standardisation by giving a quota for "me.it", but the damage had already been done). (vi) And finally, the segregationist and separatist trends that dominated the political parties of the Sri Lanka Tamils — ACTC, FP and TULF — also contributed to the disintegrating process. *Fifty-fifty, Federalism and Eelam only reflected Tamil fear of losing the privileges they had enjoyed under the British. Unfortunately, the, Sinhalese-based political parties failed to appreciate this in the proper perspective and provide appropriate remedies through constitutional devices that had been adopted in many countries, like regional autonomy or even federal regions in a unitary state. The failure of the Sinhala-based parties to evaluate properly the sentiments of the Tamils — probably because of stooge Tamils who were satisfied with crumbs — further aggravated matters.*

There is no doubt that every political party, whether Sinhala-based or Tamil, has contributed to the present mess. It has therefore become incumbent on every party to forget sectarian and selfish interests and to endeavour to find a way out. It is pointless, at this juncture, to go into a clinical postmortem examination of questions like "who is responsible?", "who is the chief culprit?" or "which came first?" (the chicken or the egg?). Such a journey of investigation into contemporary political history will only cloud issues, harden feelings and delay the finding of a solution.

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

Fourth, in is a fact that all the Sinhala-based parties — UNP, SLFP, LSSP and CP — had pinned their faith on the political thesis that if the economic problems were solved the communal problem would automatically disappear. The UNP and its allies, until 1977, believed in a capitalist-based welfare-state (with a big private sector and a smaller private sector) and at the relevant time institutions like the World Bank and IMF had endorsed such policies for friendly Third World governments to help them stay in power. The SLFP and its allies, on the other hand, based their policies on a mixed economy with a greater emphasis on the public sector and a subordinate role for the private sector, but they deluded themselves and others to think that this version of capitalism was a "process of transition to socialism". It was also accepted that such a system would keep the revolutionary wolf from the door and whilst the UNP and its allies complacently believed that the minorities could be won over by economic concessions (as the Muslims were), the SLFP and especially the LSSP-CP ideologues, believed in a kind of automatic economic determinism that with a whiff of "socialism" the national minority problem would vanish into thin air and that the "masses" would become part of a proletariat with no communal problems.

THIS IS PROBABLY WHY the main Sinhala parties of every hue and political persuasion did not pay adequate or urgent attention to problems of the Tamil minority even after the rupture brought about by the Sinhala Only Act of 1956. The CP had proclaimed regional autonomy "for the traditional homelands of the Tamils" in its manifesto of 1944, but in the lure for parliamentary seats and the faith in economic determinism, it dropped the regional autonomy formula in the early fifties, and feebly revived it only during the Presidential Election and the Referendum of 1982. The LSSP had always pinned its faith on Sinhala-Tamil language parity to sustain a unitary state of communal amity, but it abandoned the parity formula to have a bite at the flesh pots of Coalition power.

S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, the architect of Sinhala Only, could neither implement his Reasonable Use of Tamil Act nor get his Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact for Regional Councils ratified. The UNP was largely responsible for shooting down the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact by stampeding the Sinhalese making an issue of the unjustifiably large extent of territories claimed for a federated Tamil State. Mrs. Bandaranaike during her first spell of power from 1960 to 1965 did not make any headway with her District Committees. She however tried to woo the Tamils through SLFP patronage and LSSP-CP contacts. But this did not help to resolve the minority problem. The Dudley Senanayake Government of 1965-70 made a earnest attempt to place a District Councils Bill on the Statute

Book (and this during time the FP was in the government), but it failed because of the pettyfogging legalistic hair-splitting casuistry of some Ministers in the Cabinet and also the jingoistic "Masala Vadai" slogans of the United Front (SLFP-LSSP-CP) campaigning for the 1970 elections. In the 1970-77 period, the SLFP-LSSP-CP coalition, adopted in 1972 a theocratic Sinhala Only Constitution that not only provoked the demand for Eelam but (also in the wake of the JVP insurgency of 1971) triggered a terrorist movement in the North. The SLFP-LSSP-CP thereafter pursued the earlier SLFP strategy to woo and win Tamils to join the Coalition parties to get government jobs, patronage, plums and even office. So of them were made "national leaders". A few even became Ministers. But this strategy failed to solve the Tamil problem. **All governments from 1947 have tried this same strategy in different ways, but they have all failed to achieve their objective of getting adequate support from mainstream Tamils to accept a solution the Governments thought just and satisfactory.**

AFTER 1977, J. R. JAYEWARDENE endeavoured to undo the damage done by making Tamils a national language and by adopting an open economy policy to give the Tamils an opportunity to overcome the economic frustrations and discrimination they had suffered especially through Controls and a System of licensing. He also conceived of the District Development Councils as a form of granting limited district-wise autonomy as first step towards greater autonomy. But though these efforts made some headway, the dialogue with the TULF was allowed to drag on interminably without an - finality and this gave the extremists in the North and in the South an opportunity to prevent a settlement. Communal riots were provoked and triggered every year after 1977. Moreover, the open economy has also created social discontent and unrest among Sinhala have-nots (with the rich becoming richer and the poor poorer) and this frustration was cleverly directed by certain circles against the Tamils whose perseverance and aptitudes had enabled them to make the best of the opportunities offered by the open economy in towns like Colombo, Kandy and Matale. The Tamils both Sri Lankan and Indian who had done well out of the open economy became sitting duck targets for the marauding hordes.

In the period after 1977, the SLFP, LSSP, CP or the JVP have put forward any proposals to solve the Tamil problem. The SLFP had its own internal problems that stemmed a great deal on the civic disabilities imposed on Mrs. Bandaranaike. The LSSP and CP kept bashing away at their erstwhile ally, the SLFP, and the new leftist rival, the JVP, while endeavouring to resolve internal problems within their parties that had arisen as a result of the debacle

of the 1970-77 coalition and wholesale defeat in the 1977 elections. THE JVP talked about parliamentary democracy, flirted with extremists in the North and raised slogans about self-determination for the Tamils but offered no concrete solutions in the context of the realities prevailing in the island.

SRI LANKA IS TODAY at the cross-roads. Unless correct decisions are made by all political parties the future will unleash terrors unknown. The only political party at present with a solution, however tentative or inadequate, is the UNP with its District Development Councils as a first step towards some kind of autonomy. But this by itself will not do after the holocaust. And the UNP had also made the fatal mistake of not granting the DDCs the powers that had been envisaged or promised—thus reducing the Party's own credibility. Nor are the Tamils likely to accept anything that is not endorsed by all other Sinhala parties. Unfortunately the other parties seem to be lost in grand illusions about their own special policies—no doubt to steal a march on the other parties. This is part of the dilemma before the Sinhalese people. The UNP is also inhibited in any negotiations within the Tamils by what the other Sinhala parties will say or do.

In this dilemma the lead by the Sarvodaya to exclude politicians of all parties and to mobilise men and women of goodwill to arrive at a national consensus for a settlement of the minority problem, within the framework of a unitary state, must be welcomed. Presure of public opinion must be brought on all political parties, first on the Sinhala-based parties and then on the Tamil parties as a people or a country that for survival a negotiated settlement on the communal problems was imperative.

THE SINHALA PEOPLE as the de facto custodians of parliamentary political power must, *first*, find a way of preventing another holocaust. Economic recovery and progress cannot be ensured without communal amity. A new holocaust will set everything back for all time. No amount of boastful speeches that the Government was capable by itself to find solutions will help. Such bragaddiocio will only make matters worse and bring a new holocaust—which will assume the form of a bloody class struggle against the "haves" this time including the Sinhala and Muslim 'haves.' Communal amity in the only safe guard against a revolutionary outburst.

Second, the Sinhala people are also faced with a hostile and antagonistic media reaction abroad not only in India but in the UK, USA, also in other Western European countries, in Southeast Asia and even Japan over the communal question. This has been further aggravated as a result of the July

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

holocaust. How is this to be corrected? Merely publishing stories about the atrocities of Tiger Terrorists, focussing attention on the impossibility about dividing a small island like Sri Lanka and publishing statements and booklets about the distorted and slanted stories fed to the world press by the Eelam extremists abroad is, as has been found, of little or no help. How is the bad image about Sri Lanka and the Sinhala government to be corrected? This is a matter for professionals, not emotionally-aroused enthusiasts. But even the best professionals cannot do anything without communal amity.

ANOTHER PROBLEM is that after the holocaust, a wide gulf has grown between all Sinhala political parties (including the UNP) on the one hand and the Tamils parties on the other. How this gulf is to be bridged is a matter that should concern all parties. Political parties will find it difficult to start a dialogue between the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Only organisations like the Sarvodaya can help to bridge the gap.

Yet another problem of magnitude for the UNP, SLFP or any other Sinhala party is how they can persuade the TULF or any other Tamil Party to embark on a little give-and-take to ensure co-existence in a unitary state. Such a give-and-take can come only if cliches on both sides are dropped. All slogans and catchwords that have been the pane of our politics for decades should be put permanently into cold storage to make a dialogue possible. And the continued demand for the pound of flesh will only increase the dilemmas on all sides.

Mrs. Bandaranaike has rightly said that the package offer to the TULF should be attractive enough to make them forget Eelam. But the trouble is that she has not indicated what the package should contain. She has one excuse for not saying anything: that she is till a person without civic rights. But a UNP-SLFP consensus will go a long way towards reaching a settlement.

It is best for all to remember that another holocaust will mean the end of the open economy, tourism and economic development as presently conceived. It will also mean a permanent roadblock to any other kind of economy. Unless the Sinhalese people and the parties that represent them realise this, the dilemma before the Sinhalese will keep increasing in extent and intensity. The Tamil parties and people too have to realise this in their own self-interest. It is imperative that all political parties must help to persuade the Sinhalese and Tamil peoples that it is their self-interest to co-exist peacefully in a unitary state.

This note is not a homily or a piece of political pontification. It is only a tentative "thinking aloud" meant to promote discussion that will lead to a clarification of views as to what to do in the critical situation in which the country is today placed. A number of excellent articles with a great deal of

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

objectivity on this matter has appeared in our daily press, especially in *The Island*. All these must be taken into consideration in discussions to formulate positive action. What is said abroad, even by TULF leaders, should not inhibit or sidetrack a dialogue and discussion among people of goodwill in the island. Red herrings should be ignored. What is essential is that the problem should be identified, diagnosed and set in the proper context and perspective to make it possible for correct remedial measures to be taken.

x x x

28 YEARS AGO

Down the Mahaweli Ganga

Philip K. Crowe

We publish in four parts an article that had appeared in the "Loris" of June 1955 (Vol. VII, No. 1) by the late Philip K. Crowe, former American Ambassador in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) entitled "Down The Mahaweli". "Loris" the Journal of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Ceylon, had reprinted this article in its issue of December 1980 (Vol. XV, No. 4) with the subheadings: "From The Pages of the Past — Twenty Five Years Ago". Now twentyeight years have gone by and in the era of the Accelerated Mahaweli Programme, Philip Crowe's article raises nostalgic memories of a past which will never return — Editor.

SEVEN THOUSAND FEET above sea level on the darkjungle slopes of the Horton Plains in the Central Province of Ceylon a small mountain stream, starts on a long journey to the sea. It is the Mahaweli Ganga, the greatest river of the Island, which runs its dragon course for over two hundred miles before it casts its brown tide into the blue waters of Kotiyar Bay at Trincomalee. The upper waters of this father of Ceylonese rivers are churning mountain torrents, incessantly fed by the heavy rains of the tea country, but by the time the river passes the ancient city of Polonnaruwa it becomes navigable for canoes. This is the account of a journey by dug-outs down the last sixty miles. The river is in fact the only way to penetrate the areas as vast swamps or "vilus", discourage any other approach.

There are many reasons why I wanted to make this trip. The Mahaweli flows through some of the last known jungle areas of the Island and those few men who had made the trip told me that they had seen swamp elephants, the rarest and most massive of the Asiatic pachyderms. The equally rare Ceylon Coral Snake is found in the area. Legend declares

it to be the hunting grounds of the "Rathu Valaha", the red bear, a skin of which was identified in 1815 as a new world species, and even though another specimen has not been obtained, the villagers still believe in its existence. Unlike the common Sloth-bear it has no white V on the chest and has a reddish brown coat instead of a black one. It is reputed to be savage and carnivorous.)

The river also runs through one of the last strongholds of the Veddahs, the almost extinct aborigines of the Island. The Veddahs of Gunners' Quoin, a great rocky outcropping in whose caves they used to make their homes, are of the Moranne tribe which was virtually wiped out by dysentery in 1930. There are, however, remnants of this tribe who still haunt the jungle fastness of the area, and it was these Veddahs that Mrs. Milward, the famous anthropological sculptress modelled in 1937.

THE FOLLOWING seven made the journey: James Espy, Counsellor of the American Embassy and a good man to have along any time for any purpose; Dr. Paul Deraniyagala, Director of the Ceylon National Museums, and a well known authority on the Islands' fauna and flora; Dr. Drogo Austin leading surgeon of Colombo, Colonel Christie Jayewardene, Camp Chief of the Ceylon Boy Scouts and A. D. C. to Her Majesty, the Queen Mr. Charles Cruickshank, United Kingdom Trade Commissioner in Ceylon and my companion on a journey to the little known Maldive Islands; T. L. Green, Professor of Education at the University of Ceylon; and Dr. Chandra Gooneratne, director of films for the United States Information Service in Ceylon.

