

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol. 27 — No 50

October 1, 1983

Rs. 4.00

- ★ SQUARE ONE
- ★ CLD'S WAY OUT
- ★ 28 YEARS AGO
- ★ DEBT - BOMB
- ★ RICE RESEARCH
- ★ OLD PETTAH
- ★ COLOUR - LINE



TENDER NOTICE

Govt



Notice

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

Tenders for construction of Six Classroom Blocks (Balance Work) at Rambaikulam Girls Maha Vidyalaya at Vavunia will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Superintending Engineer's Office, Jaffna, Department of Buildings, up to 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 12. 10. 83.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Vavuniya, before 4.15 p.m. on 07.10.83 by registered Contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 200,000/- 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, 1983.09.23.
GUNE/

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. 3/2/5/6/88/81

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. 262/3 of 13.09.83

SCHEDULE

<i>A. G. A's Division</i>	:	Wattala.
<i>Village</i>	:	Wattala.
<i>Situation</i>	:	Ward No. 2 Wattala North within Wattala Urban council limits.
<i>Name of Land</i>	:	Gorokgahawatta Assmt. No, 367 Negombo Road
<i>Lot No.</i>	:	1
<i>Plan No. P.P. Co.</i>	:	428

A. L. S. Malwenna
District Land Officer of
Gampaha District.

The Kachcheri,
Gampaha.
Date :- 1983. 09. 07.

TRIBUNE

A Journal of Ceylon and
World Affairs

Founded in 1954
Every Saturday

Editor: S.P. Amarasingam
Vol.27 No.50

October, 1, 1983
43, Dawson Street,
Colombo 2.
Tel: 33172

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE PICTURE ON THE COVER is a flashback to the heady days of the fifth anniversary of the Village Reawakening Movement celebrated at Nikaweratiya at the end of June this year. But the euphoria generated by the Gam Udawa Movement was not able to prevent the grim events of the black week of July. It must be said however, that the rural areas, overwhelmingly Sinhala, were singularly free of any ethnic disturbances. It can be argued that there were very few Tamils in these areas, but neutral observers have testified to the fact that ethnic sentiments did not manifest themselves among rural folk. There is no doubt that ethnic violence in the 1983 disturbances was mainly in the urban and semi-urban areas. How much the Village Reawakening Movement and the Model Villages projects, with a promise of million houses in the next five years, had to do with it is hard to say. But the peasant masses of the countryside have benefitted a great deal from Government's colonisation schemes, the new lands being settled under the Mahaweli, Gam Udawa Movement and the accentuated impetus now being given to agriculture. There are still snarls and snags that stem from inadequate arrangements for marketing produce, but they are, at the moment, not on a scale that can arouse social unrest or provoke a peasant revolt. Moreover though there may be under-employment and malnutrition among villagers, they do not suffer the kind of maladies that presently afflict urban and city dwellers. The open economy based on a drastic devaluation of the Sri Lanka rupee, the liberalised imports and exports, the flesh-pot attractions of the hotel and tourist industry, the flourishing smuggling mafias, the unlimited black money market and the generous tax holidays, have created a small but opulent plutocracy of multi-millionaires whose five-star exhibitionist affluence has made them anathema to the have-nots in the cities, towns and the semi-urban areas. Whilst this nouveau riche flaunted their wealth and gadgetry in the most atrocious fashion the poor in these areas have steadily become poorer. Even the employment are today unable to make both ends meet. The cost of living on the basis of a currency that was being steadily devalued has made life a nightmare even to a householder with a family income of over a thousand rupees a month. It is true that many breadwinners have been able to keep their heads above water on remittances received from abroad, but the vast majority of urban dwellers, especially those crowded in shanty-town ghettos, have no such expatriate support to cushion the devastating impact of a cost of living that has risen so high that it threatens to split the heavens itself. Since 1977 the real value of the rupee has dropped by nearly one hundred percent and though nominal wages have been artificially pushed up a little the ordinary man simply hasn't the money to buy even the barest essentials. Platitudinous speeches about the virtue of the open economy and of the absence of queues have no meaning for the man who is unable to cope with the increase in prices with the devalued money in his hands. People are tired of hearing families about the absence of queues. Many people have begun to yearn for a rationing system for essential items at prices they can afford. Devalued currency in the contest of spiralling prices has made a mockery of consumerism for the vast majority. To make matters worse the advertisements in the printed and electronic media are such that they only add fuel to the simmering fire of discontent. Only the very rich or those with expatriate support can buy the milk foods, TVs sets, floor polishers, jewellery and the other goods advertised. Some beg, borrow or steal to get these nice things. Such imbalances induce social unrest. Many of the occurrences of the black week can be traced to the dangerous feelings aroused by the opulence and the showy consumerism of a small parvenu elite.

Back to Square One

Colombo, September 27

Tribune has been at pains to point out that the "every - thing - is - already - back - to - normal" wallahs are no better than ostriches which believe that any danger threatening them would vanish if they buried their heads in the sand. These ostrich-like propagandists in Sri Lanka do not seem to have learnt the lessons that ostriches elsewhere have learnt. In their anxiety to attract tourists, they seem to forget that the political, social and economic problems which had given rise to the July disturbances are still unresolved. They also do not seem to realise that the law, order and security situation is still not what it should be. What this country today needs more than tourists is national amity. A plethora of arrogant speeches on a take-it-or-leave basis about one's capacity to solve problems by unilateral *diktat* is doing more harm than good.

THE FACT IS THAT the country is once again back to square one. To illustrate our point we cannot do better than cite three editorials, from the *Sun*, *The Island* and the *Daily News*. They speak for themselves. All three are on the Batticoloa Jail Break. The *Sun* on September 26 in an editorial entitled FIASCO IN BATTICOLOA stated: "The nation and the policy makers themselves are naturally stupefied over the jail fiasco in Batticoloa in which more than two hundred prisoners among them most wanted terrorist suspects made a daring escape to freedom. We learn that it took just a few minutes for all the prisoners to come out of this maximum security jail and without any resistance from those who were supposed to guard them. The entire incident leaves much to be desired from the relevant authorities. There is a multitude of questions that need urgent answers. Whoever was responsible for the bungling must face deterrent consequences. There can be no excuses. If a set of desperados could stealthily penetrate the stone walls and iron bars of this prison as if it were just a house of cards then something was radically wrong either with the building or with those who guarded it. The mere fact that the prison was made to detain over twenty high priority terrorist suspects transferred there from Welikada for better security certainly warranted maximum protection from within and outside the prison walls. According to a report in the *Weekend*, certain bureaucrats had failed to respond to advice given about the security loopholes that Batticoloa provided to these important detainees. Two months ago at the height of ethnic conflict the prisons in Colombo came under public criticism following the shameless riots in which more than fifty detainees were brutally murdered. The authorities are still trying to find out what really

went wrong with the security systems. And now comes another shocking episode. The government cannot afford to let it pass without immediate action taken against those responsible. Conducting nationwide manhunts, offering fat rewards and intensifying security chardean are important. So is disciplinary action against those who failed or faltered in their duty. At least it will be a lesson for others. Meanwhile, we urge the government to investigate every bit of evidence about the heist. There may have been 'insiders' helping the terrorist. Or did they have alien links especially in making a speedy getaway probably using sophisticated boats. The jailbreak should not be viewed singularly through a security perspective. One cannot overlook the very political significance. It is possible that the Eelamist terrorists, who were rather silent for several weeks, wanted to make a formidable show of strength to the law enforcers as well as boost the faltering morale among their own feuding cadres. These are typical tactics resorted by terror-international."

The Island also of September 26, in an editorial entitled THE BATTICOLOA JAIL BREAK stated: "By a curious irony the very day that the Government decided to release the four detainees belonging to the Sri Lanka Communist Party, 168 prisoners, among whom were 44 political detainees held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, broke jail in Batticoloa posing yet another challenge to law and order in the country. *The Island* is fully aware that the issue is a sensitive one at a time of tension in the country and whatever comments we make will be tempered by that knowledge and sense of responsibility. What is involved is nothing less than the security of the country and its people and the very continuance of the way of life which we have cherished as a people and this newspaper will never lose sight of this fact. The last two months have been characterised by some unusual episodes in prison history. The fog-end of July saw two consecutive prison riots at the Welikada jail which left 54 prisoners dead. That will remain a stain on Sri Lanka's reputation; even given the special circumstances in which these riots took place, and the country must face up to this fact. Now we have this instance of a number as large as 168 making a successful bid to freedom in circumstances which have thrown grave doubts on the possibility of apprehending them. Those who do not learn by their mistakes are condemned to repeat them and the best victim of such monumental errors is Sri Lanka itself. Repeatedly in the past we have devoted these columns to stressing the importance of proper security whether it is on board trains or at work places such as the Kankasanturai cement factory which has been the target of two raids in recent times. The results of failure are not always so expensive or flagrant as the Batticoloa jail break but this latest instance of official ineptness should at least jolt the Government at its highest levels

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into a re-examination of the entire civil security strategy in the country. From reports, it appears that Batticoloa was thoroughly unsuited to house political prisoners of the kind who were kept there. The prison itself is old and knowing the security methods adopted in prisons one does not need any special expertise to say that they would have been rudimentary. There is evidence that implements needed to saw off the iron bars had been available to prisoners and that this internal drive had gone hand in hand with a planned attack from outside which created the climate of instability needed for the prisoners to get away. We do not propose at this stage to conduct a detailed post mortem into the episode for that would be futile. What is necessary at this juncture is for the authorities to realise the paramount importance of security in all areas of national life in the context of the threat to law and order which has become the central reality of our times. Incipient challenges to law and order have to be nipped in the bud not only as part of the offensive on northern terrorism but also in a conscious effort to minimise all possibilities of a resurgence of communal tension in the country. Destructive or anarchist politics cannot achieve anything at this tie in the country's history. It will only aggravate feelings which now appear to be dying down. While all elements upholding violent methods of political action must realise that it is the Government's duty to streamline and reinforce security on all fronts in a calculated effort to face up to the challenge of terrorism. The running of the country's prisons has remained firmly embedded in a groove while enormous advances in penology have been made elsewhere in the world. It looks as if we are not running prisons (particularly those housing the more explosive political prisoners) but playing at being jail guards. A radical overhaul of prison security is needed if such debacles are to be avoided in the future but meanwhile this sorry episode should inject a new urgency into the task of reviewing afresh the country's security strategy, a task which can longer be postponed."