The most delicate of the arrangements concerned our transport down the river. Two of the three men I talked with who had previously made the trip did it in their own canvas and rubber canoes. These craft being extremely light presented no problems as they could easily be carried if the river was too high and fast and drawing virtually no water could be manoeuvred more easily over the rapids than heavier vessels if it was low. The standard river craft on the Mahaweli, however, are dugout log canoes. About thirty feet long, heavy, and tippy they present no problems to the rivermen who squat on their bottoms but a good many explorers insist on sitting on chairs. To overcome the risk of the canoe tipping over he ordered two of the largest available to be lashed together; and to enable chairs to be used safely he had flat floors built over the round bottoms of the canoes. He also insisted that an outrigger be fitted to the baggage canoe.

TIMING was specially important. Heavy rains upcountry could so swell the Mahaweli that the trip would have to be called off; and conversely a long dry spell might mean a fall in the water level

to a point where the heavy canoes could not be dragged over the shallows. Accordingly, it was arranged that the irrigation officers would wire us pertinent data a few days before the rivermen started to pole up from their village at the mouth of the Mahaweli. Another wire was sent by the station agent at Manampitiya when they arrived at the bridge.

So it was that just before dawn on the morning of Friday, September 10th, the Batticoloa Night Mail ground to a stop and we tumbled down the embankment. By seven the canoes were loaded. In addition, to the eight of us, the two lashed canoes carried a brace of rivermen with heart-shaped paddles in the bows, another brace of rivermen with poles directly behind them and a third brace, one of whom was the captain, in the stern sheets. The captain was neatly but not gaudily arrayed in a blue shirt and Khaki hat with a blue band around it. His men wore sarongs and gaily coloured clothes. The cook rode in the middle of the baggage canoe on his own chair and under a bright coloured umbrella and looked for all the world like some ancient sultan being poled down the river by his retainers. I had learned just before our departure that the last man to go down the river had been killed by an elephant whom he tried to photograph at too close quarters. There were also some disturbing rumours about crocodiles and sharks, and a pair of R. A. F. men who started down during the war and never arrived at Trincomalee.

THE RIVER at the Manampitiya Bridge was about 250 yards wide, and except in the channel, very shallow. Behind us as we left the bridge loomed the granite mass of Gunners' Quoin looking like its namesake, a vast Quoin or wedge that was used in the old days to elevate cannon. Jungle ran down to the banks on either side of the river but in many places it has been burned to make "chena" areas for the cultivation of tobacco. Chena farming consists of burning off a stretch of jungle, cultivating it for a few seasons and then letting it return to the jungle again. The method is wasteful of timber, destroys the humans in the soil, and of course kills all the animal and bird life in the burned area.

One of the most fascinating games in Ceylon is bird spotting and as well of us brought binoculars we were able to study many of the common types. Imperial and Green pigeons shot across the water on their earnest business. I have never seen a pigeon flying without purpose. We heard the harsh notes of the Crimsonbacked Woodpecker and then spied him and his equally harsh noted colleague, the Pied Kingfisher. Apparently none of the brilliant-hued birds sing sweetly Swiftless darted twittering high in the air, and the gorgeous Oriole flashed its golden sheen against the green of the jungle.

The river was reputed to hold both Mahseer and Goorami, and Drogo and I trolled most of the way down. Unfortunately, the water was discoloured and it is almost axiomatic that Masheer will only take a spoon in clear water. Goorami, however, are fruit eaters and can be caught in almost any kind of water providing one still fishes for them. We stopped once so that Paul could examine a section of rock stratal and Christie promptly baited up with a whole fig and soon had a three pound Goorami out of the water. It was too much of a haul to the top of the bank, however, and he lost it en route.

To be continued

x x x

FILM FOCUS

Hatton Cinemas - After July

YOUR COLUMNIST has hit the Hills of Hatton from the maddening depths of despair that our country was plunged into a few weeks ago. The cool of the monsoonal rain is rather hard to take at times and more so when one has to miss the weekly film round-ups in the warmer Metropolis. However, whenever the sun breaks through the thick clouds, besides basking in it, a stroll around the cinemas in Hatton and the conditions that prevail does give an insight into the crisis that has hit the Industry. There is a sort of panic circulation of films and the overheads seem to be swallowing up the meagre profits. One such affected exhibitor remarks that the "show must go on" even though the daily takings are ridiculously meagre, ranging from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 per show, half of which is the dues of the National Film Corporation. The transport system of the NFC have not yet normalised and film boxes are heaved up and down at Exhibitor expense, which leaves him in the dumps financially speaking. This column of course hopes that in a few days' time, the flow down will be back to normal to rescue the Exhibitors.

Hatton is one of the provincial town that has been saved from the ravaging hordes of destruction that shed their gloom over the country recently, thanks to a vibrant and vigilant police presence in the area, led by an Assistant Superintendent of Police who checkmated the marauders by being a few steps ahead of them with a rare sense of anticipation. This absolute calm prevails with the law and order situation remaining undisturbed. The populatoin from the estate sector relishes mostly Tamil Films, and for them blockbusters at the Box office like "Tea" "Body Heat" does not mean a fair return for their hard earned money. If Tamil films and quality Sinhalese ones do not come their way, they prefer to remain indoors than come down the hills for a show. There are three cinemas in the town, and it would only take a blind man to miss or rate them qualitywise.

It is almost a tragic story that I hear from a young private exhibitor who purchased a long-neglected

cinema risking his savings from another at Kandy and bringing it up to modern standards at considerable expense. This column of course refers to the picturesque Princes Theatre at Hatton. All the stipulations and requirements of the NFC bureaucrats were religiously complied with and the rating was upgraded. But all this labour has not borne fruit by first release films that were promised to those of quality. The exhibitor complains that there has been a breach of trust by the petty pachyderms of the NFC and his only alternative would be to convert the cinema into any other source of income or get it off his hands in good time.

The latest ratings on points of the three cinemas in Hatton are reportedly as follows—Princes 5500, Vijitha 3817 and Liberty 2134. By a curious contradiction, it is the best rated of the three that won last year's Presidential Certificate for that year. This column has always held that it is the NFC ratings that should reign supreme and not those made by local bureaucrats of the respective areas, who could succumb to favouritism, temptations etc., in the matter. The Hatton cinema story is a classic example. This column wishes that the Chairman of the NFC takes a closer look at the peculiar point system in operation and raises a few pertinent questions. If Exhibitors sell out as victims of prejudice or corruption, then the NFC too will have to call it a day.

On a cold and misty morning, your columnist ran into the present owner-cum-exhibitor of the Princes Theatre, Hatton, who had a very sad story to relate. He purchased this neglected but well situated cinema early last year for a sum of nearly Rs. 10 lakhs. Being a keen "adventurer" in the film world in Kandy, for he owns the New Sigiri cinema at Kandy as well, he spent a further lakh of rupees on bringing this cinema up to the required standards as specified by the National Film Corporation with hopes of recovering his outlay and repaying the relevant loans he had raised for the purpose. He was requested by the NFC to earn a minimum of 3,500 points at best to make it a Tamil First release centre in Hatton. Being in the Estate sector, it is the Tamil films that are patronised best in Hatton. Well, to get back to his story, he set about his task so earnestly that he over-shot the minimal 3500 points and gathered 2000 points more in the estimate of the NFC to a total of 5500 points, making the cinema the best in the Nuwara Eliya District. But the NFC does not appear to have kept its part of the bargain and first releases are being directed elsewhere to date in Hatton. There is consequently a large loan on the exhibitor's head that has to be met, and he is gradually getting into the doldrums that may affect his other cinema at Kandy as well. Incidentally this young man has ventured into building another new cinema in Kandy as well in response to a call from the Chairman, NFC, that the country needs new cinemas.

Well this is a true story which the Engineer, Technical Services and Investigations Department of the NFC can confirm, but may not be to the knowledge of its Chairman. Ranjith Weerasinghe, the exhibitor concerned, has since met the General Manager and additional General Manager NFC and laid down his grievances to seek relief so that the loan instalment at least could be paid; even though profits from the venture seem to be a distant dream, for the time being. The Exhibitor also referred me to a NFC circular which states that cinemas which are improved will be given their entitled positions in the precedence list, prepared every six months, but in the well known bureaucratic manner, no such survey has been done for the last 18 months, I was told. The exhibitor concluded by lamenting whether this attitude would have been taken by the NFC if a major circuit was involved. His rather pertinent question echoes like a cry in the wilderness right now.

This column then took it upon itself to make a cross-sectional interview of the Hatton picturegoers on which cinema they prefer to patronise most for comfort etc., and pat came the reply "Princes" if trash is not served out as film fare. It also came as confirmation that a less rated cinema in Hatton now has been released a Tamil Film—one of the first such releases after the recent disturbances and among the very few in the whole country. This column requests the Chairman earnestly, and with the best of intentions for the Industry as a whole, to study this case history and verify where the blocks are in the Corporation he heads. There could be others suffering in silence.

James N. Benedict

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TENDER NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT., HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION. DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Tenders for construction of Laboratory Building for the Division of Occupational Hygiene at 97, Jawatta Road, Colombo 5 will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 05.10.1983.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from Chief Construction Engineer Ratnamala before 4.15 p.m. on 30.09.83 by registered Contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 2,000,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

03. Please note that Private Company tenderers should declare the names of the current Directors and Shareholders. Public Company tenderers should declare the names of the current Directors.

04. Any further particulars could be obtained from the above Engineer.

K. C. Samaraweera.

Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
P. O. BOX 504,
COLOMBO 1, 1983.09.12.

September 5 - 11

**DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS-
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO**

DN—Daily News; CDM—Daily Mirror; EO—Evening Observer; ST—Sunday Times; SO—Sunday Observer; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLDP—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RV—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IS—Island; DI—Divaina; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5: The Government is raising a loan of Rs. 1,000 million to meet expenditure for the financial year 1983; the rate of interest payable on the loan will be 14 percent per annum. The Government has accepted in principle the setting up of a maximum security prison at Homagama designed to accommodate 150 prisoners. The curfew begins at 12 midnight today and ends at 4 a.m. tomorrow in the 14 districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Matale, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura, Kegalle, Kandy, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Vavuniya and Mannar. Seven people have been reported killed in a violent protest as both Pakistan's opposition and the military government of the restless southern province of Sind raised the stakes in a struggle over martial law—*DN*. The International Monetary Fund which flew out a team to Sri Lanka last week to assess how much the island's economy has been affected by the July ethnic problems has indicated that there will be absolutely no change in the policies to help Sri Lanka's development efforts—*CDM*. Magistrates throughout the country will soon be empowered to remand any person suspected or accused of any offence under any emergency regulation, for a continuous period of three months. A resolution requesting the Government to restore the civic rights of former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike was unanimously adopted yesterday by the Samastha Lanka Karaka Sabha of the SLFP which met at the party headquarters. A revolver alleged to have been used during the recent incidents in a southern coastal town by a prominent ex-MP of the area has been recovered by Police—*SU*. A. Amirthalingam, Leader of the Opposition and General Secretary of the Tamil United Front, flew into New Delhi via Madras on Saturday; All India Radio said that he will meet with Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The exodus of competent State Counsel from the Attorney General's department has hit the department severely, at a time when it is faced with an unprecedented number of prosecutions for offences under the Emergency Regulations—*IS*. The Leader

of the Opposition Mr. A. Amirthalingam has written to the President requesting him to stay action in connection with the transfer of the prisoners from the Batticaloa prisons to the Welikada Prison—*VK*. The Sarvodaya Movement has undertaken to rehabilitate and settle fifty families who were affected by the recent disturbances at Kerathivu in Pungudutivu—*DP*.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6: The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) on Sunday decided that its members in the district development councils and other local government bodies should resign their posts on September 7. The curfew has been further relaxed with the situation in the country returning to normal, a government spokesman said yesterday; the new curfew hours are from 1 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the 14 districts. Six self-exiled opposition politicians are expected in Islamabad from London to join a campaign against military rule after 12 people died in a weekend clash between police and demonstrators—*DN*. The Government is to look into the possibility of making a change in the concessionary retirement age for public servants; the present age structure for concessionary retirement is 55 years—*CDM*. Commissioner General of Essential Services Bradman Weerakoon announced yesterday he was making plans to re-settle some 10,000 state and other sector employees who are now in Jaffna. Selected state officials have been delegated with powers of Assistant Superintendents of Police under emergency regulations to help in the on-going investigations into recent disturbances. Fourteen cinemas in the country were destroyed during the recent riots according to an investigation made by the State Film Corporation—*SU*. Secretary Ministry of State and Competent Authority for the press Mr Douglas Liyanage yesterday announced relaxation of censorship rules. A representative group of undergraduates from the Universities of Colombo, Moratuwa and Peradeniya who met the Commissioner-General of Essential Service Mr Bardman Weerakoon in Jaffna expressed their "internal gratitude" to Sinhala students from those three universities, who defended protected and sheltered them during the recent riots—*IS*. Leader of the Opposition Mr. A. Amirthalingam met Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday and had an hour-long discussion—*VK*. Members of Parliament of the TULF will not take their oaths disavowing separatism and they will also not attend Parliament—*DP*.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: It is now apparent that terrorist elements in the north and south have joined hands; their intention was not only to divide the country but also to create disturbances and destroy the democratically elected Government and parties and stage a bloody revolution, President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday. A Tamil businessman who is alleged to have connections with the northern terrorists was taken into custody by an