The *Daily News* of September 27 in its editorial entitled THE BATTICOLOA JAILBREAK stated: "The exact details of the great escape from the Batticoloa prison have not yet been published; but we carried the news yesterday that there was no truth in earlier reports that a gang of terrorists had broken into the jail and flung its doors open for the 'tiger detainees' and other prisoners to escape. However, the fact that such a jailbreak was possible, even though it was a break-out rather than a break-in, is a cause for great concern. The security was clearly not good enough, and there appears to have been a sense of complacency which has now been shaken after the events of Friday night. The Welikade riots were ghastly enough and the fact that there were two massacres hard on the heels of each other will surely be a blot on the history of penology in this

country. Nobody will dispute the good sense of moving those terrorists suspects—who were spared the carnage at Welikade—to the safer environs of the 100 year old Batticoloa prison. It is the responsibility of the State to provide for the safety of prisoners it is holding in custody; and the official view was that Batticoloa was the best of the available jails for this purpose. It is now all too clear that the best was just not good enough. Along with the transfer of the prisoners, other necessary steps—such as strengthening the guards, arming them adequately and securing the environs of the jail to ensure there was no attack from outside—had proved woefully inadequate. The Security authorities know very well that the northern terrorists are armed, trained and determined men. Their morale has taken a beating in recent months, and the Batticoloa escape may well have been planned to cheer flagging spirits as much as to get the detainees out of jail. At least some of the detainees did not share the views of those who planned and executed the jailbreak—and opted to remain where they were. From the information available up to now only the ordinary remand prisoners and a few convicts have either surrendered or been taken into custody. As many as 37 of the tiger detainees who got away have vanished from sight. There has been a land, sea and air search for these men whom the authorities believe may have got off to India or perhaps to Jaffna by sea. Darkness was on their side on Friday night, and the many fishing boats in the off-shore area provided useful cover. Some of the worrying questions that arise now include: Were arms smuggled into the jail? Have there been hacksaws and other cutting implements that have been used? How intensively were visitors checked? These are all germane to the inquiry now proceeding. It must be admitted that the prisons administration lacks the accommodation, men and funds to meet the very heavy demands that have been imposed on them. Holding thousands of suspected looters from the July incidents have added to their problems. The Government recently approved the building of a maximum security prison at Homagama. A new jail is also to be built in Kalutara and another in Ratnapura, where the land is available but not the money to build. Obviously, some serious thought on coping with the problem, in the context of the exigencies and the available resources, is necessary. We have no doubt that the relevant authorities are alive to this and are doing what needs to be done."

There is a great deal to be done to see that security, law and order in Sri Lanka is once again what it should be. Until then let us stop cackling about "normalcy". Instead of touting for tourists from abroad let us all get together and set our house in order.

x x x

Statement on National Unity

THE COUNCIL FOR LIBERAL DEMOCRACY (CLD) wishes to express its deep concern and regret at the recent tragic events that have occurred in this country. The CLD deplores the barbarism and inhumanity which resulted in several Sri Lankan Tamils experiencing intense suffering and hardship; and extends its deepest sympathy to all those who suffered as a result. The CLD notes with deep concern the fact that the Government was unable to fulfil its primary responsibility that of maintaining law and order, thereby losing the confidence of several peace-loving citizens of this country. The situation was such that even the Hon. S. Thondaman who is a cabinet minister has stated in Parliament that "In a unitary state there must be protection. The government must give protection. It has completely failed this time... we have suffered in 1977, 79, 81, 83...." *This calamity was caused by the failure of successive governments since Independence to solve this problem and by political opportunism and lack of state-manship on the part of political leaders when in opposition.* As stated in "A Statement on National Unity" issued by the Council for Liberal Democracy in 1981: "We urge immediate action because history has taught us that delay and inaction have only exacerbated the problem". One wonders whether the problem could be worse than it is today. The Council notes that after six years in office, whatever liberal measures introduced to alleviate the hardships facing the Tamil citizens have been inadequate.

ALTHOUGH THE CLD has opposed the government on several issues, most notably in its various and numerous machinations to devalue parliamentary democracy in Sri Lanka, it wishes to extend its support to His Excellency the President in his efforts to achieve a long term solution to this vexed problem. He has the power sagacity and stature to do this, though it is most regrettable that this was not done earlier. It is now obvious that the admirable strides made to improve the economy of Sri Lanka will be of no avail, until this crucial issue is resolved.

1. The Council therefore calls upon the government to even now fulfil the promise in its 1977 General Election manifesto—to *summon an All-Party Round table Conference without any pre-conditions.* The CLD feels strongly that the main Opposition leader, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, should actively participate at such a conference as this would facilitate an effective and practicable solution to the problem. The restoration of Mrs. Bandaranaike's civic rights would therefore be a most constructive development at this stage.

4

2. *To adopt a tolerant approach to the TULF in sympathising with a party that is trapped in the dilemmas of their own making and agreeing to begin negotiations for a modus vivendi in a united Sri Lanka—without insistence on categorical positions.*

3. Since a pattern has been seen in the recent violence, the Council feels that *it is imperative that an independent Commission of Inquiry constituting, five persons of eminence, including three former Supreme Court judges of the three major communities be appointed in order to find out who was responsible,* so that these persons or groups could be prosecuted in a court of law. The full force of the law should be used and those found guilty should be severely punished so that this will have a deterrent effect for the future. On conclusion of its inquiries, the members of the abovementioned Commission should be appointed to a "Commission for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination", to which representation for redress could be made by any person or organisation that considers himself or itself to have been racially discriminated against. This commission could also be empowered to make recommendations regarding the compensation payable to the victims of racial riots with retrospective effect as well.

THE COUNCIL NOTES with deep concern the development of "mobrule" and "mobocracy" and calls upon the government to deal severely with all forms of thuggery and intimidation which reached new heights during the Referendum and since then was illustrated by the demonstrations in front of the residences of Supreme Court Judges. The Council expresses its regret that to date no effective steps have been taken to look into this matter and punish those responsible.

4. *The Council repeats its request made in 1981 that the government (a) make Sinhala, Tamil and English the co-official languages for all purposes throughout the island. The present policy allowing for the use of Tamil in the Northern and Eastern Provinces is counter-productive because it is thereby implied that it is only in these areas that Tamil citizens enjoy equal rights with the Sinhalese. National unity implies that all citizens of Sri Lanka irrespective of race, language or creed, live free from discrimination, in all parts of the island. The Council is aware of some of the cogent arguments put forward against the re-emphasis on English, but feels that the merits far outweigh the demerits, especially as a long term aid to reconciliation between the Communities. A comprehensive and concentrated effort to teach English especially in the rural areas should be carried out immediately with assistance from various foreign governments and international institutions, so that the knowledge of English as not restricted to a small elite; (b) ensures that educational institutions and*

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classes within them are not based on race and language and that as far as possible, students of different communities in the secondary schools follow classes together; (c) makes the medium of education at least at the Advanced Level and University level optional; (d) the gradual reopening of all universities to all communities; (e) strengthen the powers of the District Development Councils by granting them further autonomy, by permitting them inter alia to spend a uniform block grant voted by Parliament as they wish. Furthermore, Members of Parliament should be prohibited from being District Ministers and the leadership of the majority party in the DDC and the position of District Ministers should be unified by law.