Army Unit stationed in Panadura, yesterday. The curfew will operate in the 14 districts from 1 to 4 a.m. The United Nations sub-commission on human rights passed a resolution yesterday calling on Iran to stop recruiting child soldiers for its Gulf War against Iraq—*DN*. Police warned the public yesterday against any individuals or groups of persons who ask for contributions to help Tamil refugees and victims of the recent violence; investigations have revealed that certain people are going around with collecting lists and books asking for donations; the monies thus obtained eventually disappear into their own pockets—*CDM*. Sri Lanka has asked India and the United Kingdom for information on reports that local youths were being trained in Tamil Nadu by a person from Wales to stage an armed struggle in Sri Lanka, President J. R. Jayewardene announced yesterday. Public servants who refuse to take their oath of allegiance to a unitary state, as required by the Sixth Amendment, will lose their jobs after September 7—*SU*. Sri Lanka suffered a severe diplomatic setback yesterday when the United Nations Sub Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities voted 10 to 8 on a resolution that the UN Human Rights Commission should ask the Secretary General of the United Nations to seek information from the Government of Sri Lanka and other sources on the recent incidents of communal violence and to submit a report to ECOSOC, the UN Economic and Social Council. Yesterday a group of terrorists broke into the production room of the Kilinochchi Magistrate's Court and took away 20 guns, Police sources said—*IS*. About 90 percent of Tamil public servants have taken the oaths disavowing separatism in accordance with the sixth amendment to the Constitution—*DP*.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: All public servants who kept away from office since the disturbances of July 23, should report for work by September 15; the Cabinet yesterday decided that since conditions had returned to normal public servants who absented themselves because of special circumstances were now in a position to return to work. The curfew will operate in the 14 districts from 1 to 4 a.m. China has lifted a ban on imports of United States cotton chemical fibres and soyabeans and has stopped plans to reduce imports of other US agricultural production, a Foreign Trade Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday—*DN*. Airlanka had to incur a financial loss of Rs. 100 million as a result of the reduction of traffic following the outbreak of ethnic violence in the country; this was disclosed by Capt. Wickramanayake Chairman and Managing Director Airlanka at a news conference yesterday—*CDM*. A big question mark hung over the Supreme Court Register as speculation rose over whether any of the TULF Members of Parliament who are legal practitioners had taken their oaths disavowing separatism to facilitate their continuation on the registry of legal practitioners. Sri Lanka will receive

a special stand-by credit facility of approximately Rs. 4000 million from the IMF when its Executive Board meets on September 14. A People's Declaration for National Harmony and Peace will be adopted on this year's Mahatma Gandhi birth anniversary day October 2 1983; this declaration will be based on responses received from more than 2000 religious professional and community leaders to whom the Sarvodaya Movement has written, outlining the Sarvodaya proposal for national harmony and peace the Sarvodaya Movement said yesterday—*SU*. While Jaffna and Trincomalee were quiet yesterday the last day for oath taking by public servants disavowing separatism, a few isolated incidents were reported from Batticaloa area. The terrorist suspects in the Colombo Prisons had been removed to Batticaloa, Mr. J. P. De'goda the Commissioner of Prisons told the Press yesterday; he was meeting the press, radio and television yesterday at the Department of Information—*IS*.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said yesterday he would be able to persuade the International Monetary Fund that further devaluation of the Sri Lanka rupee is not necessary; Mr. de Mel leaves tonight for the annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF to be held in Washington. The curfew will operate in the 14 districts from 1 to 4 a.m. US Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger has arrived in Honduras for talks expected to include increased military aid to Washington's closest ally in Central America—*DN*. The Indian Government has finally decided to resume the ferry service from Rameshwaram to Talaimanner within the next two days; however a date has not yet been fixed; this ferry service which was suspended about two and a half months ago was the most favoured form of transport to India, for middle class businessmen and travellers; the ferry service being suspended thus has put into inconvenience regular travellers—*CDM*. A cargo of arms consigned to Sri Lanka has been found on board a vessel passing through the Suez Canal; the Sri Lanka Embassy in Cairo has been directed to make contact with the Egyptian Government and obtain all details; these include particulars of the party to whom the arms cargo was consigned and the country of origin. About 7.5 million rupees will be required to carry out repairs and cleaning in schools which were used as refugee camps during the recent disturbances. R. Sampanthan, TULF MP for Trincomalee, automatically forfeits his seat in Parliament after being absent from sittings for three months; other TULF members have not attended parliament since the outbreak of ethnic violence in July—*SU*. Oath-taking by state employees in the Tamil speaking areas of the north, east as well as Vavuniya and Mannar is reported to have been a complete success; the entirety of public servants in Jaffna, Vavuniya Mannar, Trincomalee and Batticaloa have taken

their oaths disavowing separatism. The scheme to provide low interest bank loans for the construction of buildings damaged or destroyed in the recent disturbances may be delayed further, informed sources said yesterday—*JS*. Minister of Finance Mr. Ronnie de Mel will explain to the foreign governments the outcome of the recent disturbances in the country and also the elements behind it—*DP*. The Official Secretariat of the President has been moved into the former Parliament Building in the Fort—*VK*.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: President J. R. Jayewardene has told Opposition Leader, A. Amirthalingam that the government did not intend to invite those whose policy was the division of Sri Lanka or the creation of a separate state to a round table conference. All Judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal have ceased to hold office as they have failed to take their oaths disavowing separatism; as far as they were concerned, as required by the Constitution they should have taken their oaths before the President of the Republic, the Appointing Authority, under Article 107; the last date for taking oaths was September 7. The curfew will operate in the 14 districts from 1 to 4 a.m.—*DN*. The World Bank and two other international agencies have approved President J. R. Jayewardene's decision to restrict quotations calling to four companies for a major electricity transmission and upgrading project; The Hartal was continued for its third day in Batticaloa yesterday; there were no private buses operating; however the Eastern Regional Bus Depot operated a skeleton service; no long distance buses were run—*CDM*. Judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal hurriedly adjourned sittings yesterday to attend a meeting summoned by Chief Justice Neville Samarakoon at his Chambers; this followed the Chief Justice's intimation of the meeting delivered to the judges, who were presiding at the Supreme Court and Appeal Court sessions. State sector employees will once again receive their cost of living allowances based on the living index. A Parliamentary by-election for the north eastern constituency of Trincomalee, became imminent yesterday after its MP R. Sambandan to hold office. Nineteen TULF members of Development Councils, including six chairmen, yesterday vacated their posts in the Jaffna, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Mannar Development Councils—*SU*. President J. R. Jayewardene is to reconsider the continuance in office of the Chief Justice, other judges of the Supreme Court as well as Appeal Court judges who have failed to take oaths disavowing separatism before the President as required by the Sixth Amendment. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party is expected to notify the Speaker Mr. E. L. Senanayake of the need for the appointment of a Leader of the Opposition; subsequent to the TULF boycotting Parliament from July 24 there has been no leader of the Opposition—*IS*.

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: The Supreme Court and the Appeal Court will not sit tomorrow; this matter was being discussed yesterday in official circles as the judges had failed to take the oath disavowing separation as required by the Constitution under article 107 before the President of the Republic, the Appointing Authority. A number of top flight industries affected by the recent disturbances want to go public; foremost among them the Rs. 400 million Ceylon Synthetic Textiles Ltd., headed by Samuel Ganam is already a quoted public company—*SO*. The World Bank has indicated its satisfaction with the progress made by the Sri Lanka Government in tea rehabilitation; according to the trade the Bank has indicated that it will therefore, finance project two of the Tea Rehabilitation Project; in its report on project one the Bank has called the performance a "credible one indeed". Many Sri Lankan Tamils both at home and abroad are questioning the political moves made by the TULF leadership after the disturbances of July; they feel that the "shuttle-diplomacy" of TULF Secretary General Mr. Appapillai Amirthalingam between Sri Lanka-Madras-Delhi-Madras-Sri Lanka has not helped in any way to solve the problems at home especially the immediate relief and rehabilitation of the thousands affected by the communal violence—*S7*. The Government is to dispatch a three member Police team next week to Cairo and Athens to check on reports about recent discoveries of an illegal arms consignment to Sri Lanka. Intelligence sleuths are checking whether the self-styled Tamil Eelam Cobras is an arm of a major terrorist group operating in the north or a separate entity; there is a growing suspicion that the new group is terrorist-oriented, Police sources say. Over 150 persons who died in the recent disturbances are yet to be identified, according to official sources—*WK*. The CID is investigating whether terrorist elements were behind passport racket where forged "all countries" endorsement seals of Immigration and Immigration authorities were used with the intention of sending these members to West Germany and Canada to seek political asylum. All persons taken into custody for alleged looting, arson and murder are now being photographed by a special team of CID officers. Hectic "Tamil Eelam" lobbying in world capitals turned the tide against Sri Lanka at the recent Geneva debate of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, according to reports reaching Colombo—*IS*

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FOR THE RECORD

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

In Sri Lanka

By Denzil Peries

With acknowledgements we publish below an article by Denzil Peries from the London-based magazine *South* (September 1983 No.35) on current developments in this country. It was headlined "*Jayewardene Side — Steps The Burning Issue with a second headline Sri Lanka's Burning Cauldron Simmers On As The Counter Measures Miss The Point*". Denzil Peries, presently the Editor of *South*, is a well-known Sri Lankan journalist, who was for some years on the prestigious journal the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and is now on the *South*. He has specialised in the affairs of the South and South-east Asian region and also on Third World matters.

A MIX OF MYTHOLOGY, the geographical distribution of ethnic groups and fears of neighbouring India, only 20 odd km away, make Eelam — a separate Tamil state — the impossible dream, unless of course, Mrs. Gandhi's army intervenes in Sri Lanka's tormented racial politics. Frustrated Tamil youth in the Jaffna peninsula demand a partition of the country. But Nagadipa, in the Jaffna peninsula, is hallowed by visits of the Buddha, as Sinhalese Buddhists recall every evening in litanies chanted before shrines in their homes. And democratic governments need to carry a substantial majority of the Sinhaleses, who make up 70 percent of the population. They cannot ignore the mythological strand woven into the more than 2,500 years of history and culture they have inherited.

NEXT, ONE MUST CONSIDER the population distribution. Outside of the Jaffna peninsula, which is almost exclusively Tamil-speaking, the other regions claimed by the Tamil separatists are areas of mixed population. The eastern province of the country and parts of the north central province claimed to be Eelam are not only occupied by Sinhalese and Tamils, but are home for Muslims who see themselves as a distinct ethnic and cultural group. These Muslims, some descendants of Arab traders, do not identify themselves with the Tamils although they use the Tamil languages. In fact, they regard themselves as hostile trading competitors

with the "Jaffna" (as the indigenos Tamils are known). Indeed ethnic tensions between Hindu Tamils and Muslims manifest themselves frequently in predominately Hindu Jaffna. Partition, according to an Eelam map, would mean a transfer of population, which would provoke tensions in Colombo the centre, the northwest and the southwest. Moreover, many of the "Batticaloa" Tamils, as those in the eastern provinces are called, are not enamoured of the "Jaffna" Tamils, with a perceived superiority complex.

THIRDLY, there is the intimidating shadow (for the Sinhalese) of India. Ignoring the beam in India's eye — Hindu-Muslim atrocities and massacres by Hindu landlords of Harijan (Untouchable) landless, aided and abetted by the police and administrators, and the ethnic violence in Assam — Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi rushed her foreign Minister to Colombo. It was an indiscreet and an unneighbourly act. Sri Lanka remembers the Indian governments' refusal to extradite Sri Lankan Tamil members of the "Tiger" movement who had taken refuge in Madras to escape arrest for terrorist acts. The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo had used the pettifogging argument that the two countries were without a treaty to permit the extradition. Mrs. Gandhi, it seemed to politicians in Sri Lanka, was using its small neighbour as a piece in her pawn chess game of power politics in which she had to keep the Tamil Nadu government happy. India compounded Sri Lankan fears with inquiries in Washington London, Islamabad, and even Kuala Lumpur whether Colombo had asked for military aid. Was a new Indian 'Monroe' doctrine in the making? Sri Lankans wondered.