5. *The Council urges the government to take effective measures to prevent its members from making statements or indulging in activities that may jeopardise racial amity and to expel all Ministers, MPs and party members who are proved to have incited racial violence or participated in the recent disturbances.*

6. *The CLD also calls for the amendment of the Prevention of Terrorism Act with the expunging of certain provisions which violate the Rule of Law and International norms of justice and human rights. Once the obnoxious provisions of the PTA are amended we suggest that the government announce the declaration of an amnesty for all persons who were involved in terrorist activity, on condition that the terrorists lay down their arms and no acts of terrorism occur for a period of six months. These activities occurred under special circumstances, partly as a result of years of unchecked indoctrination and the breakdown of normal law and order in the country. Such a step would pave the way for the elements involved in these acts to enter the mainstream of life in the country. However, very severe punishments should be meted out in the case of future offences. Thereafter, the CID suggests a piecemeal withdrawal of the armed forces from Jaffna, throughout a period of 12 months.*

7. *A reasonable grace period should be given to the northern politicians to take the oath of anti-separatism.*

8. *The CLD also urges the government to establish a President's Fund for the furtherance of Racial Harmony—contribution to which could be tax free which could finance and foster cultural, religious, educational and other social activities and which would encourage greater multi-religious participation wherever possible.*

9. *The CLD urges the TULF and all other Sri Lankan Tamils who wish to live as equal citizens in a liberal democratic Sri Lanka: (a) to abandon*

the demand for a separate state; (b) to unequivocally dissociate itself from and condemn all extremist and Marxist groups indulging in terrorist activities; (c) to actively assist the government in countering anti-national propaganda abroad.

The time is now; the time for understanding, tolerance, mutual concessions, statesmanship and vision. Delay can only cause more bloodshed, hatred and perhaps the end of a democratic and peaceful Sri Lanka.

J. Asitha Perera
Joint Secretary

* * *

TWENTY EIGHT YEARS AGO

Down the Mahaweli - 2

By 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 the article in its issue of December 1980 (Vol. XV, No. 4) with the sub-headings "From The Pages of the Past—Twenty Five Years Ago" Now twenty-eight 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.

OUR FIRST NIGHT'S CAMPING GROUND was on a wide sand-spit about a mile from Kattuwanvillip village and only eight miles below Manampitiya bridge even though constant criss-crossing of the river made it seem that we had covered a much greater distance. Soon after we landed, Aliyar Lebbe, the twenty-year-old headman of the village made his appearance and assured us of his desire to be of service. Even though these river villages are all Moslems and as such despise "pandi" he said he would be willing to show us where the wild pigs were. Across the river from our camping ground, the jungle in the shape of huge Kumbuk trees overhangs some ancient rocks. One of these rocks in the famous "Anakuti" or carved head of a baby elephant, which rises from the river in a position so life-like that one could almost take it for a young elephant drinking. No one knows how it got there

or when it was carved but Paul, after a careful study, thought that it dated from the 4th century of our era. Before the carved head the river forms a deep whirling pool about which the villagers seemed to hold some superstitious belief. It was not till later when we were all in, swimming, that the Moorish captain came running down to the bank and yelled at us to stay in the shallow water. Chandra translated that there were crocodiles in that stretch of the river and a particularly big one was said to infest the pool before the elephant's head (We have since been informed that treasure hunters have dynamited this rock carving—ED.) The truth of this claim was made crystal clear that evening. In the glare of powerful flashlight we made out the baleful eyes of a huge crocodile lying on the bank just above the pool. Further examination revealed other sets of eyes on the same bank. The headman said that many of these crocodiles spent the day hidden in the jungle in order to avoid hunters and then crawled down to the river at night to feed. He added that twenty of the village's best cattle had been eaten by these monsters during the past year and only last week four were taken in one evening. As the average brahman bull weighs at least five hundred pounds, it takes considerable strength on the part of the saurian to handle it. The crocodiles wait nearly submerged near the banks and seize the cattle by their noses when they are drinking.

IN THE COOL OF THE EVENING Paul and I took our rifles and followed a villager to the haunts of the pig. He took us first along the bank of the river where we examined the ingenious device by which water is drawn up to irrigate the tobacco fields. A leather sack with a cornucopia type of bottom is lowered to the river by a rope which is attached to a pair of bullocks. The sack fills with water and as it is drawn up another rope tightens on the narrow bottom and close it. Then when the water is raised to the requisite level the rope governing the narrow end is released and the water pours from it into the irrigation sluice. He then led us to a vast "vilu", or dried up swamp area, where we found numerous tracks of elephants and many clumps of dung. After examining this Paul said that it contained virtually no bark and consisted mainly of grass. These elephants, he thought, were undoubtedly the swamp variety which we were seeking.

After a good dinner of soup, casserole and peaches we sat in the moonlight and talked of the jungle and its superstitions. Christie who says he does not believe (in charms) still wears a pendant of "the nine precious stones", a charm said to be proof against anything from charging elephants to old age. Paul told us that the pig was not only taboo to the Moslems but since it, along with the peafowl was supposed to be the carrier of some of the minor Hindu Gods, it was considered very bad luck to shoot it in many sections of Ceylon. This taboo was espe-

cially strong in the extreme south where the powerful Hindu God, Kataragama, holds sway. Paul also told us that the rock formations of Ceylon are among the oldest in the world. Most of the rocks of Europe and America have been ground up frequently by various agencies such as ice, water etc. while the rocks of Ceylon have not suffered these changes and are the same formations that perhaps existed at the time the earth cooled. The night wind blew its cooling breeze down the river and drove the mosquitoes from the sand spit. Nevertheless we slept under nets, and except for the occasional sharp sting of the black ants were not bothered by insects. No leaches or ticks were apparent even though all of us made long treks into the surrounding jungles. There is a good deal of malaria in the river villages but strict instructions had been issued about panadirin and everyone had begun these precautions at least a week in advance.

THE SECOND DAY'S START was late, eight-thirty, and the old Moor shook his head and said we had to cover a lot of river before we arrived at our next camping ground. It had evidently rained during the night for the river was deeper and faster. We passed families of monkeys, the *Macaquas*, the red monkeys who do so much damage to the farmers' crops. As we paddled further north east the plantations became fewer and by the middle of the second morning we were passing through long stretches of virgin jungle. More birds were seen; turquoise blue *Indian Rollers*, lazy *White Egrets*, *White-Bellied Sea Eagles* and flocks of yellow and green and orange breasted *Green Pigeons*. The Moorish crew were interesting types with facial characteristics very different from the Sinhalese and Tamils. These Moors are said to be descendants of the Moplahs of South India who migrated to Ceylon many years ago and have preserved many of their institutions including their religion. Their trousers over which they wear a sarong are full in the crotch and they have no fly. What relation this has to the Prophet's allowance of four wives is anyone's guess. They are very clannish and give their headmen a good deal of respect. Their women are not veiled, but invariably cover their faces when they see strangers. The canoes are made from giant mango logs. They are hollowed out with an iron adze and take about three months to make. They are worth 600 rupees and our captain owns five, making him a rich and respected man in his community. The launching is an elaborate ceremony. Everyone in the village comes; the priest or "Lebbe" cuts the throat of a goat and there is a feast. The canoes are used mainly for fishing in the ocean. Without the aid of outriggers they are paddled or sailed out of sight of land.

Perched on a dead tree was a *Hawk-Eagle*, one of the contenders for the dubious honour of being the Devil Bird, the dreaded bird of ill omen whose cry

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the villagers believe will announce death. Dr. R. L. Spittel, the historian of the Veddahs has spent a lot of time in this area and believes that the *Hawk-Eagle* makes this terrible cry. He describes it as the scream of a woman being murdered. W. W. A. Phillips, the ornithologist, however, is sure that the Devil bird is the *Forest Eagle Owl* and has documented his theories with a considerable array of facts.

We continued to pass deserted chena clearings but the jungle pressed close on them and as we rounded a bend we came on a huge elephant slide, the place where the herds descend the steep bank to drink and bathe. It was near there that the photographer was killed. Shortly after noon we reached a jungle shaded Island where we intended to camp for the second night. Instead of stopping for lunch and having the chore of unloading for the noon siesta, it was decided to do the full day's run during the morning and then make permanent camp for the afternoon and night. Shortly after we landed it started to rain and it came down for half an hour as only a tropical thunderstorm can. When the rain stopped and we had lunch we made an inspection of the island and saw many signs of elephant. Piles of dung, looking like small hillocks spotted the beach and down at one end of the island were a mass of tracks showing that the place must be a favourite crossing place for the great beasts. Paul was sure that we were now in the country of the swamp elephants and when a villager came with a report that a heard had been seen on the edge of a neighbouring villu we immediately asked him to guide us to them.

to be continued...

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FILM FOCUS

Video Pirates

As parts of this country collapsed economically by the events that shock it in the last week of July 1983, so has partially been paralysed the local film industry and the smooth circulation of films. A brave effort is being made however to lift it from the pit it has fallen into. For reasons best known to the National Film Corporation the circulation of Tamil films has been suspended, but their release soon is anticipated by this column, for it is by the earning from these films does the NFC and the exhibitor survive, financially speaking. With your columnist enforced holiday in the hills, drawing to a close, it wishes to record relevantly that the release of two Tamil films among the three cinemas in Hatton has not created any flutter of unpleasant proportions. The attendance of course is poor, but by and by, the circulation of mixed film fare throughout the country should help in the nor-

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malising processes that are afoot, to bring the various communities under one roof, for common laughter and entertainment, that would remove the scale of suspicion and fear that battered and bruised the minds of all normal peace loving citizens.

And in the uplifting processes one of the major diseases and danger that continues to plague the industry today is Video piracy. This is a Universal phenomenon and this column has focussed much attention on it for many months. How America—the Mecca of the Film Industry—bottled the danger has been projected in this column already and now it wishes to draw attention to how India and UK have declared "War" on the pirates. The Indian *Screen* reports: "The Film Industry today is in the throes of a crisis. The Video Monster has assumed such proportions that the Industry is not only facing an unprecedented crisis, but its very survival is at stake. In order to fight this menace, a very huge amount is needed". In this appeal of the Executive Committee of the Film Federation of India, an earnest request has been made, that all those connected with the Film Industry donate a sum to avert the disaster ahead—the target fixed being at least 25 lakhs. Moving over to UK, the fight against video piracy has assumed more serious proportions. States a report: "In a crackdown on video piracy in Britain, more than a million (£) damages were awarded to leading American Film Companies in the High Court recently against two men for producing and selling pirated and counterfeit video cassettes of films like 'E.T. This is the largest award ever made in a case of video piracy in this country, because both convicted of the offence in London are not in a position to pay. But the award is bound to have a salutary effect on other pirates. Today, London has earned the notorious name, the report state, as the Treasure Island for video and music copyright thieves. It is estimated to cost legitimate film and video industry £ 120 million a year. It is expected that the continuing pressure' backed by a new Government Bill to curb video piracy will help to remove a blatant and widespread criminal activity."

Well then, what is our NFC doing on this sphere to cope with this menace. An exhibitor tells me that a high up in the Corporation, just waved his hands in the air with the remark "well these things happen in this Video Age—it just cannot be helped". Now that this column has presented the preventive action and methods in USA, UK and India, the NFC might as well get cracking down—else it will be presiding over institutions that will become dormant or non-existent, and lead to the closing down of the NFC itself.—

James N. Benedict.

x x x

POEM.

WEEPING SKIES, CHILDREN & CROWS

*Today the sky weeps—
And her tears drench
And cleanse
The asphalt avenue—
Form brown and murky puddles
By the wyside
Where the shanties huddle,
Spilling out naked children,
To play, screeching
In the rain!*

*Today the wind sighs,
And her breath blows,
And swirls,
The leaves from the trees—
Spreads a green lacework
On the brown, earth,
Buffets the crows,
Like wet, black kites
Vying with each other
To scabble, cawing
Beneath the leaves.*

*Children and crows,
Screeching, scabbling,
Reaching for the joy
Of the wind and the rain,
Till steel monsters—
Flashing power on steaming asphalt
Splatter their fun
Into shocked silence,
With cold water
And brown mud,*

*Limousines in the rain,
Carrying their indolent burden,
To their succulent feasts—
Leaving the grey sky,
Weeping - Weeping
For lost innocence.*

Lorraine.

x

x

x

TENDER NOTICE

**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION.
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.**

Tenders for Maintenance and Minor Improvements to Govt. Buildings in Nuwara Eliya District upto 1984.03.31 will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, upto 10.00 a. m. on Wednesday 12.10.1983.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer/Nuwara Eliya before 4.15 p. m. on 07. 10. 83 by registered Contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 600,000/- 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, 1983.09.23
GUNE/

TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 1, 1983

September 12 - 18

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 12: The Government has set up a Widowers and Orphans Pension Fund which would enable even a widower to draw this pension with effect from August 1, 1983; under the earlier scheme only widows and orphans were entitled to this pension under the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund Scheme. The curfew will operate in 14 districts from 1 a.m. to 4 a.m.; the districts are Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Matale, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura, Kegalle, Kandy, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Vavuniya and Mannar. A Soviet pilot related calmly on state television how he carried out orders to shoot down a South Korean plane on board after it intruded into Soviet airspace in the Far East. Finland's airline pilots decided today to boycott flights to Moscow for two months in protest at the Soviet downing of the South Korean airliner 007 last week—*DN*. The Department of Labour has issued a severe warning to all sector organisations not to use the July ethnic disturbances as a cover to cut down on staff—*CDM*. Over sixty petitions reporting misconduct and abuse of power by the police during the recent riots have been received, Police Head-quarters said; these petitions will be investigated by a special committee appointed by I. G. P. Rudra Rajasingham. Even the late onset of the monsoon has brought new hope to the country's water-starved citizens. The first batch of refugees who have been given visas to South India will leave on the Talaimannar bound train at 6.50 p.m. today; these refugees are from the camp at St. Thomas' Preparatory School, Kollupitiya—*SU*. President J. R. Jayewardene should take the advice of Mrs. Gandhi's emissary and drop his intransigent stance that he will not negotiate unless we give up our demand for a separate State, said TULF leader A. Amirthalingum in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation last week. Facilities in a large percentage of Sri Lankan schools fall far short of optimum according to a survey carried out by the Ministry of Education in 1983; for example out of 9,544 government schools throughout the country only 347 schools had GCE A/L science classes,

while 1,334 schools had arts classes—*IS*. Six hundred refugees housed at St. Thomas Preparatory school Colpetty who are of Indian origin will be sent to India; action in this connection is being taken by the office of the Commissioner-General of Essential Services—*VK*.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: The Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka and the National Insurance Corporation have paid Rs. 60 million in claims to riot-affected industries and other who were insured with them up to yesterday. The curfew will operate from 1 a.m. in the 14 districts. There are 15,282 refugees from July's week of violence still in Colombo's welfare centres. President Augusto Pinochet, speaking on the 10th anniversary of the coup that brought him to power, said yesterday the economic crisis and anti-government protests in Chile were temporary difficulties and he warned Chileans against what he called the marxist threat—*DN*. Around 20,000 letters are lying unclaimed at the Central Mail Exchange offices; this mountain of mail addressed to residents of Colombo cannot be cleared since the houses of the addresses have been damaged; of this amount over 5,000 are airmail letters—*CDM*. The Cabinet at its weekly meeting tomorrow will discuss the current impasse over judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal not taking their oaths. An organised theft of weapons from civilians throughout the country by an unidentified group is being probed by the CID. About 9,000 stateless people of Indian origin housed in refugee camps in Colombo have expressed a wish to go to India, the Commissioner-General of Essential Services told a new conference yesterday. A novel insurance policy—consequential loss (salaries) insurance policy—has been drawn up by the Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka for manufacturers and traders to enable them to meet their salary commitments up to six or nine months in the event of interruptions to their enterprises—*SU*. If the applications made by top Rupavahini personnel for foreign trips for scholarships, seminars and in-service training during the month of November had been allowed, Rupavahini would not have any of its top personnel to manage its affairs in that month; the periods of the trips range from between two to three weeks and two to three months. Two of the five suspects who were taken into custody by Air Force personnel in connection with the killing of the UNP Organiser for Vavuniya Mr. K. I. Pulendran died as a result of injuries sustained while resisting arrest, a spokesman for the police said yesterday—*IS*.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: Because of the strong market for tea that has been prevailing this year, the collection of the ad valorem sales tax has reached unprecedented levels, states the tea report of Forbes & Walker, released yesterday. "People's Committees" in Jaffna put up their first posters yesterday calling on residents to reject hooliganism

and terrorist activities. The curfew will operate from 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. in the 14 districts. The Pakistani Government has denied that anti-government demonstrators attacked a military post in Khairpur Nathan Shah in violence-torn Sind province yesterday. Lebanese special envoy Ghassan Tuani yesterday called on the Security Council to demand an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country—*DN*. The Government is expected to announce very shortly what steps it will take if public and corporation officers do not report for work on or before tomorrow's deadline; the mercantile sector is also expected to follow the Government's decision on how such employees should be treated—*CDM*. Government is considering the amalgamation of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal in the light of the present situation that has arisen. The Government should take immediate steps to introduce the Tamil language to provinces where student monks are studying, so that the Buddhist clergy can work among Sinhalese and Tamil people as emissaries for peaceful co-existence. Thirteen and a half percent of Sri Lanka's workforce is unemployed according to the latest survey carried out by the Department of Census and Statistics—*SU*. The visit of the special envoy of Indian Prime Minister Mr. Parthasarathi has been put off, reports from New Delhi said last night. President Jayewardene will not attend the meeting of the Nonaligned heads-of-state in New York which has proposed by Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi at the Seventh Nonaligned Summit in March this year. A fully equipped operating theatre at Horana hospital is lying idle for last thirteen years as the Health Ministry had not appointed a surgeon and supporting staff to man the theatre. The Chavakachcheri U. C. Chairman Mr. S. K. Mailvaganam who was a working journalist and photographer before he took up to politics has submitted his resignation in keeping with a TULF decision—*IS*.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: The British Foreign Office yesterday refused to see the TULF leader Mr. A. Amirthalingham who arrived here to seek support for a Federal solution to the Tamil problem. Export-oriented industries hit by the July disturbances are being offered financial backing up to 100% at a 14 percent interest rate to rehabilitate themselves. Central Bank Governor Dr. Warnasena Rasaputram announced yesterday. The curfew will operate in the 14 districts from 1 a.m. to 4. a.m. Leftist militias renewed attacks on the Lebanese army in the township of Souk El-Ghard last night, while Falangist forces prepared to mark the anniversary of the death of their founder, Bashir Gemayel. El Salvador is prepared to hold general elections on February 15 next year, the Central Elections Council announced on Tuesday—*DN*. The Government which is putting into shape a national contingency plan to meet future man made or natural disasters will shortly summon the country's major trade unions for talks