INDIA'S ATTITUDES reinforce Sri Lanka's fears that the small country is being victimised because it is venturing into foreign relations without New Delhi's imprimatur. President J. R. Jayewardene is suspected by New Delhi of being 'pro-US'. Whatever India's motivations may be, its actions, and especially the agitation against the Sri Lanka government in Tamil Nadu, endorse Sinhalese fears of South Indian expansionism, from which the island has suffered historically. **Given all these complex factors, Sinhalese and Tamils have to find a way to live together, short of partition.**

Of all Sri Lankan political leaders of the last quarter century, President Jayewardene has proved the most determined to grasp the nettle of communal tensions in order to uproot it. A few months before the race riots erupted, he had invited Canada based Professor A.J. Wilson for consultations intended to settle the Sinhala-Tamil problem. Wilson, a son-in-law of the former leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front, had been an intermediary between the President and the TULF. The President was trying to get the Tamils to accept district development councils, which decentralise administration and development

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

within a national framework. The idea, as Wilson puts it, came in a flash to Jayewardene in a talk with him in Canada. If Jayewardene is to be faulted, it is for his lack of a sense of urgency, but his invitation to Wilson was a pledge of his concern to end turmoil which had wracked the nation for 25 years.

MOREOVER, JAYAWARDENE had demonstrated his sincere commitment to redressing the legitimate grievances of the Tamils by making Tamil a national language and giving every encouragement to Tamil entrepreneurs in his free market economy. The skeletal structure for justice for ethnic groups, primarily the Tamils, had been erected by Jayewardene since taking office. Only the financial bricks for the walls had not been provided. He was looking to an International Monetary Fund loan to give the Tamil areas nearly US \$ 21 million for infrastructure and other development.

It is for these reasons that President Jayewardene smearing of the race riots as a foreign (alias Soviet bloc) conspiracy is lamentable. He, too, is taking the easy way out in order to consolidate his power among the majority Sinhalese. He is smearing, especially, the the Janata Vimukti Peramuna. This party attracts unemployed educated youth, which could challenge his United National Party among Sinhalese voters. This, and two other parties of the Left, are accused of being stooges of an international conspiracy to destabilise the government. **The truth is the race riots are the result of Tamil frustrations, Sinhalese atavistic anxieties and the work of Goons' some owing allegiance to members of his party and others to members of Mrs. Bandaranaike's Freedom Party.**

BEFORE ASSESSING THE OPTIONS open to him, Jayewardene must restore law and order. Then, when passions have been spent he should resume a dialogue with the leaders of the TULF. But before the dialogue can be reopened Jayewardene will have to remove the single most humiliating provocation to the Tamils — what they call the Sinhalese army of occupation from the Jaffna district. *The recent rioting revealed that the army is not a pacification force. The armed services President Jayewardene inherited from Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike are racist and undisciplined. In the seven years of Mrs. Bandaranaike's rule until 1977 the armed forces and the police were not seen by her government as instruments for law, order and national defence. They were instead seen as agencies for relieving unemployment among the Sinhalese, and Freedom Party politicians were 'recruiting sergeants'. High army officers speak of recruits who would go on leave without authority and then get the protection of their political sponsors against disciplinary action.*

Jayewardene could revive the nationwide home guard he once proposed to supplement the official

institutions of law and order. That would mean Jaffna and the Tamil areas would have their own citizens responsible for law, while the army would remain inconspicuously in the barracks. The merit of a such a home guard is that, because it is national, it rubs out the stigma of concessions to the Tamils. *Events all over the Island, in predominantly Sinhala as well as predominantly Tamil areas, demonstrate the need for a volunteer "peace keeping" force of citizens of goodwill. There are many who detest race violence.*

NEXT, PRESIDENT JAYAWARDENE has to look to how a country like Malaysia has contained its ethnic conflicts. Like Sri Lanka, the Malaysian government was challenged by the majority Malays, demanding redress of their economic grievances and disabilities in a pluralistic society where the Chinese and the Indian continued to exercise the advantage they enjoyed under colonial rule. After the Malay riots of 13 May 1969, the Malaysian government gave priority to economic growth along with its bumiputra (Ethnic Malay) policy. One sign was that it allowed its most talented business minded minister, Tun Tan Siew Sin, a Chinese, to continue as Finance Minister, helping out with a new economic policy, although Chinese alleged it was discriminating against them. However abrasive the process, it is now clear that as the rice pot grew large the Chinese and the Indians felt they were not getting as much as they could have in an economic "catch as catch can."

Next, the Malaysian government worked on a consensus, at least of the three ethnic elites. The dominant United Malay National Organisation could have ruled on its own, but Tun Abdul Razak, the architect and implementer of the new economic policy, maintained a coalition government which included the Malaysian Chinese Association and the Malaysian Indian Congress. Since 1956 Sri Lanka's governments have had Tamil Ministers. With Mrs. Bandaranaike, it was a token Tamil, with the United National Party, the Tamils were accommodated to give it a parliamentary majority. These Tamils were by no means from the mainstream of this minority. While Malaysian coalition were cemented by economic development and ethnic peace, its inescapable conditions, Sri Lanka coalitions were opportunistic devices for power and patronage. Finally, Malaysia came down hard on its racists and potential profiteers from ethnic disabilities. It may have looked like a hypersensitive repression of dissent. But the end result, a situation off the edge of racial violence, shows this to be preferred to the pusillanimity of politicians who tolerate racial extremists.

Finally, there should be restraint from the Tamils; neither provocative speeches nor the abuse of organisations, such as the Gandhian movement, for covertly advancing *Eelam*.

Sri Lanka Bhikku Sammelanaya

A NEW BHIKKU ORGANISATION formed by several prominent Buddhists monks at a special meeting held last Thursday (8/9/83) at the Naga Vihare, Kotte, while upholding the concept of a unitary state, has recognised the right of every local community to live in any part of the island. It has also called upon voluntary organisations to settle the Tamils displaced during the riots in areas where they were residents earlier. The organisation has also called for the re-settlement of displaced Sinhalese who had been resident in the North.

The organisation, *Sri Lanka Bhikkhu Sammelanaya* has as its president Ven. Dr. Kaburupitiya Vanaratne Nayake. The two Vice-Presidents are Ven. Dr. Kamburugamuwa Vajira and Ven. Dr. Bellanwilla Wimalaratne. The other office bearers are: Chief Organiser: Ven. Labuduwe Siridhamma, Treasurer: Ven. Polonnaruwa Hemasiri. Joint Secretaries: Ven. Ittavana Dhammalankara and Ven. Maduluwawa Sobitha Thero. The organising Committee comprises: Ven. Udahamulle Chandralokha Nayake Thero Ven. Gammeddegama Gnanissara Ven. Muruttetuwe Ananda, Ven. Walpola Piyananda and Ven. Daldena Gnansissara.

The Lanka Bhikku Sammelanaya in a press release states: "It was the Buddhist clergy that advised and guided not only the Kings and Ministers of this country but also people at large. But today the Buddhist clergy is being cornered and displaced from this position for many reasons. During certain times, due to autocratic attitudes of rulers who did not pay heed to advice given by Buddhist monks, the latter were ignored by society. As a result of this, Buddhist monks had to be silent at times of great peril to the nation, religion and the country. Although they voiced their views now and then there was no active participation. During the agitation for the division of this country there was no voice of the Buddhist clergy heard in the country and this revealed the need for a common organisation representing all monks in the country.

"Having taken this need into serious consideration, and also having understood the need of the day, a few responsible Bhikkus have got together on 8.9.1983 at Naga Vihara, Kotte, and formed an organisation called "Sri Lanka Bhikku Sammelanaya", having organisations to represent the entire Maha Sangha of Sri Lanka. The following resolutions were passed at the inaugural meeting to be presented to the Government and to the people of this country.

"1.) All people of this country should accept that law passed by this Government, making any attempt to divide this country as unlawful, and amounting to high treason. We declare our firm resolve that we in our capacity as a body of twenty thousand monks shall march forward with the people for the purpose of safeguarding Sri Lanka as a Unitary State consistent with our historic role as the guardians of the nation for thousands of years.

"2.) It was accepted practice to obtain the advice of Maha sangha by the rulers at the times of grave peril to the country hitherto. Under the auspices of the Government a conference of responsible Bhikkus and other religious dignitaries and responsible laymen should be summoned immediately to discuss the recent communal unrest in the country in order to get proper advice and guidance.

"3.) We have at all times recognized and approved the freedom and the right of every local community to live in any part of this Island. It is essential therefore to obtain assistance from voluntary organisations to settle the Tamils displaced during the riots in areas where they were resident earlier as well as the displaced Sinhalese who were earlier resident in the North back in those areas themselves. Sri Lanka Bhikku Sammelanaya is ready to help and assist at any time to settle the above problem satisfactorily.

"4.) The false propaganda published the World over stating that the unfortunate incidents were as a result of a fight between Sinhala Buddhists and Tamil Hindus must be cleared beyond any doubt. This should be done by the government with the help of officials in foreign Embassies in Sri Lanka without any further delay.

"5.) The Government should take immediate steps to introduce the Tamil language to Pirivenas where students monks are studying, so that the Buddhist clergy can work among Sinhalese and Tamil people as emissaries for peaceful coexistence."

—The Island, 13/9/83.

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NAGA VIHARA

Not Damaged

No damage has been caused to the Naga Viharaya, Jaffna. The rumours spread by certain elements that the temple was damaged were untrue, Ven. Kada-wadduwa Nandarama Nayake Thera, incumbent of the Naga Vihara Jaffna said yesterday. He had just returned to Colombo after a visit to his temple in Jaffna. He had been flown to Jaffna at his own request. Ven. Nandarama Nayake Thera said the flight was arranged for him by Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, Commissioner-General of Essential services

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

following requests he had made in writing to President Jyewardene and Prime Minister Premadasa. The Nayake Thera said that contrary to rumours none of the Sinhala bakeries in Jaffna had been attacked. He saw them closed.

The difference today in Jaffna was that there were no Sinhala people. They could go there and live without fear, the monk said. He had requested Mr. Weerakoon to apprise the Prime Minister of the situation and get him to allocate 100 out of 300 houses in a government housing scheme at Navatkuli and five flats in Gurunager to the Sinhala people who wanted to reside and do their businesses or jobs in Jaffna. It is necessary that we ensure that communal harmony is restored and this can best be done by the Sinhala and Tamil people being mixed in all parts of the country. Sinhala people should be sent to the North and Tamils brought to the South.

Ven. Nandarama Thera said he was in his village Temple - the Purana Viharaya, Ovitigamuva, Matara, when the troubles broke out starting with the shooting of 13 soldiers. He had come to Colombo on July 17 to attend the funeral of a businessman. After attending the funeral he decided to go to his village temple at Ovitigamuva. When the troubles broke out the dayakas of that temple did not like him going. But aroused by his anxiety to see his temple at Jaffna he wrote to the President and Prime Minister. He thanked them for making this visit possible and hopes to get back to Jaffna soon.

—Daily News, 14/9/83,

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JAFFNA POSTERS

Stop Terrorism

"People's Committees" in Jaffna put up their first posters yesterday, calling on residents to reject hooliganism and terrorist activities. Police said the posters appeared alongside those put up by terrorist organisations. They called for an immediate halt to the destruction of government property and the disruption of official work and education. The burning of trains and buses, robberies of sub-post offices and co-operatives and preventing children from attending school must stop immediately, the posters said.

One of the first Committees formed on these lines last week comprised over 40 school principals, who openly discussed steps to be taken to combat the current situation of unrest in the peninsula. The Committee was expected to meet service leaders and top Government and police officials in furtherance of their decisions.

—Daily News, 14/9/83



WHY NOT

Herbal Teas?

Herbal Teas which have so long considered as tea only in name, have now come closer to genuine tea, according to the Indian Tea Association (ITA). ITA, in its Bulletin issued in Calcutta stated that for reasons of convenience dried herbs from leaf, flower or root of some plants could be bagged in the similar way as tea in bags. The possibility of mixing preserved herbs with tea at a time when the former best retain their essential oils and in suitable measure so as to combine their flavour with the base of tea exists. The higher cost of herbal plants and, thus, or purely herbal teas as also an economic consideration in favour of the new product line.

A US soft drink manufacturing company, Van Cortlandt, is at present engaged in some research for unusual flavours and health benefits in herbal tea from 133 different varieties of bulk tea, including flavoured teas, natural and traditional teas and about 30 kinds of de-caffeinated tea. Another US firm, R. C. Bigelow Inc., currently includes in its range of teas such varieties as plantation Mint (flavoured with natural spearmint), Cinnamon Stick, Lemon Lift (with lemon and spice). It also markets the old favourite Earl Grey. Other flavoured teas now available in the US markets are Apple Tea, Cinnamon Tea, Blackberry Tea, Peach Brandy Tea, Ginger Tea.

According to tea experts, India has a flourishing base of herbal medicines with long tradition. Mention may be made in particular of *hibiscus flowers, lemon grass, papaya and basil leaves* besides spices like *ginger, cummin, fenugreek, thyme, and cinnamon*. A marriage of the traditional with the modern could lead to good business in the West, especially as tea-bagging capacity installed in the country lying under-utilised.

Like India, Sri Lanka too has a flourishing base of herbal drinks. Most of the plants that produce the leaves or flowers can be grown in the Dry Zone of the NCP, NP and the South e.g. , Ranawara, Beli, Sepalika, Jasmins.