to rope them in to the plan—*CDM*. President J. R. Jayewardene is likely to reappoint the Chief Justice and 21 other judges of the Supreme and Appeal Courts whose offices were considered as being vacated following the controversy regarding the period of time within which they should have taken oaths disavowing separatism before the President as required by the Sixth Amendment. Leader of the TULF Mr. Appapillai Amithalingam told *Reuters* in London on Tuesday that his party might drop its separatist demands if an acceptable federal alternative was offered; but he said he would not do so as a pre-condition for talks. A committee to chart the future programme of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party has been appointed by party leader Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike; the first meeting of the Committee will be held on Saturday at the party's Darley Road headquarters—*IS*. Police are investigating the possibility of an extreme leftist organisation being responsible for the robbery of explosives from the Highways Department store at Dimbulla. A former M. P. from the Eastern Province whose passport still described him as an MP was arrested by the CID with the alleged passport when he attempted to leave the country. Cabinet yesterday decided to extend the leave of all government school teachers till October 13—*SU*. Title deeds will be issued to 400 tenants who are residing in low rent houses tomorrow by the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa—*VK*.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: All judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal were yesterday reappointed by President J. R. Jayewardene; Mr. Neville Samarakoon Q.C. was reappointed Chief Justice and Mr. Justice D. Atukorale President of the Court of Appeal. About 500 telephones are reported out of order every day in Colombo alone, telecommunications sources said; a few showers increase the number of casualties and the faulty rate reaches about 10 percent. The curfew enforced in many parts of the country from July 25 will be lifted today, the Government announced. As 15 countries start a two-week boycott of civil air links with the Soviet Union, international aviation experts today discuss how to avoid a repeat of the shooting down of a South Korean airliner; the forum for their technical talks is the International Civil Aviation Organisation, a specialised UN agency which drafts the world's air safety regulations—*DN*. International shipping lines are reported to have sent in plaudits to the Port of Colombo when it refused to retaliate after the single Indian Port of Madras boycotted cargo from Colombo during the ethnic problems here—*CDM*. Ten former Supreme Court Judges and eleven Court of Appeal judges took their oaths yesterday, before President J. R. Jayewardene, thus ending a week-long legal impasse. TULF President M. Sivasithamparam has been notified by the Elections Commissioner to nominate a MP for the Trincomalee seat which fell vacant last week following

the three-month absence from Parliament of its sitting MP R. Sampanthan. The IMF has approved a stand-by arrangement for the government of Sri Lanka authorising purchases up to the equivalent of SDR 100 million in support of the government's economic and financial programme. Intelligence sleuths investigating the new "Cobra" terrorist group in the East have uncovered evidence that the group had received heavy support from militant factions from the South of Sri Lanka—*SU*. Over 40 trade unions will write a joint letter to the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene stating four basic demands in connection with the outbreak of violence. The Central Bank yesterday strongly denied rumours that restrictions be placed on Non Resident Foreign Currency and Foreign Currency Banking Unit accounts. The Jaffna Municipal Council, and the local bodies in the same district of Valvettiturai, Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri have become defunct because their Councils have repeatedly failed to hold their meetings, Mr. S. P. Wijesinghe, the Commissioner of Local Government said yesterday; the TULF controlled power in all these councils—*IS*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: IGP Rudra Rajasingham has sent out a circular to all police stations calling for firm and effective gun control measures. The floor prices of cinnamon have been suspended with immediate effect on the instructions of Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, Trade Ministry sources said yesterday. The Tamil United Liberation Front President Mr. Sivasithamparam said in Madras yesterday that his party might contest the by election to the Sri Lanka parliament from the Trincomalee district on its separatist plank. Police are investigating an alleged telephone bill fraud involving a million rupees at the Nuwara Eliya Post Office. The United States said yesterday a current boycott over the South Korean airliner disaster would stop 50 percent of western flights to the Soviet Union and 30 percent of the Soviet airline Aeroflot's flights to the West for at least two weeks—*DN*. The government yesterday assessing the response by displaced public officers to return to their posts by the Thursday deadline said that the turnout could be termed "satisfactory"; an estimated 20,000 workers were displaced as a result of the July problems—*CDM*. Minister of Labour Capt. C. P. J. Seneviratne yesterday directed his officials to instruct all employment agencies in writing to suspend the despatch of Sri Lankans for employment in Lebanon; the order will also apply to employees already intended to be sent to the war-torn country. There have been no incidents in Batticaloa and the area is gradually returning to normal the Co-ordinating Authority Col. Abeyasinghe said yesterday. The press censorship be relaxed from today, Douglas Liyanage, Secretary to the Ministry of State announced yesterday—*SU*. About two thousand repatriates from Sri Lanka are expected to arrive in Tamil Nadu before the end of

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this week, *The Hindu* of Thursday reported. The issue of passports by the Immigration Department is grinding to a slow halt due to an acute shortage of blank passports in the Department's stores. Saudi Arabian authorities who have during the recent past refused to accept Sri Lanka passports of the E and F series for granting of visas have now agreed to do so, Foreign Ministry sources said—*IS*.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: The Department of Inland Revenue has estimated a shortfall of Rs. 1,676 million from Business Turnover Tax and Income Tax alone for the current year due to the recent disturbances. There was a mood of optimism in all sectors of the tourist trade over the package of concessions proposed by the Minister of State Dr. Anandatissa de Alwis. "The Executive Committee of our organisation noted with regret several statements made by Mr. A. Amirthalingam, leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front in his interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation" states Mr. Edmund Panagoda, President of the Samasta Lanka Sinhala Baudha Sangvidanaya in a statement issued yesterday—*SO*. Over 25,000 faulty electricity meters have been detected by the Ceylon Electricity Board; informed sources said that tenders will be called for the supply of 50,000 new meters. Approximately Rs. 4 billion will be required for reconstruction in and around the City of Colombo according to Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning. There has been an excessive withdrawal of four million US dollars from the Non Resident Foreign Currency accounts in the Central Bank; this follows the unfounded rumour that restrictions are to be placed on NRFC accounts and Foreign Currency Banking Units; this massive sum was withdrawn between August 30 and September 15—*ST*. Two illicit arms consignments intercepted by Egyptian and Greek authorities were bound for certain unknown quarters in Sri Lanka; evidence pointing to this it is reliably learnt has been uncovered by the Government which is conducting a full inquiry into the matter with the assistance of four other Governments—Britain, West Germany, Egypt and Greece. The Government's move to make local journalists who are foreign correspondents representing newspapers and wire services liable for all untrue reports published or broadcast has had sharp reactions in world capitals; in India editors of newspapers have protested against this move which they say will stifle news reports from Sri Lanka. Tourism the fifth largest foreign exchange earner in the country, has yet not recovered from the effects of the recent violence—*WK*. Some of the world's most reputed public relations firms will be hired on a long term basis to present Sri Lanka's image in the current perspective in the western capitals and in India; according to a top Government source, the whole plan has been worked out and will be put into force in about a month's time. Incidents of arson were reported in five northern toddy taverns

allegedly caused by a new clandestine organisation seeking to enforce a prohibition of all legal liquor and toddy sales in the north and east. The amendments to the Constitutions of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party which have now been finished will drastically cut down on the various categories of office-bearers that exist presently. According to a top Government source, the Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry has been asked by the Government to open up three new consulates in India; these officers are to be set up in Calcutta, Hyderabad and an other central area—/S.



THE HAUNTING SPECTRE OF

The Global Debt-Bomb

By S. P. Amarasingam

Extract From SLBC Talk, 26/9/83.

... But so far as the Third World is concerned, the annual joint meeting of the IMF and the World Bank opening in Washington tomorrow has crucial significance. Over 7 000 people are expected to attend if where an attempt will be made to put together a larger financing and aid package for developing countries. Last week, the Finance Ministers of the Commonwealth, representing nearly one third of the nations of the world had concluded their annual meeting in Trinidad. All developing countries strongly criticized the domestic policies of the industrialised nations and the terms of aid through the international lending agencies. The world's current trading and financial system was also carefully examined with a view to formulating a common approach before the next meeting of the IMF and the World Bank. Whilst most of the developing countries wanted a completely new system to replace the present one based on Bretton Woods, the developed members of the Commonwealth favoured a re-orientation of policies and strategies to make the existing institutions meet what they regarded as the needs of the day. In the end, the consensus was for reform and not wholesale change. In the meantime representatives of 24 developing countries including those with huge virtually unrepayable debts like Brazil, Mexico Venezuela and Argentina, together with countries like Sri Lanka on the periphery of a growing debt burden, met in Washington at the end of last week to hammer out, if possible, a common policy to put forward at the IMF-World Bank meeting. These countries are expected to press for major reforms in the current

IMF and World Bank financing system in the light of the continued effect of the most punishing global recession since the thirties. There is no also doubt that developing countries would ask for a substantial increase in the distribution of the IMF's own currency, (the SDRs), greater access to IMF assistance and a substantial increase in finances for the International Development Association (IDA) the arm of the World Bank that makes virtually interest-free loans.