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HOW ISRAEL KEEPS ITS WELLS

From Running Dry

By Bill Clark

In Sri Lanka, water, has become a difficult problem not only in crowded urban areas but also in the rural countryside. If a Monsoon becomes weak, or is ineffective or fails, there is a devastating drought. There is now a great deal of talk at Seminars and elsewhere about water management in this country. We publish a brief note about how water experts keep Israel's wells from running dry. It is well to remember that Israel and other lands in their region get only 4 inches of rain a year along the Mediterranean coastal belt and less in the interior with arid desert conditions in many parts.

WATER MANAGEMENT was a key to the founding of civilization in the arid Holy Land. Each community organized itself around the limited water supply and made cooperative agreements for the control and distribution of this precious fluid. At one well, the Bible tells us, Abraham and Abimelech made an oath to deal honestly with each other in matters of water use and to require their children to do the same (*Genesis 21:25-32*). They named the site Beersheba, which means "Well of the Oath." The founding and growth of another city, Jerusalem was intimately tied to the Spring of Gihon. Centuries later, the inhabitants of the Land of the Bible are still preoccupied with the problem of managing water supplies for growing civilizations. Israelis, who currently use 95% of their water resources, have had to develop novel systems for increasing the amounts of usable water.

The first challenge water management experts at "Tahal" - Israel's Water Planning and Research Authority - had to face when statehood was declared in 1948, was the incongruity of a wet north, where the Sea of Galilee and Jordan River water sources are located, at a depth of 210 metres (689 feet) below sea level, and a dry south, where water users are situated at the level of 150 metres (492 feet) above sea level. They immediately mobilized modern technology to transport large quantities of water from the Sea of Galilee to the Negev Desert, via a national water carrier. This system consists of huge

pumping stations, 40 kilometres (25 miles) open concrete canals, 8 kilometres (5 miles) of tunnels and 80 kilometres (50 miles) of 274-centimetre (108-inch) wide pipe, which today winds along a path connecting up with thousands of boreholes and wells along the way.

Once the matter of transporting water to the arid south was solved, Israel's technologists had more time to deal with the pressing problem of keeping pace with the country's growing water needs. One of the solutions has been the replenishment of underground water supplies by "catching" the run-off of heavy winter rainfall. Among several refilling methods in use is a series of large catch-basins at Skikma, Hadera and Nahal Dalia. These basins divert winter rain-water before it flows to the Mediterranean and water pumped from the Sea of Galilee before it flows to the Dead Sea, and literally pump it into the aquifers to replace what was removed during the summer.

In this way Israelis hope to avoid alarming situations most strikingly exemplified by the declining productivity of the great Ogialla aquifer which irrigates North American wheat fields from Saskatchewan to Texas. Refilling underground reservoirs also prevents land collapse; in Florida, for example, drained underground reservoirs have caved in, swallowing up homes and leaving craters 300 feet across.

RECYCLING SEWAGE. The sewage produced by a population of more than three million people is another major water resource, says Tahal water expert Jehoshua Schwarz, explaining that Israel is building a large sewage treatment plant not far from Tel Aviv. "According to Schwarz, several modules will treat the waste water in stages - almost like a refining process - until it is "of a quality that meets drinking water standards," although the reclaimed sewage water will be used only in agriculture.

An even richer source of water than sewage are the seas which bathe the shores of Israel. Schwarz notes that desalination technology is progressing, and within the next two decades reclaimed seawater will be the main means of closing the expected gap in Israel's water budget. "Desalination has to be made more efficient and less costly," Schwarz notes, "but good progress is being made in this direction." Israel is developing two types of desalination: 1. The *Zarash* (Hebrew initials for "multi-stage flash process"), in which seawater is used to cool electric generating stations - the resulting hot water evaporates and is condensed as distilled water. 2. The use of high-technology processes, such as the *reverse-osmosis* desalination filter already in use at the Red sea port of Eilat.

Incidentally, slightly salty water has proved to be beneficial for Israeli agriculture: many crops - from

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24 1983

tomatoes to cotton - have been developed by Israeli agronomists to thrive on it. This discovery means less cost and time for desalination of seawater for irrigation and opens the way for agricultural use of Israel's brackish groundwater, particularly that beneath the Negev Desert.

Some of Israel's water conservation programmes combine several approaches. For example, the Kishon project near Haifa merges the city's reclaimed sewage water with winter rainwater running down the Jezreel Valley and stores it for dry season irrigation.

COAXING THE RAIN TO FALL. Israelis have been seeding clouds for many years in efforts to increase rainfall, and they're the only ones who can point to proven increases in annual precipitation in seeded areas. Now they are working on a major weather manipulation which, according to Yitzhak Moda'i, Israel's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, will increase rainfall by 25%. Scientists involved in the project have learned that there is a direct correlation between warm water temperatures in the Mediterranean Sea in October and the amount of rainfall in Israel in the winter months that follow. The prevailing westerly winds carry water vapour over the country, where cooler land temperatures cause condensation and precipitation. The researchers are studying the possibility of using giant pumps, for example, to bring cooler water to the surface so that more of the ocean could be warmed - and thus, according to their hypothesis, increase rainfall in Israel. What sort of technology could be used to "stir" the ocean is still undecided. However, since scientists are still studying mathematical models to learn more about the relationship between ocean warmth and winter rainfall. Meanwhile, back in the Negev Desert, Prof. Arye Isar of Ben Gurion University is working on plans for a new Negev water carrier which serves the national water carrier which serves the rest of the country. Prof. Isar estimates that approximately 70 billion cubic metres of brackish water lies under the Negev. The new carrier can make about 300 million cubic metres of this water available annually.

Getting back to Biblical Israel, how did ancient civilizations manage to support sizable (but small by today's standards) populations in desert cities without all the benefits of cloud seeding, sewage recovery and desalination? Researchers at the Desert Research Institute of Ben Gurion University have unearthed systems dating back to Solomon's reign. These early watering programmes involved a series of stone conduits which directed unabsorbed rainwater from hillsides into terraced farms and catchment basins. In regions of the northern Negev, which normally can support little more than sparse grasses, ancient irrigation practices are today back in service, bringing water to fields of luscious apricots

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

and peaches, high yields of pistachios, dates and almonds, and bountiful crops of wheat and barley

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FRENCH BEANS

Yellow Mosaic Menace

FRENCH BEAN, the popular leguminous vegetable crop is highly susceptible to a viral infection, which discolours the leaves and ultimately reduces the pod yield. Commonly known as the yellow mosaic, the virus disease does not cause any major damage to the crop when it attacks it at a late stage of plant growth. But when the young plants (10 to 15 days of age) are infected, they remain stunted for a long time, and result in poor yields. Fruits from infected plants are often small and misshapen, and generally a yield loss of 20 to 60 per cent (depending upon the degree of infection) results due to this disease. In acute cases the loss may be up to 80 or 90 per cent. The young leaves of the diseased plants show pale colour which can be spotted from a distance. The symptom is first noticed in new flushes of leaves in the form of milk scattered yellow specks or spots. Subsequent trifoliate leaves from the growing apex exhibit irregular and alternating yellow and green patches. The green areas sometimes appear to be a little raised, and the leaves show slight puckering and reduction in size. The yellow slowly creeps all over the plant, finally leading to some of the apical leaves completely bright yellow or golden ringe.

A TINY INSECT VECTOR, white fly (*Bemisia Tabaci*), is solely responsible for transmitting this viral infection. According to reports, even a single specimen of this insect is enough to spread the virus to the French bean crop. The white flies, with sucking type of mouth parts, take up the virus along with the plant sap, while feeding on the diseased plants, and the viriferous insects are ready to transmit the disease to healthy plants in the next 15 to 30 minutes. The disease spreads faster during the hot and dry weather periods, which favour quick proliferation of the insect vector. The incidents of yellow mosaic can touch up to 70 per cent or sometimes even more during the hot summer months.

Controlling the virus directly is difficult, and only by preventing the insect vector, its spread could be efficiently checked. Extensive field trials conducted at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore, have helped in evolving an effective control strategy. The Institute has found that some of the systemic granular forms of insecticides such as Carbofuran, Thimet, and Disyston, when applied at the rate of 1.5 kg per hectare, at the time of sowing reduced the white fly population any yellow mosaic

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incidence considerably. Certain insecticides like Metasystox (0.02%) Dimethoate (0.5%) and Monocrotophos (0.5%), applied as foliar spray were also found to keep the vector at bay. In addition to these, the Institute has found that a mineral oil, popularly called Kiishi oil is very effective in controlling the flies. The treatment with oil also recorded an increased yield of pods. It has been recommended that the crop should be treated with any of the tested chemicals and it would protect the crop for about, 40 days. If any infection is noticed after that, the mineral oil spray may be used. Scientists advocate the mineral oil spray because it is a very safe chemical with no residual toxicity.

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FORBES & WALKER REPORT

SEPTEMBER 12, 1983

TEA - Taxes and Revenue

"TEA" is traditionally considered the largest foreign exchange earner for Sri Lanka. There is however, another very important aspect of the Tea Industry which at times tends to be pushed into the background. This is the contribution made by the Tea Industry as a direct revenue earner to the government 'coffers'. The two main components of this direct revenue are, the *ad valorem sales tax* collections from the producers, and the *export duty* levied at the point of export.

Ad Valorem Sales Tax : This tax is levied on the total production sold during the month, provided the monthly sale average of all teas from the respective factory exceeds Rs.26/- per kilo. The tax is computed at 35% of the difference in excess of Rs.26/- per kilo. Due to the strong market that has been prevailing this year, the collection on account of this tax has recorded unprecedented levels. In fact the total *ad valorem sales tax* payable by the producers for the sales in August 1983 amount to a massive Rs. 115.6 million and is the first occasion that the monthly collection has exceeded Rs.100 million. The previous highest figure was recorded in June 1983 at Rs.84.7 million. In contrast, the total *ad valorem sales tax* for August 1982 was a mere Rs. 28.8 million, although by previous standards this figure was considered high last year.

We publish a summary of the *ad valorem sales tax* figures for the period January to December 1982 and January to August 1983 based on the monthly returns. The statement clearly illustrates the substantial increase in *ad valorem sales tax* revenue this year as against 1982 which itself was a good year from the *ad valorem sales tax* point of view.

Due to the high prices prevailing in 1983 it would be noted that a greater percentage of the total proceeds has been paid as *ad valorem sales tax*. Consequently, if related to the lower crop, the net proceeds left to the producer will not reflect a substantial increase as what might have been expected on the attractive auction prices. A significant point to note is that the total gross proceeds for the period January - August 1983 exceeds the Total Gross Proceeds for the whole of 1982, although the net proceeds after the deduction of *ad valorem sales tax* reverses the situation.

AD VALOREM

	Gross Proceeds (Rs Mill)	Ad Valorem Tax (Rs Mill)	Ad Valorem as % of Gross Proceeds
Total			
Jan-Dec '82	4,242.8	166.5	3.9%
Jan-Aug '83	4,372.9	558.2	12.8%

We feel it may be more advisable to have a cutoff point for the maximum *ad valorem sales tax* payable, rather than have a continuing rate of 35% of the excess over Rs.26/- per kilo, with no upper limits. This would mean that an estate would be liable for a maximum unit rate of, shall we say around Rs. 4/- per kilo on the monthly sales, as against unit rates exceeding Rs. 12/- per kilo on some of the better selling estates on the present basis of an unlimited scale. The present scale could create a disincentive for the quality producer as the net return on the higher selling estates record a narrowing of the margins between the poorer estates after the deduction of the *ad valorem sales tax*. This at times could even mean that an estate incurring a higher cost of production in order to maintain a better standard, may end up less profitable than an estate producing inferior teas at a lower cost of production, due to the high incidence of *ad valorem sales tax* on the better estate.

Exports : The customs figures of the actual tea exports for 1983 are available only up to the end of June. We give below the relevant export figures together with average FPB prices and total FOB values for a period January to June 1982 and 1983. The export figures are significant mainly in regard to the following factors: 1). In spite of a drop in the total quantity, the total FOB value as well as the unit FOB value is much higher than the corresponding period in 1982; and 2). In spite of the lower total quantity, the quantum of packeted tea exports has recorded a very encouraging increase and account of 26.7% of the total exports by volume and almost 30% by value as against 16.6% by volume and 19.4% by value during the corresponding period last year.

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

EXPORTS

January to June, 1982 & 1983

	Quantity Metric Tons.	% of Total Exports by Volume	Average F.O.B. Price Rs/kg.	Total Value Rs. Million
TEA IN BULK				
1982	76,069	82.6%	31.57	2,401.5
1983	58,179	72.8%	42.45	2,466.6
TEA IN PACKETS				
1982	15,301	16.6%	38.64	591.2
1983	21,403	26.7%	49.94	1,068.9
TEA IN BAGS				
1982	587	.6%	57.82	33.9
1983	439	.6%	83.32	36.6
INSTANT TEA				
1982	97	.1%	120.99	11.7
1983	114	.1%	140.81	16.1
GREEN TEA				
1982	101	.1%	32.90	3.3
1983	30	—	39.77	1.2
TOTAL				
1982	92,155	100%	33.00	3,041.6
1983	80,163	100%	44.81	3,592.4

It must be pointed out that some of the exports for 1983, especially in regard to the early months of the year reflect teas purchased in 1982, prior to the increase in auction prices. The value of exports therefore for the second half of the 1983 will record an even more significant increase when compared with not only the earnings for the corresponding period in 1982, but also the first half of 1983. At a guess, we would conservatively estimate the likely FOB value for the period July to December 1983 to amount around Rs. 5,000 million provided no major disruption to normal exports occur. Should this estimate be realised our total FOB earnings from tea in 1983 could amount to around Rs. 8.0 billion to Rs. 8.5 billion against Rs. 6.3 billion in 1982.

Export Duty : The export duties applicable for the different categories of Tea Exports are as follows :

	<i>With effect from 3rd/4th July 1983</i>	<i>Prior to 3rd/4th July 1983</i>
Bulk Tea	Rs. 9 per kilo	Rs. 8 per kilo
Packeted Tea	Rs. 7/50 per kilo	Rs. 6/50 per kilo
Tea Bags	Rs. 2/- per kilo	Rs. 1/- per kilo
Instant Tea	Rs. 14/50 per kilo	Rs. 13/50 per kilo
Green Tea	Rs. 9/- per kilo	Rs. 8/- per kilo

In addition to the export duty, a consolidated Tea Board Cess of Rs. 1/25 per kilo (prior to 3rd/4th July 1983—Rs. 1/- per kilo) plus a Medical Aid Cess of 0035 cents per kilo is levied on all exports. However,

for the purpose of this note, we will not take the Cess into consideration when computing the revenue earnings, as the realisations from the Cess are directly given to Sri Lanka Tea Board for the benefit of the Tea Industry.

The customs figures of the actual tea exports for 1983 are available only up to the end of June. Therefore in calculating the export duty revenue, the rates prevailing prior to the 3rd/4th July 1983 will have to be taken into consideration for the January to June export. On this basis, the export duty revenue for the period January to June 1982 and 1983 is as follows :

	1982 Million Rs. Jan to June	1983 Million Rs. Jan to June
Bulk Tea	608.5	465.4
Packeted tea	99.5	139.1
Tea bags	.6	.4
Instant tea	1.3	1.5
Green tea	.8	.2
Total Export Duty	710.7	606.6

The lower export duty revenue in 1983 is due to the reduced quantum of exports compared with the same period 1982. However, it must be noted that the exports in the second half of 1983 will be charged at an increased unit rate based on the new duties applicable from the 3rd/4th July 1983.

Direct Revenue to Government :

	1982 (Jan. to Dec.) Million Rs.	1983 (Jan. to June) Million Rs.
Ad Valorem Sales tax	166.5	364.9
Export duty	1,392.9	606.6
Total direct Revenue	1,559.4	971.5

Total FOB earnings from tea January to December 1982—Rs. 6,342.8 mill.

Direct Revenue expressed as a percentage of total FOB earnings Jan—December 1982—24.6%

Total FOB earnings from tea Jan-June 1983—3,592.4 mill.

Direct Revenue expressed as a percentage of the total FOB earnings Jan to June 1983 27.0%

Admittedly, the above comparison is not strictly accurate since the ad valorem sales tax collections refer to the teas actually sold during the period under revenue whilst generally reflect tea purchases made prior to that date. The above figures however, should serve to highlight the significance of the direct revenue accruing to the State from the tea industry, both from the producer and exporter in the form of ad valorem sales tax and export duty, respectively.

From the foregoing, it would be appreciated that tea is not only the single largest foreign exchange earner of Sri Lanka but also makes that most significant contribution to the State by way of direct revenue both in terms of total value as well as a percentage of the total export earnings. In our opinion therefore, the tea industry, currently deserves to be considered the greatest economic asset of our country. This, we feel is the best tribute we can pay to all the workers engaged in this great industry, in the plantation sector and the trade, as well as the connected service organisations in various fields that assist in keeping TEA in continuous and smooth motion.

**RECONCILIATION,
REHABILITATION,
RECONSTRUCTION
AND THE PEOPLE**

SARVODAYA

The Way Forward

This appeal was attached to the document "The Sarvodaya Approach Towards A Lasting Solution to the Present National Crisis" which we published in full last week. Below we publish the appeal made by Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne.

Sarvodaya has already been working for twenty five years looking at human beings and society in their totality. It has organised institutions directly influencing over two and a half million living in nearly six thousand communities in Sri Lanka alone and in many more countries of the world, who share its ideals and emulate its philosophy. About a thousand of our Sarvodaya communities are comprised of our Tamil brethren and are located in the North, the East and the Plantations, while the rest (about 5,000) are Sinhala. Already among the people a significant psychological integration has occurred and they have accepted a sustainable way of life, based on a value system and embarked upon community awakening programmes at the grass-roots level of society. That is why even in the lunacy that prevailed all round us from the 24th of July and despite every kind of difficulty, the Sarvodaya workers joined hands with others and did their share to prevent escalation of violence, bringing relief to the afflicted and rehabilitating the homeless leading to possible reconciliation. *While continuing to assist the Government in relief and rehabilitation work now we must also get into the reconciliation action. The time is past when officialdom, moral leaders, the intelligentsia, the professional and the business community can*

afford to stand on the side lines and let the social worker do the healing and the unifying of a divided community. If the wounds of the nation are to be healed, it will require the best from all of us in the form of sincere and selfless service to the cause of national regeneration. We of the Sarvodaya Movement invite you to search your conscience as to what needs to be done and participate with us in the task, whose achievement has been mapped out by us in detail and with which we are already engaged. With your participation we shall surely succeed.

We have sent this document to one thousand five hundred persons of the following categories: 1. Leaders of the Maha Sangha; 2. Leaders of the Christian Church, of the Hindus and of the Muslims as well as to other religious dignitaries; 3. Retired Supreme Court Judges and such other distinguished members of the Judiciary; 4. Leading lawyers; 5. Leading Physicians; 6. Scientists; 7. University Academicians; 8. Educationists; 9. Arts; 10. Journalists; 11. Administrators; 12. The Business Community; 13. Representatives of Social Service Organisations and 14. Representatives of Corporations and Private Establishments.

When you read this document, send us your suggestions and ideas. We would work out a people's declaration for National Harmony and Peace from among the participants and others who come into consensus on this Declaration, specialized committees will be formed for further action. Therefore, what we would welcome from you are solutions that could be applied as short term devices and long term solutions and strategies to be incorporated in this Declaration. No post mortem analysis of what has happened, without concrete practical solutions, would be any help in the task of healing the wounds and curing the illness that has afflicted our nation. According to the framework we will prepare, it is hoped to conduct the first and second day sessions with the idea of finding a consensus on the proposed Declaration. After its approval, we hope to get the signatures of all present to this document.

Therefore, we expect you to join with us to go to the people and help them to understand intelligently this national course of action we can take to build peace and harmony. This may be done by Talks, Seminars, Conferences, Work Projects, Shanti Sena Camps, Peace Marches, Joint Religious functions, Newspaper articles and other media and integrated village development projects.

While people are thus educated, and made to join the specialist committees mentioned above, to work out detailed practical steps that should follow psychological infrastructure laid.

In conclusion, may we request you earnestly to join with us actively to make our constitutionally unified Sri Lanka also become United Sri

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

Lanka, where all human beings enjoying equal rights irrespective of their race, caste or creed come together to build a great nation.

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PADAYATRA

SARVODAYA'S EFFORT FOR NATIONAL HARMONY AND PEACE

A people's Declaration for National Harmony and Peace will be adopted on this year's Mahatma Gandhi Birth Anniversary day, 2nd October, 1983. This declaration will be based on responses received from over 2000 religious, professional and community leaders to whom the Sarvodaya Movement has written outlining the Sarvodaya Proposal for National Harmony and Peace.

On October 1st and 2nd a Conference with the participation of 1500 delegates who have reached consensus will be held at the B.M.I.C.H. "What we need is not "hair spitting" arguments and debates but a generally accepted plan of action which could be immediately implemented at a peoples level to build a psycho-social infrastructure from where both Sinhala and Tamil people can set about solving their problems however difficult they may be in a state of sanity and reason rather than hatred and violence" said Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne the President of the Sarvodaya Movement who is convening this Conference with Mr. Tissa Wijewardene the Chairman of Anglo-Asian Group of Companies. The Meeting will be attended by leaders of the Maha Sangha, Christian, Hindu and Islamic leaders, members of all professions and non-governmental organisations.

Once the Declaration for National Harmony and Peace is adopted and signed by the participants, it will be forwarded to His Excellency the President, Members of Parliament and all other political leaders. This will be followed by the mobilisation of all the Sarvodaya groups in the country spread throughout 6000 Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim villages to get active participation of all to bring about lasting harmony and peace.

Dr. Ariyaratne himself will start a 'Padayatra'—a foot-march—with several hundred others right across the country from around the middle of November, explaining to the people the spirit of the Declaration and how we can rebuild National Harmony based on non-violence and justice. The Padayatra will commence from Kiri-Wehera, Kataragama and proceed upto Nagadeepa in the Jaffna District and back through Trincomalee and Batticaloa to Anuradhapura. The whole Programme is expected to take about four months.

Meanwhile, 12 special Committees will be selected to work on the following subjects, going into the formulation of short and long term programmes and their implementation for National Harmony and Peace.

- 1). Re-establishment of the moral authority of the Maha Sangha over the Buddhist Community.
- 2). Resuscitation of the Hindu-Buddhist brotherhood.
- 3). Establishment of Inter-religious understanding and harmony
- 4). Identification of the rights and privileges enjoyed, as well as discriminations and handicaps suffered, by all communities.
- 5). Integration of Planation Communities of Indian origin with village communities, and with the national community as whole.
- 6). Identification and protection of Tamil families and communities living in predominantly Sinhala areas, and their integration with the Sinhala community.
- 7). Identification and protection of Sinhala families and communities living in predominantly Tamil areas and their integration with the Tamil community.
- 8). To examine violations of Fundamental Human Rights in any part of the country, and suggest corrective measures.
- 9).
 - i). The need for greater moral strength and correct attitudes on the part of the law enforcement authorities for the performance of their duties.
 - ii) To obtain the participation and co-operation of the people to re-establish the respect for law and order in the country.
- 10). Re-appraisal of the existing economic systems and processes and the formation of an approach for economic development in keeping with our national needs and value-systems.
- 11). The business community to provide expertise facilities and a better contribution towards socio-economic upliftment in integrated community development Programmes leading to national peace and harmony.
- 12). To study and report on the feasibility of evolving a democratic non-party system of Government, which could eliminate the existing rivalries, distrust and factionalism and the devolution of power to the Villages and the Gramodaya Mandalas within the framework of a Unitary State.

Sarvodaya Headquarters
8. 9. 83

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In Anguish

Here is an endeavour made to empty the anguish that wells in my heart at this troublous time. I would, others share my feelings with me, for it will be cathartic in its effect. Where every prospect pleases man alone is vile. Scarcely had the race begun when the competitors got bogged in filth and dirt in the morass of narrow communal strife, and narrower selfish ends. And thus having got delayed behind, they have lost sight of the supreme goal of a noble nationhood. Will not that energy-flow that is intended by nature to be channelled in and directed towards, very lofty and sublime ends, when misdirected and turned to flow along dirty gutters, collect in stinking ditches and lead to utter misery, adject destitution and death ?

What an ignoble end people in this corner of the globe have chosen as their leading and passionate goal in life! What horrible atrocities! What beastly conduct! What brutal crimes! What merciless and inhuman behaviour! What unquantifiable holocaust! What criminal waste of valuable life! What wanton corrosion of human goodwill, human possibilities, and human aspirations? That desecration of the sanctity of human life, human morals; and what depravity of eternal values! The clock of human progress has been set back, by a period of a thousand years if not more. Man, the elect, has turned out to be man the reprobate, What an immoral rabble indulging in rapè and arson, loot and debauched destruction! What an explosive mixture of discordant nationalities! What horrendous demoniacal forms! What inglorious anarchy! What dissolution of reason and intelligence and rationality! Human values that have taken six thousand years for mankind to formulate, have been cast to the winds and flagrantly violated.

It appears as though life has been summed up in the dull catena: "hatches, catches, matches and dispatches", Eternal and enduring spiritual values spelled out by the Buddha and the Christ, Mohamed and the Vedic Rishis, have been shattered and cast into mud and mire, to mix and mingle with crime perfidy, mayhem and treachery. Can this have happened? Can't it be a mere dream or a "sopana"? The brute in man has been unleashed.

Whither have fled law and order? Racial harmony and amity? And goodwill and kindly feeling among mankind? Whither have flown the maxims and self-designed moral precepts that ought to guide and govern mankind in every one of its several dealings? Surely this can't be mere genocide! There is emotion and passion, envy and hatred born of a primitive desire to loot, to rape, to burn and to slash at the bottom of it all.

And now, how about the remedy? Our leaders should seek for one in all true earnest; and we who love law and order have to assist them in discovering a permanent and efficacious remedy. Hasn't the time come for us to think sincerely and truly and in true seriousness as regards human values life's designs and a clear vision human goal that man has been designed to seek? Haven't we to seek shelter under the noble canopy of the "encompassing oneness of feeling" of the ancient seers? And haven't their sublime thoughts and feelings been here with us these many years? And what of the harvest?