BUT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS has not yet approved the US share of an urgent increase in IMF finances. The IMF had earlier approved a major hike in quotas or financial commitments, along with a major enlargement of the general arrangement to set up a pool of emergency funds to be financed by the rich industrial countries. The US share for both pools was fixed at 8.4 billion dollars but appropriation of these funds has become bogged down in Congress over domestic political issues, most of them unrelated to international lending. Moreover, the United States is generally opposed to any increase in the SDR allocations, and this will be a serious blow to the developing countries which urgently need funds to stave off bankruptcy. The United States is also opposed to an increase in IDA funding, and wants the rules for loans tightened so that only the very poorest countries would be eligible for help from the IDA.

Anticipating further increased demands from the developing countries in the context of the reluctance of the industrialized countries to meet them even half way, the IMF has last week suspended negotiations on new credit programmes for Third World debtor countries. Some commentators, wishfully no doubt, have described the suspension as a ploy to put pressure on the leading industrial countries to provide the short-term bridging finance to enable the IMF to meet its commitments to cash-starved developing nations at least until the end of the year. The IMF has asked the rich member states to put up an extra six billion special drawing rights of SDRs (that is about 6 billion dollars) to fill the expected gap in its finance created by the increasing demands of the developing countries. The IMF proposed that the leading industrial countries should provide three billion SDRs (about 3 billion dollars) and Saudi Arabia an equivalent amount. But ten leading western industrialised countries in talks in Paris last week failed to extend this credit to the IMF. This is probably because the White House is unable to persuade Congress to approve the 8.4 billion appropriation for the IMF. Further the US also seems inclined to pressurise other rich countries to cut down IMF lending. If the United States refuses its contribution, the IMF says it will not have enough money to fulfil commitments it has already entered into and also to help alleviate the continuing problems of debtor countries, mainly in Latin America. What

has begun to worry the Finance Ministers of the Third World is not merely the impasse in the US Congress but also the reluctance of industrial countries and Japan to lend the IMF three billion dollars to meet a short-term gap in its finances. The unwillingness of these countries to lend has in turn, cooled Saudi Arabian enthusiasm to grant the IMF its quota of three billion dollars.

MEANWHILE, the problem of Latin American debt has already become a major source of anxiety to the world's bankers. And this anxiety has increased after twenty six Latin American and Caribbean nations, under the auspices of the Organisation of American States, had met in Caracas on September 5 to see what they could do about their debts. According to the *Time* magazine of September 19, 1983, only one year ago, Western bankers and public officials were scrambling frantically to avert a worldwide financial crisis as several Latin American countries tottered on the brink of default. The bankers had since lent more than \$ 45 billion to Brazil, Mexico and other Latin American nations to help them pay interest on about \$ 275 billion in loans. But the so called debt bomb has continued to grow and on September 5, the 26 Latin American borrowers joined forces for the first time to demand that banks relax their repayment terms. Most of the debt-ridden Latin nations are steadily sinking ever more deeply into debt. "Countries in the region owed foreign lenders some \$ 300 billion at the end of last year", said *Time*. Since then, new loans and missed payments have added another \$ 20 billion to the total. Venezuela alone has piled up nearly \$ 400 million in overdue interest in the past six months. No fewer than twelve Latin countries have individually sought debt reschedulings or other concessions since August 1982. These countries are not able to repay their loans because they are not earning enough. So sharply have exports fallen that the region now owes foreign lenders more than three times the amount it earns annually from exports. Although some observers thought that the Caracas delegates might try to form a "debtors cartel" that would renounce foreign financial obligations, the representatives stopped short of that move. The delegates avoided even hinting that they might repudiate their debts, realizing that any refusal to repay past borrowings would mean the certain cut off of future loans. Nonetheless, the delegates to the conference, which was hosted by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, had plenty of complaints about their bankers. Their major concern was about the fees and extra interest that American banks were charging them on new and rescheduled loans.

BUT, WHAT MANY FAIL TO RECOGNIZE is that it is not the Latin American and other Third World countries alone that are in the grip of debt. Many countries in Western Europe too have serious debt problems. The combined foreign debt of Belgium

France, Denmark, Spain and Italy, called on the "most affected countries" of Europe, tops \$ 320 billion, a shade more than Latin America as a whole. These countries no doubt have stronger economies. But economists have raised questions about their debt-carrying capacity as compared to some of the South American countries. According to experts policies of deflationary austerity which have destroyed the gigantic potential export markets in the Third World has choked production in Western nations. This has increased the value of fictitious book keepers' credit and this has multiplied many times over the growth of production. Unemployment has therefore increased and 30 million people in OECD countries are expected to be out of work by the end of next year. Eurocurrency presently amounts to about \$ 1.7 trillion dollars. Given the interest rate structures of the last few years, it has been estimated that \$ 210 billion per annum in interest has to be generated simply in order to maintain the breakeven functioning of the market by means of regular interest payments. And this, while the deposit base of the market is contracting. It is admitted that the OPEC is now in deficit and is withdrawing deposits. Multinational corporations also have less liquidity at hand and large amounts of Euro-currency are being frozen by moratoria or by defaults. Where can the money come from to feed this monstrous accumulation of fictitious book finance values in European and OECD countries? Is it to be from looting the existing wealth of economics of the developing Third World? It is well to remember that the more debt service a country pays, without investing in return, the more it will have to devalue its currency and a greater quantity of domestic currency will be required to purchase the means of debt payment.

THIS IS TRUE not for developing countries alone. It applies to West European countries also. In each of the four most vulnerable countries (Spain, Italy, France, Denmark) recent currency devaluations either self-imposed or enforced from the outside, have played a major role in increasing the real economic price of foreign debt. In developing countries, the vicious inflationary circle of devaluation of the domestic currency in the attempt to earn the foreign exchange to pay debt-service has become the order of the day. If, for example, Brazil which has \$ 90 billion in foreign debt devalues its currency 30 percent, overnight 30 percent more real goods will have to be sold to pay the same debt service. This is something that many in Sri Lanka seem to forget or overlook. Each time the Sri Lanka rupee is devalued, our debt burden goes up. *There is great deal of talk today of armaments missiles and the like, and fears have been expressed about a nuclear armageddon. But the realities are that long before the first nuclear bomb is detonated in war, the global debt-bomb that has Latin America, the Third World and even Western Europe in its grip might blow up the economic*

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and political system that demands more and more armaments to protect its investments. The simple fact is that the global debt bomb is daily becoming more and more menacing but few want to talk about it. It is the real, but still unseen, spectre that is hunting the world.

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FROM THE U.K. "TRIBUNE"

HOW AMERICA REACTED LAST TIME A CIVIL AIRLINER WAS SHOT DOWN

London: Korean Airlines Flight 007 was not the first passenger jet to be shot down by fighters. Just over ten years ago, 106 people died when a Boeing 727 was shot out of the air in broad daylight. The Defence Minister of the country whose fighters did it said, "There is no reason why my country should be made to feel guilty about it". The American State Department felt that there was "little to be gained by further comment on the matter". The International Civil Aviation Organisation condemned the shooting down, but the American delegate wanted only to "deplore" the event. The Americans said that in supporting an investigation they were not prejudging its outcome. President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State William Rogers sent condolences to the families of the victims. But the Americans did not attempt to draw any lessons from the shooting down of a civilian airliner about the nature of the society which had carried out the act.

The downed plane was Libyan Airlines flight from Tripoli to Cairo, on February 21, 1973 which overshot into Israeli-occupied Sinai. The French pilot had realised his mistake and had turned back towards Cairo. Thirty seconds flying time from the Suez Canal, an Israeli Phantom fired a missile which brought the plane down. Seven people survived.

Courtesy: John Street's Diary.

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CHINA'S

New Revolution

China is at the moment going through a new Revolution. It is as yet too early to have a post mortem on the Maoist past and its Cultural Revolution or make a predictive analysis of the impact of Deng's economic reforms that is said to have "unleashed the Chinese genius for making profits". We publish below an extract from an article in the "Newsweek" (August 1, 1983) entitled "CHINA'S NEW CAPITALIST ROAD". Many in the Third World

and other countries, who had paid a great deal of sympathetic attention to the austere economics of Mao's hardline communism, are perplexed, but there is no doubt that what happens in China has many lessons for the world—EDITOR

IN MAO TSE-TUNG'S CHINA, about the worst thing a man could be called was a "capitalist roader". Wan Mingqi and his father, members of a peasant commune in Hubei Provinces, learned that the hard way during the Cultural Revolution. The father sought to augment his meager \$ 20 annual income by raising bees, he earned \$ 50 the first year, but had to give up the business after being denounced for showing capitalist tendencies. Today, though, China marches to Deng Xiaoping's drum—and the Wans have caught the beat, Wan Mingqi, now 19, decided last year to raise insects as ingredients for Chinese medicine, and within months he earned \$ 5,000. Then the Wans began to breed sables and rabbits, and by the end of 1982 the family had earned \$ 23,000—making them one of the richest peasant households in China. *The Wan family's sudden wealth is only one tangible sign of a new economic order in China. It reflects a small but spreading infusion of capitalism that is transforming Chinese society.* For three decades the Chinese have submitted to ideological force-feeding that stressed the virtues of going without and "eating from the same big pot". Now, China is again being turned into the world's largest social laboratory. But the current experiment emphasizes results, not orthodoxy. It is, in effect, an attempt to carry out a "productive revolution" that can unleash the pent-up economic genius of the Chinese people.

IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, the new revolution has touched the lives of a surprising number of China's billion people. City streets and markets now have privately owned bicycle-repair shops and food stalls independent cobblers and barbers. Performers at the Peking Opera have agreed to lower state salaries in return for a percentage of box-office receipts and writers in coastal Zhejiang Province—long accustomed to fixed state subsidies—have been told they must live on their royalties. Retired doctors in Henan are forming private clinics, and country fairs have become a frenzy of fruit stands, clothes vendors and haggling customers. Thousands of communes have been divided into family-run farms, and peasants are now encouraged to use their spare time to produce anything that can find a market. "A visitor comparing the China of today with five years ago," says one Peking-based European diplomat, "might conclude that the Chinese are making a mass migration down the capitalist road". *The Chinese Communist Party is not about to jettison the Marxist gospel: it remains the ideological foundation of "New China". But it is clear that market forces that were once derided as "capitalist tails*

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that must be chopped off" are again being grafted into China's planned economy—even though they are bringing inflation and economic bottlenecks with them.

Peking's leaders have publicly committed themselves to quadrupling the country's industrial and agricultural output by the turn of the century and drawing on foreign capital and technology to help carry out a costly and ambitious economic modernisation program at the same time. And if that means sacrificing the egalitarian society that Mao Tse-Tung espoused, Deng Xiaoping is willing. "Make some people rich first so as to lead all the people towards common wealth", Deng wrote in his "Selected Works" published July 1. Nowhere has Deng's dictum been applied with more success than in the countryside, the home of the poorest and least advantaged 80 percent of China's population. Rural China was reintroduced to the profit motive in Deng's home province of Sichuan and obviously liked what it saw. Between 1977 and 1982, total rural output tripled, and annual per capital income for peasants doubled to \$ 130. Last year agricultural production increased 11 percent, enabling China to reap a record grain harvest of 388 million tons. Increased affluence on the farm has in turn stimulated the creation of cottage industries throughout the countryside. Today rural Chinese residents are manufacturing such items as bricks, glass, farm tools and clothing for the estimated 44,000 peasant markets that have sprung up.

CHINESE OFFICIALS attribute these gains in rural productivity to the introduction of what they call the "responsibility system" which rewards rather than punishes initiative and hard work. Under the commune system instituted by Mao at the start of the Great Leap Forward in 1958, peasant's land—and animals were collectivized. Farmers were obliged to divide harvests almost equally, on the basis of a work point system that virtually ignored individual effort and contributions. Mao's aim was to forge an "iron rice bowl" that would guarantee total security for all Chinese rural and urban alike. To some extent, he succeeded. But the legendary economic vitality of the Chinese was stultified, and growth slowed nearly to a standstill. The new "responsibility" scheme, now in use in more than 90 percent of China's farm communities, aims first to restore economic rewards for hard work. It assigns specialized tasks such as breeding pigs or tilling a plot of land to households, individuals or teams, who are bound by a work contract. After meeting their agreed quota, peasants are free to pocket most proceeds from any surplus output.

AT THE SHANGGULIN FISHING BRIDGE on China's northwest coast, the system was implemented only in June. But bridgemen quickly responded.

"In the past, fisherman stayed home if they say one cloud in the sky", says commune party secretary Lin Jieqing. "Now they fish for days on end, "The Shanggulin fishermen were able to fulfil their annual quota in a single month; from now on they will be able to sell their catch directly to the state-run Aquatic Products Bureau at a higher price, keeping all profits for themselves. In anticipating of even better times to come one family has already paid \$ 5,000 for its own motorized fishing boat. *In areas where the new policies have had more time to take root, the results are even more spectacular. "Getting rich is glorious" says slogan often seen in the Chinese countryside these days, and the official Chinese press is full of Horatio Alger stories that seem to prove it.* Song Zeming and his family operated a vineyard in Shandong during the Cultural Revolution but had their arbor uprooted the year they earned \$ 500. Last year the Song family earned \$ 9,000 under a contract designed to let them make use of their grape-growing expertise. Zhao Zhigang quit his job as a carpenter in Yunnan Province in 1981 in order to start a fruit farm on a tract of unused wasteland. This year he and the 17 people who work with him expect to gross \$ 30,000.

WITH THESE AND OTHER SUCCESS STORIES IN MIND, the Chinese government has begun expanding the "responsibility system" in the cities. Some state factories have begun paying piecework wages that make it possible for an industrious worker to earn more than under the fixed-wage policy of the past. China's 500,000 commercial retail outlets are to be converted to the responsibility system by 1985, and the government has announced that inefficient and money-losing operations will be shut down. The state is also encouraging the revival of so-called "individual enterprises". By the end of 1982 China had licensed 3.2 million private entrepreneurs, a tiny proportion of the overall population but a 820 percent increase for the 1978 figure. *China's urban citizens have responded enthusiastically to the new opportunities. "I never ask anyone's permission to do anything" says Chen Xinghua, a private tailor in Peking. "I like the idea of being able to earn more if I work more".* During the Cultural Revolution Wu Huiyan, a Peking sewing teacher, was driven out of his home by Red Guards, who confiscated his teaching materials. In 1981 Wu and his wife reopened the school—and now they hold classes in a new extension with 26 sewing machines. "The government supports us and society needs us," Wu says. "What is there to be afraid of? We don't believe there could be another Cultural Revolution."

The most dramatic explosion of private activity in the cities has been in the service sector. Ambitious would-be capitalists have flocked to fill the gaps in the state system—which Peking's Guangming

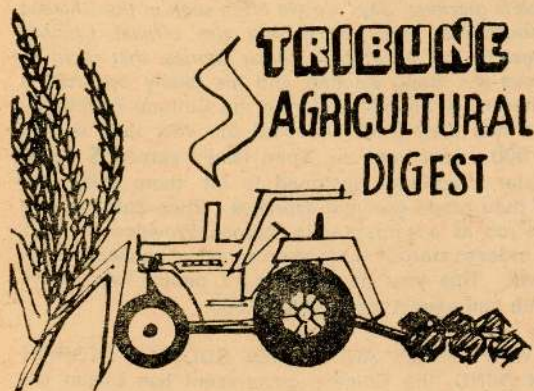
Daily recently described as "a pool of stagnant water." Along Jiangnan Road in the southern city of Nanning, half a dozen open-air barbers offer a shave and a haircut for 10 cents. Nearby, privately owned "lending libraries" rent out Chinese comic books for 1 cent a sitting. In the drab industrial city of Shenyang in Manchuria, a 18 year old Guan Changzhi opened a new private hotel. It only has four rooms, but all come with television, radio and washing machine—and there are a few vacancies. At the gates of Peking's "Forbidden City", private photographers have staked out scenic backgrounds, hoping to cash in on the booming tourist trade.

sorry we had mistaken Dr. Seneviratne for one in spite of what he has written and done over the years and much of which has been published in the "TRIBUNE"—EDITOR.

This paper was presented at the Rice Improvement Programme Annual Research Conference at the In-Service Training Institute, Gannoruwa on May 20, 1983.

I WILL FIRST acquaint you of my marching orders: "The objectives of our programme appear to be short-term or sometimes medium-term. Considering the present trend in rice production, the rolling plans we now have seem to be meaningless. Therefore... it is time to discuss and decide our long term objectives. The conference is therefore named "Rice Research for the Next Decade"..... Please be good enough to spare some time to think of what we should be doing for the next ten years. The subject we want you to deal with is Rice Pathology. The ideas and views should be based on factors that will have direct or indirect influence on our national production. Some of which I can think of are given below: energy cost—labour cost and availability—new lands coming under plough—production subsidies—pricing of rice and wheat flour—current production trends—inflation—purchasing power of people—our aspirations etc." I am even given instructions about how I should prepare my presentation—"typewritten (double space with one inch margin on both sides) on 8 x 11½ in. size paper. Number of pages is not limited." Sheer impertinence! At the C. A. R. I. my Mother Superior constantly reminds me of the need to economise on stationery. Half a sheet would do she says, single space, typed on both sides!

I HAVE TRIED to think—rice pathology for the next decade and my mind went back to the days of my distant youth, more than three decades ago, when for the first time I climbed Rahangala. You know Rahangala, the mountain which gave its name to that prestigious, yet short-lived, research outpost, the Regional Research Station (Up-country); Rahangala, the fertile research maiden whose loveless courting was enough to produce many a director foetus, born at the opportune time, congenitally deformed; Rahangala, the centre, among other things, of apples and sugar beet, fennel and fenugreek, lentils and pyrethrum. Having on this first attempt climbed to a point of Rahangala we thought was the summit, we discovered that it was only the end of the steep ascent. There was a respite, a more gradual slope, and then again was a steep section for the final effort. Looking down, we saw the portion of the mountain we had conquered. There was a feeling of accomplishment. And as we looked beyond we saw the glorious spectacle of the Uva basin, bathed in brilliant sunshine. The cool wind swept across; we relaxed, and were ready to go on again.