K. Kanapathipillai

52, Nalliah Road,
Batticaloa
18.8.83.

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REPORTAGE

How a Town was Saved

By James N. Benedict

As I pack my hastily assembled items gathered together in my kit bags to return home from the temporary abode for a few weeks in Hatton—thanks to a genuine friend—I wish to place on record how this hilly town stands together today, due entirely to the exacting coordination between that Police and the Army.

As the chain of the horrible events of that black Monday in July bleeped into town, the Assistant Superintendent of the area, moved in with lightning speed with the firm resolution that the fire was not going to consume his district of Administration. As the tension mounted, he assembled his men and addressed them, that come what may, he needed their unstinted cooperation to save the town and its peaceful inhabitants. He led them to the field to face the miscreants and mischief makers who, were licking their lips for the "kill" and the loot" of this not very affluent area, being a plantation district. As the citizens cowered in fear, he took it up on himself to declare unofficial curfews, order the rationing of petrol (not more than what was necessary to individuals) and the setting up of barricades to stop the marauders who were to reach the town and join hands with local things perhaps. Thus the enemy was reduced to a trickle as news was around that the Police meant business and would brook no nonsense.

A couple of days later, the Armed Services too moved in with resolution, led by a young volunteer officer in charge, and shook hands with the Police as if David was meeting Livingstone on a common

mission. They sat down together to map out a joint operation with clockwork precision so effectively, that the crisis was tided over effortlessly, with all ranks rising to a man.

Why other Police Districts did not react likewise in many other areas where the "toll" was horrible and heavy is a question that must be addressed elsewhere, but I would put it down in Hatton to a thorough and dedicated leadership that did not "flinch" in their task.

One freely walks the town today, and many such are of various communities and life goes on as usual, but for the imported rumours that these citizens ruminate over haltingly as they stride on. It one speaks to any of them, be they leading residents of the town, the middle class wage earners, or even the tea pluckers who colourfully dot the landscape, they will speak to the above facts and about the hardy men of the services who saved them from disaster that seemed unavoidable, tense moments just before they moved in for their operation that bore very fruitful results while many similar areas yet weep at the sufferings and havoc that have taken them unawares, and for reasons for which they were never culpable.

Films are in circulation again, and patrons brave the inclement weather and the nights of suspicion and fear elsewhere to walk the cooled streets for their relaxation. Vigilance however has not been relaxed and very rarely indeed have so many owed so much, to so few.

September 9, 1983.

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SAHANAYA FOR

Mental Breakdown

We have been reminded of and given descriptions of every type of breakdown in the country in the last few weeks except *mental breakdown*. Stresses and strains, be they social, physical, psychological are significant contributory factors in the development of mental breakdown. The words "I can't cope anymore" could easily be the start of a breakdown. A person who cries endlessly or cries sporadically is another symptom. A person who suddenly won't talk at all and will not communicate in any way and wants only to stay in his room, on his bed with his eyes closed or his hands over his head is another symptom. A person who suddenly wants to smash himself and everything around him, has without doubt, a symptom.

On 27th July 1983, Gananath Obeyesekere, Professor of Social Anthropology at Princeton University, New Jersey, USA, would have talked to members and friends

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

of the Association, Sahanaya, on Mental Health and Culture in Sri Lanka. Well, one will never know because he leaves our shores very soon for yet another country to continue the international lecture circuit which is now his way of life. Our dedicated doctors are left to bridge the gap.

A lot is being said about *rumours* and *gossip* and the more horrifying the story the quicker we are to put it into one of those two categories. These stories are connected with every race, religion and social structure. Let me tell you just a few: of the Company Director who three days after driving through 20 to 30-foot fires, just out of Colombo, tells his wife on awakening one morning, "I can't go to work again, I am too tired. Oh, God, why am I tired?"

There are two children under 10 years of age whose legs were broken after seeing their parents bashed up and house set alight.

Then there is the family in retreat who received from friends a few special bits of food including chicken to keep their pecker up and the next day they telephoned asking for *more chickens!*

The young lady in her 20s who tried to get a lift home from work on a private bus and not having the trebled fare was asked to lose her virginity as payment instead.

The hundreds of sick people in hospitals who continued to get plenty of drugs but not sufficient food to cushion the effect of the medicines.

The number of people who have been snuffed out of their homes like rats.

Of the people who have welcomed friends and relations into their camps (homes), to save them from living temporarily in official camps.

The queue for departure to the Middle East and lands in search of peace of mind.

Remorse of those who went into other people's homes and destroyed their possessions.

Stories are endless and simple to relate and in every case an individual's state of mind is going to be sickening. It has been proved around the world that however secure the financial and material needs of a person, if his mind has been shattered at some stage of his life, he is scared forever, unless treatment is taken. In the present context—sudden loss of property (cherished habitat), people (baeis and the elderly who have died through neglect, the splitting up of families, and disappearance of friends and relations) and image (loss of hard earned and respectable job overnight and those who had reached a peak position suddenly faced with having to start

from the bottom again), are going to strongly aggravate the state of a person's mind and also contribute to mental breakdown.

The pressures imposed on persons living in congested camps, alienated from their usual environment, friends, relations, neighbours and a steady day's work, completely reliant on the charity of Sri Lanka and the rest of the world, could influence mental health. For many it is the second time round and they have run out of answers to their young children's questions and demands.

In other words we keep forgetting about mental health. What mental care programme is being launched now parallel to other rehabilitation programmes? The day care centre for mentally disturbed adults run by *Sahanaya* will soon reopen. The moment has come for many more day care centres to be opened. Why not try? Contact *Sahanaya* if you have any feeling for the mentally ill and unity of people in Sri Lanka today.

Out of Focus

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THE QUESTION OF IDENTITY

Who are "We" ?

By G. I. O. M. Kurukulasuriya

Terrorism begets terrorism. At this time of deep national crisis and sorrow there is indeed much soul-searching. Who are we? What are we? Our specific *identities* lie in our *differences* but at the same time, the Sri Lankan identity lies in our being different from other peoples. We are the one little country that has seen the confluence of many racial stocks and cultures which makes our existential situation difference, very different, from India, a mother land from which the vast majority of our people came.

We are all *Indian in our roots* but India is *not* monolithic. We are Indian in *bloodstock*. We are Indian in that our *cultural roots* are in the great and ancient Hindu-Buddhist civilisation. But we have had a tradition of being a tribal society with migrants coming in at various times from a multitude of ethnic origins and a diversity of social classes. We are Indian whether we came as Princes, Courtiers, Monks, Savants, Craftsmen, Artisans, Mercenaries, Merchants, Sailors, Invaders, Captives or Slaves. This island is our home and it is going to be the home of our children—of all our children who are going to enrich our special identity as Sri Lankans.

Despite our roots no Sri Lankan wants to be called an Indian today. We lay no claims on India. But,

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we are a variation on the theme—and a very important variation at that. We are jealous of our special identity. Nevertheless, India's strength is our strength. India's weakening in the global society is our weakening too. India's racial afflictions are our afflictions too. The lessons of India's racial conflicts are important lessons for us too. Any external conspiracy to weaken India is an affliction to us. Any conspiracy to antagonise us and India is a crime against the human species in the richness of its diversities. We are a part of a great sub-continent, different from the rest of the world, but entitled to retain our diversities in a wider unity.

It is a tragedy that any fragment of us—whether majority or one of *numerous* minorities should consider ourselves a people apart from our Sri Lankan identity. Diversities can cause conflicts even within a single family—but nobody can justify the destruction of a family in order to solve a problem arising from diversity. Truth can be the first victim in a family dispute: so it is in our island's factional disputes. But love alone can heal and accommodate conflicts. To love is to forgive. And, much there is to be forgiven on either side. We love or we perish.



SPOTLIGHT

Stadium Opened

IN ONE OF THE MOST COLOURFUL OPENING ceremonies in the annals of sport in Sri Lanka, President Jayewardene declared open the re-modelled Sugathadasa Stadium on Saturday, September 10, watched by a crowd of over twenty thousand spectators. On the day and the preceding days there were heavy rains. The sky cleared a few hours before the opening and nothing was lacking in the pomp and pageantry. The opening of this re-modelled stadium was the culmination of hard work put in by the Prime Minister and an energetic band of workers. They have given to Sri Lanka and all its sportsmen and sportswomen one of the best stadiums in Asia. All sports except cricket can be played and all sportsmen and women can make use of the stadium to show or improve his or her sporting prowess. The second stage—the work of redevelopment project—the Indoor Stadium will begin soon. *There were many sceptics when the Prime Minister set the*

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24 1983

gall rolling. Now that the work has been completed in record time the people have nothing but praise for all who were involved in the project. A colourful march past of most of the sports controlling bodies and several other sports items were worked off to mark the opening with the highlight being the soccer match between Sri Lanka and South Korea for the Prime Minister's Gold Cup which was won by the visitors.

SPEAKING BEFORE THE START of the soccer match, the President called on the youth of Sri Lanka to observe the rules they learnt on the playing fields when it comes to everyday life. It was only then that a country can progress, he said. The President added that in every sport there are rules to be followed. He said that those who infringed the rules will not be able to win. This is rule in everyday living. No society which broke the law could ever progress. "It was when the UNP was badly beaten in 1956 that the late Mr. V. A. Sugathadasa first mooted the ideas of the Stadium", said the President. In paying a tribute to the late Mr. Sugathadasa, the President said that at that time Mr. Sugathadasa could not obtain government support, but he continued the proposal of a stadium and was able to see it through to completion after the UNP won the 1956 Municipal Elections.

THE PRESIDENT also added that it was Mr. Sugathadasa and Mr. Premadasa who helped him to revive the UNP. He also complimented Mr. Premadasa for re-developing the stadium without burdening the Treasury. Mr. Premadasa, the principal architect of the Stadium, speaking before the President said that on the sports field one had to put aside barriers of race, religion and colour. Only the innate ability of each player is important in competition. "We don't perform as individuals in isolation. We compete as members of a team", said the Prime Minister.

MR. PREMADASA added: "In victory one should show no arrogance and in defeat one must remain undaunted". Mr. Premadasa continuing said. "You see before you the Sugathadasa Stadium elevated to the status of an international sports complex. It is a source of great satisfaction to all of us that we have been able to achieve this. "If the late Minister Mr. V. A. Sugathadasa was with us at this moment how happy he would have been to see this task accomplished. I have no doubt that Mrs. Sugathadasa who is with us will share that joy on behalf of her beloved husband. I would like to state in all humility that the credit for the success that has attended our work is not mine alone. It is the success of the collective efforts of a large number of dedicated persons. "I am indebted to many who in response to my request helped with their money, their advice and their labour. Man has been created with a body and mind. It is this body and mind that makes up man's essential humanity." Continuing Mr. Premadasa said, "The complete

man must possess a healthy body and a sound mind. To dispel the evil in men's minds and men's bodies and nurture goodness we should propagate sports and make use of the playing field. Through sports we purify our bodies. What do we lose through our sweat and toil? It is something harmful to our system. There is a heat too within our minds. What it means is that inhuman thoughts poison our minds. On the sport field, we put aside the barriers of race, caste, religion and colour. Only this innate ability of each of us is relevant. On the field, we obey the leader. We show our mettle in accordance with the rules of the game. We discipline our bodies on these high principles on the sports field. In the same manner we must strengthen our minds with equally lofty thoughts in our day to day life. "In conclusion the Prime Minister said: "Our next endeavour is to make the Sugathadasa Stadium a centre for the upliftment of both the body and mind of our people". Mr. Sirisena Cooray, Mayor of Colombo and the Chairman of the committee appointed to see to the welfare of the Stadium also spoke.

WITH SRI LANKA'S SOCCER never having it so good with all the facilities for training one expected our soccerites to defeat South Korea and make the opening of the Stadium more memorable. But this was not to be as they threw away a game that was theirs because of the lack of foresight on the part of coach Joe Ariyapala. The initial mistake he made to keep goalie Chandrasiri in cold storage for the better part of the game and play him only in the last 20 minutes or so of the game. Chandrasiri has been in the pool for sometime now and there is no doubt that he is Sri Lanka's number one behind the posts. In the 20 minutes that he guarded the Sri Lanka goal he underlined his superiority and it is hoped that the coach will change his views on Chandrasiri and make him our number one between the posts. The manner in which he performed between the posts left the twenty thousand odd spectators non-plussed as to why he was not played from the beginning.

In addition to the serious lapse by the coach in not playing Chandrasiri, one was also disappointed by the performance of the forwards. Not once did the shooters like scoring. They either fumbled or were out of position when the ball came their way. Shooting of goals is a vital aspect in football. Not one of our forwards looked capable of doing this on that great occasion. What our soccer standing is, even in the Asian scene at least, has been shown with the visit of this team from South Korea. True the visitors could score only two goals against us. That does not mean that we have improved our game. A big bouquet to our defenders, especially skipper Wijesekera, Romy Pakeer Ally and Asoka Ravindran for their wonderful effort in keeping the visitors' forwards at bay. But beyond this we do not seem to have made any headway. The cry allround the

nd after our two nil defeat was that the authorities should do some serious rethinking about the national coach. Soccer fans are of the opinion that with all the material at his disposal, the coach has failed to show results. They insist that there are better men who should be considered for this post. Uppe:most in their minds is former All Ceylon and ace dribbler P. D. Sirisena. Anyway, we leave that to the authorities.

In the events held earlier in the day to mark the opening Sri Lanka Athletic Club won a double winning the Men's and Women's races while in the cycling event P. A. Ranjini won the women's event and Prabath de Silva of the Winged Wheel Cycling Club the men's event. All in all it was a colourful opening which will live long in the memory of all those who were lucky to obtain tickets and be there. Several thousands had to be turned back owing to lack of accomodation. The security right round the ground was in the capable hands of former D. I. G. A. C. Lawrence and he did a grand job. Congratulations!

ALLROUNDER

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SPORTS CHRONICLE

September 5 - 11

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5: Unfashionable Notts county's brief reign as English First Division top dogs came to an end yesterday when they lost 2-0 at home to Ipswich; the new leaders are West Ham who after three games of the season are the only side in the Division to boast a 100 percent record; they beat troubled neighbours Tottenham 2-0 away. Promising junior players Greg Holms of the United States and Pascale Paradis of France scored stunning upsets in the Third Round of the United States Open Tennis championships in New York yesterday; the 20 year old Holms, winner this year of the National Collegiate, Panamerican Games and World University Games Championships ran Sixth-seeded Guillermo Vilas of Argentina right off the National Tennis Center Stadium court with an aggressive 6-2, 6-2 6-3 victory. Vic Marks discharged by England after the First Test against New Zealand, played a key role in Somerset's 24-run win over Kent in the Final of the Nat-west Trophy at Lord's yesterday; asked to score 194 for victory, in a match reduced by the autumnal weather to 50 overs a side, Kent were teaming along at 60 for one in the 22nd over; the Marks the least recognized of Somerset's four Test stars grabbed three wickets in 17 balls.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6: Getambe MV Kandy, beat Senkadagala MV by 43 runs in their under-16

Senkadagala inter-school softball cricket tournament match played at Children's Park grounds Kandy; the tournament is confined to one innings: Getambe MV 104 and Senkadagala MV 61. In another match of the same tournament (over 16) Senkadagala MV beat Peradeniya MV by 25 runs at Children's Park grounds, Kandy: Senkadagala MV 43 and Peradeniya MV 18. In the under-13 tournament St. Paul's College, Kandy defeated Gatambe MV by 7 wickets on the first innings: Gatambe MV 1st innings 56 and St. Paul's Collge 57 for 3 wickets. Australia II beat Britain's victory '83 by two minutes and 20 seconds to take a 3-1 lead at Newport, Rhode yesterday in the best of seven series to find a challenger for the America's Cup. Fayer Jan (King's Q. Assoc) fought out a five-frame battle with M. A. I. Elliyaas (YMBA Colombo) before winning his first round match the Lanka Plate Snooker tournament at the YMBA tables, Borella.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: K. Karunadasa (Ceylon Brewery SC) caused the first major upset in the Lanka Plate Snooker tournament at the YMBA tables Borella when he defeated bottom seed M. J. M. Mansoor (SSC) in five closely fought frames; Karunadasa won 55-50, 30-61, 63-27, 26-53, 59-52 to qualify for the Round Robin stage. English county championship chasers Essex contrived to lose eight wickets while adding only 46 runs to go under to Hampshire by 10 runs in the second round of the ASDA Challenge match at Scarborough yesterday; Hampshire will now meet Lancashire conquerors of Yorkshire in the final. Bill Scanno a blithe-spirited Texan who has never lived up to his potential stunned top seeded John McEnroe with a dazzling array of passing shots and telling volleys yesterday to earn an unexpected place in the Quarter-Finals of the US Open Tennis Championships; the 27-year old Scanlon, ranked 17th in the World, raised his solid all round game to its highest level to eliminate McEnroe 7-6, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 before a near capacity crowd of about 18,000 in the Main Stadium Court in New York.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8: Sussex Sports Club, Kandy defeated Eleven Captains Sports Club, Tennekumbura by 59 runs in their Kandy District Inter-Club Softball Cricket Tournament match played at Ampitiya College Grounds: Sussex SC 1st Innings 60 and Eleven Captains SC 1st Innings 34. Dongolla Maha Vidyalaya, Kandy, scored a close 1-0 win over Thaksala Vidyalaya, Kandy in the school's Sports Ministry Shield (under 15) soccer tournament match played at Kandy recently. Lancassnre beat Hampshire by five wickets in the ASDA Challenge Cricket Final of 50 overs in Scarborough; Hampshire 245 for 7 innings closed and Lancashire 245 for five innings closed. Martina Navatoliva, the Top Seed continued her swift demolition of opponents in the US Open Tennis Championships when she allowed Seventh

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

Seeded Sylvia Hanika only three games in their match yesterday; her 6-0, 6-3 victory over the West German lifted her into the Semi Final Round where she will meet her Doubles partner Pam Shriver the Fifth Seed.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: Night Cricket made its debut in India when at the floodlit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Rest of India beat Bombay by six wickets with 1.5 overs to spare to win the One-day Limited Overs India Wills Trophy in New Delhi last night; play was limited to 55 overs each owing to rain and then a dust storm. Veteran Ashok Mankad made 83 in 103 balls with the help of seven fours and Ravi Shastri made 50 in 62 balls four fours. Like familiar guests at an exclusive party defending Champions Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert-Lloyd reached the Semi Finals of the United States Open Tennis Championships once again with proficient straight sets victories in New York yesterday; the third seeded Connors, a Four time champion rolled over his compatriot and Number 14 Seed Eliot Tetscher 7-6, 6-2, 6-2 before a National Tennis Centre crowd of over 19,000; this will be Connor's Tenth consecutive semi-final appearance.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: Unbeaten Isipatana MV led by left-arm spinner Ruwan Wickremasinghe, meet Dharmaraja College, Kandy in the final of the under 15 (Division II) Tournament at Police grounds, Asgiriya; beat Zahira by an innings and 26 runs at Maradana; Zahira 94 and Isipatana 197 for 3 declared. Beat Dharmapala, Kottawa in the first innings at Pannipitiya: Dharmapala 127 and Isipatana 202 for 7 declared: Beat Sri Sumangala on the first innings at Panadura, Sri Sumangala 121 for 7 in 62 overs and Isipatana 153 for 8 in 52 overs: Beat S. Thomas Prep on the first innings at Health Grounds; S. Thomas Prep: 110 in 46.2 overs and Isipatana 166 in 64 overs: Beat Dharmasoka, Ambalangoda on the first innings at Reid Avenue; Isipatana 149 for 7 in 55 overs and Dharmasoka 115 in 50.4 overs; Beat Royal on the first innings at Reid Avenue: Royal 88 in 41.3 overs and Isipatana 92 for 7 in 46 overs. Twenty five year old Nalaka Perera made a winning debut by taking the All Island Lanka Plate Snooker Championships at the Borella YMBA tables on Thursday he beat hot favourite H. A. Premaratne 54-47, 57-10, 32-53, 66-48, 46-57, 82-19.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: St. Anthony's College Kandy were 117 for 7 at close in the final of the schools under-17 division cricket tournament against Wesley played at Katugastota yesterday; the match will be continued at 10 a.m. today. Dharmarajah had scored 61 for 7 wickets at the end of the first days play in Sri Lanka Schools under 15 division 2 final match against Isipatana MV which began on the Police Grounds, Kandy yesterday; only 90 minutes of play was possible due to the bad weather.

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

game will be continued today. Singer Industries defeated United Electricals by 148 runs in the limited over F Division Mercantile cricket tournament game played on the railway grounds yesterday: Singers 222 for 6 in 30 overs and United Electricals 74 for 9 in 30 overs. Mahamaya Girls School, Kandy and Sri Rahula College, Katugastota figured in a scoreless draw in their Kandy Schools under 19 hockey tournament match played at Campus Grounds, Polgolla recently. The Sri Lanka Police swept the Board by winning five trophies including the Outstanding Cricketer of the year trophy being awarded to G. S. Ratnayake at the Prize distribution of the Sri Lanka State Service Cricket Tournament 1982/83 held at the Police Park Bambalapitiya last Friday.

Govt



Notice

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

Reference No. ATH 19/6

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 261/20 of 09.09.83

SCHEDULE

<i>D. R. O's Division</i>	: Kaduwela.
<i>Situation</i>	: — — — —
<i>Village</i>	: Talangama North.
<i>Name of Land</i>	: Menikagara Dawatagahawatta.
<i>Lot No.</i>	: 1 & 2
<i>Plan No. P.P. Co.</i>	: 5786

H. C. Gunewardena,
District Land Officer &
Acquiring Officer of
Colombo District.

The Kachcheri,
Colombo.
Date :- 7. 9. 1983.
EJP/19/11

CONFIDENTIALLY

Coloured Doctors in The U. K.

IS IT NOT TRUE that a very large number, especially the more affluent and also middle class persons with relations abroad, want to leave the island because of what happened in the Black Week of July? That in this connection a despatch from Batuk Gathani, *Madras Hindu's* correspondent in London, entitled "Indian Doctors In UK feel Insecure" (vide, *The Hindu*, September 7, 1983) makes interesting reading? That this is what he said: "An average British overseas doctor is coloured, doing jobs his white colleagues shun and is often socially portrayed as a figure of ridicule. The 'coloured' doctors are by no means cream of the profession in their own countries. In most cases — as one coloured doctor put it — they are the 'desperadoes' of the profession out to make a fast buck with the added glamour of 'foreign' experience. In the National Health Service they are confined to the middle and lower ranks of designation and most private practitioners are in areas with heavy concentration of coloured population. There is growing emotional and professional frustration among the doctors on both sides of Britain's dividing colour fence. Cases of non-professional conduct or criminal acts like abetting drug trafficking are reported by the British media when coloured doctors are involved. And now with 5,000 doctors unemployed, the British Premier Mrs. Thatcher is determined to "do something" to curb or even reduce the growing number of coloured doctors in the National Health Service. The British Medical Association (BMA) at its annual meeting in June passed a resolution calling for control on the number of overseas doctors entering Britain and on the length of time they stay etc. The BMA now wants the resolution implemented and fears that there will be unemployment among doctors caused by the prospects of 'no growth' in the National Health Service. It is realised that the expansion of the National Health Service in 1960s and 1970s had brought a large number of overseas doctors to Britain and many of them had come from India". *That thought Batuk Gathani is concerned only about doctors from India, the same would apply to the coloured doctors from Sri Lanka also?*

THAT THE DESPATCH goes on to say that: "Nearly a third of the doctors now working for the National Health Service were born overseas. A majority of them are doing the least popular jobs in less attractive British hospitals. Some of the doctors who came to Britain for the so-called special post-graduate training make modest headway and complain of bitter racial discrimination. Many of them experience the nagging feeling of guilt on realisation that medical services in their own countries were desperately in need of trained personnel. And yet they feel 'hooked' on a desire to live and work in Britain often under

socially humiliating circumstances. The authorities say that the overseas doctors tend to 'compete less well' for senior jobs and when other things are equal, it is preferable to appoint a doctor with the same cultural background as the bulk of the patients. And yet many overseas doctors work in the psychiatry and geriatrics specialities where it is probably most important for a doctor to have a cultural proximity with the patients. 'Coloured' doctors are seen more in these wards because 'white' doctors do not want these jobs. The BMA is now urging the Thatcher Government to control the intake of overseas doctors, while continuing to offer post-graduate training, which may benefit the less developed Commonwealth countries. Suggestions are being made to the effect that the intake of postgraduate trainees would be limited. Once the training is over they should return home unless they have special reasons to stay on."

BATUK GATHANI ALSO MAKES A FEW PERTINENT SUGGESTIONS? "Indian Observers here feel that all Indian doctors coming here for special post-graduate training should be thoroughly screened by the Indian Medical Council. Only in highly specialised areas there may be need for any special training, since facilities in India for PG work in most branches of medicine have vastly improved. The 'snob appeal' of foreign qualification, in the opinion of some medical observers, has done more harm than good to the Indian medical profession. The British medical institutions are not by far the best in the world if one compares them with the latest developments in the US, Japan and some European countries. The Overseas Doctors Association in the UK which represents 20,000 non-British doctors — half from Indian and Pakistan — feels that 90 percent of its members should go home after proper training but dearth of training and financial considerations force them to stay on. The Association seems resigned to the new controls and the growing spectre of racism in the profession. Self-respecting coloured doctors are making plans to go home with a genuine desire to serve their own communities. More extrovert types will put up with any humiliating conditions under the pretext of feeling wanted are respected. The British authorities who used them for a purpose now argue that unless something is done there may be 30,000 unemployed doctors in the UK by the end of the century. "That this is one aspect of the question of emigrating to the UK that is often overlooked? That what is true for doctors applies to all grades of coloured skilled and qualified manpower? That there is no doubt that racism and racial prejudice are not only rampant in the U.K. but it has become chronic and endemic? That comparatively high wages (compared to the under-developed Third World countries they come from) and the amenities and facilities that an advanced industrialised country gives, - coupled with lower wages and primitive conditions "back home" — makes the emigres stomach racism, mugging and worse?"

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

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