RICE RESEARCH

For the Next Decade

By Dr. S. N. de S. Seneviratne

We publish a paper on "Rice Research For the Next Decade" by Dr. S. N. de S. Seneviratne, Plant Pathologist at the Gannoruwa Agricultural Research Institute in Peradeniya. Readers will recall that over the years we have published not only many of Dr. Seneviratne's scientific papers but also his observations and comments on a variety of topics. During the controversy about citrus cultivation and the import of planting materials with the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture, "TRIBUNE" had occasion to criticise Dr. Seneviratne in harsh terms for what we thought was an unnecessary intervention on behalf of some colleagues whose conduct in our view was indefensible. We learnt only much later that our criticisms, some of which were regrettably "personal", was based on an unfortunate misunderstanding for which we are sorry. But this does not mean that we have changed our views about the bureaucratic pachyderms of Peradeniya. We are only

IN THE RICE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, we have come a long way. We have completed the first phase of the assault on this mountain and for a while it is good to look back on the ground that has been traversed, reflect on the objectives and strategies of the early pioneers who chartered the course—Ernest Abeyaratne, M. P. Chandaratne and L. H. Fernando among others. Improvements in the production of our basic staple rice meant both increased quantity and improved quality, greater productivity, higher yields per unit area. How were these objectives to be realised? Higher yields were possible if fertilizer responsive high yielding varieties were bred. Equally important was the need to prevent crop losses by such causes as diseases and pests. The wise men of that time—they were not swept away by international winds—were sensitive to simple yet profound, realities. This country had more than 2,000 years of history behind it and rice had been cultivated for centuries. Surely, there was something good in the old varieties, something on which to build for the future. So the collection of pure lines was established. They knew of a destructive affecting local varieties—blast. That disease had to be overcome by breeding varieties resistant to it. Fresh blood had to be introduced from outside to supplement our genetic deficiencies. The worth of the local *Murungakayan 302* was recognised as a donor of blast resistance. Mas conferred other desired traits. From these parents came H4—high yielding, resistant to blast.

AND LOOKING BACK over the ground that has been covered in rice pathology, again the steep ascent has been completed. We can look back with satisfaction at what has been achieved—the identification of the diseases that attack our crops, the development of screening programmes to assist in the national rice breeding effort to produce disease resistant varieties, the estimation of the crop losses associated with various diseases, the role of seed health in successful crop production. Something good, something worthwhile has been done although we have had no prize winners in rice pathology, no globe trotters, largely anonymous bodies and casualties like Bertie Suriyadasa Unambuwe driven to an early retirement by a soulless administration, and Victor Fernando prematurely despatched into another world. Looking into the future, what are the prospects for the next decade? In rice pathology, the philosophy must remain the same as that of the pioneers, determined by national priorities rather than by international fashions, moulded by sanity rather than by expediency—the recognition of danger signals, the prevention of avoidable disasters, a clear identification of research objectives and sensible strategies to achieve them.

Recognition of danger signals: An informed awareness of the rice disease situation in the country as a whole is of the utmost importance. At

the present time, disease pressures are minimal. Every now and then, there is an outbreak of blast somewhere, or a report of sheath blight or bacterial leaf blight. Crop losses caused by diseases are negligible. There is virtually no dependence on agrochemicals for combating disease problems. That position, good for the rice farmer, is not good for others with a stake in the business. Continuous vigilance by researchers, extension personnel, farmers—everybody is necessary to recognise quickly any shift in the disease position in the direction of danger. *The Plant Production Service* is an appropriate organisation to complement the work of research in this area. This service, its umbilical cord cut with the Research Division, was quickly grafted onto the Extension Division. That too is an anomaly. *The service organisation of the Department such as Plant Protection, Plant Introduction and Quarantine, Seed Certification etc., must move out of the empires to which they are presently attached into a more logical homeland for scientific services.* Then only will they grow to their full stature and render fully the services that are their special responsibility. Besides the known diseases, vigilance must also be continuously maintained for any abnormalities, any symptoms suggestive of diseases not known before, and the information transmitted to the appropriate personnel. Occasionally, there will be a false alarm when rustic frauds perform stunts in this country. That is part of the new international order. But the receptive apparatus of the Department must always remain tuned and able to pick up danger signals.

Prevention of avoidable disasters: It is also of the utmost importance that we do not create in this country problems that can well be avoided. A quotation from an address of the eminent seed pathologist, Paul Neergaard, is appropriate: "The blast of rice is an example of a continuous threat to all rice growing countries, a threat that must be met by quarantine precautions because of the many pathogenic races of the casual agent, races that are different from one geographic region to another as to rice varieties they can attack. In Nigeria, in Upper Volta, in South Korea, just to mention three countries of recent disasters, new pathogenic races of the blast fungus were brought in with seed intended for breeding programmes. In Upper Volta where rice in some districts have been grown for ages, the yields were very poor, 700 kg/ha, but by damming up the Volta River and utilising the technology of the Green Revolution yields went up to more than 10 tonnes/ha/year. Then suddenly the blast spread and destroyed the rice crops, and the yields went right down to the miserable level of 700 kg/ha. New races of the blast pathogen had been introduced with the seed of new varieties." *Our big ones who are convinced only by an opinion expressed by a foreign consultant might heed that warning. And*

Paul Neergaard belongs to that old generation of respected scientists, the gurus in the Asian scene, as distinct from the fast multiplying species of international mercenaries, parading as experts in developing countries.

In Sri Lanka, Tetep has been regarded as one of the most suitable donors of blast resistance in breeding programmes. Yet, Tetep has been severely attacked by devastating races of blast in Pakistan and the Philippines. A strain of the bacterium (*Xanthomonas oryzae*) causing bacterial blight that occurs in the Philippines, the Isabella strain, was able to attack varieties resistant to the disease. This pathogen too is seed transmitted. Therefore, rice seed introductions must be recognized as a potential threat to the disease status of rice in this country. A code of conduct acknowledging this threat must be observed if avoidable disasters are to be prevented.

A Clear Identification of Research Objectives :

This is necessary to ensure that our efforts will be directed towards the achievement of meaningful goals and not dissipated on irrelevant fantasies. Intelligent observations secured for blast recognition as a research priority from early times. Breeders and plant pathologists responded alike to the challenge posed by this disease. *We are reaping today the harvest from seeds sown by sensible scientists. In more recent years, issues have sometimes tended to get clouded by dust raised by foreign "experts" and their local patrons.* Bacterial leaf blight (BLB) and ragged stunt are two noteworthy examples. It was about the time that the mini skirts hit the hem lines in the West that BLB hit the head lines on the local rice scene.

Shortly after I assumed duties as Plant Pathologist at the C. A. R. I., I vividly remember my experience before a powerful firing squad. My adversaries were the late William G. Golden, Jr.—may his soul rest in peace if indeed he had one. D. V. W. Abeygunawardene—may his management skill spill gently into the Mahaweli, and Irwin Gunawardene—may he increase in wisdom and stature in the Department of Agriculture. I was severely taken to task for not heeding the BLB danger and compromising my integrity with the Japanese bridge. The extinction of rice was imminent; so was the destruction of coconut by the imported beetle. *Now, after more than a decade, BLB has not caused the promised devastation; rice is not yet extinct. And I too have survived! In the ragged stunt fiasco, supposedly a virus disease, it was an unscrupulous bully propped up by a foreign hireling who distorted a situation.* Environmental stresses and gall midge infestation which caused abnormalities were without investigation, attributed to a viral cause. It needs to be emphasised, that problems must be correctly diagnosed, and objectives identified with the honesty and

integrity of careful observation, sound judgement and a realistic appraisal of their relevance in the local situation.

To be concluded. . . .

* * *

HEALTHY

Seed Storage

VIABILITY OF SEED is an important factor for successful crop production. Even when the seed produced is of a very good high-yielding variety and is hundred percent pure physically and genetically, it becomes unfit for use as seed if there is no viability. The causes for loss of viability in seeds can be classified broadly into four categories: storage condition, presence of pests, metabolic changes and genetical damage.

Storage conditions. Seed moisture and storage temperature are the two most important factors which influence viability of stored seed. Low seed moisture and cool temperatures increase the viability of seeds of storage. Higher moisture content and warm temperatures offer a congenial atmosphere for infection and mutation of seeds. Another component of storage conditions is the oxygen content. Even though seeds seem to be apparently inert, they are actively involved in gaseous exchange which is directly related to moisture content of the seed and the temperature at which it is stored.

Presence of pests There are three main types of organisms associated with stored seeds namely fungi, bacteria, and insects. The activity of these three types of organisms depends on temperature, moisture content of seeds and the relative humidity of the inner space of the storage structure. Bacteria are not likely to interfere in stored seeds, since they require free water to grow. Seeds are generally stored at low moisture content. However, there are certain thermophilic bacteria which become significantly active in the final stages of fungal action. These bacteria increase the temperatures upto 55 to 75°C causing death of the seed embryo. Insect activity will not be present if the seed moisture is below 8 per cent. The major insect pests of stored seeds are: saw toothed grain beetle, grain weevil, rusted grain beetle, khapra beetle, rice weevil, lesser grain borer etc.

Infestation of grains by weevils and mites is regularly accompanied by fungal infection. Fumigation eliminates insects but cannot control fungi, which has already started growing after infection followed by insect attack. Mites can be controlled by reducing the relative humidity to 60-70 per cent, as they are sensitive to low relative humidities. The storage fungi mainly comprise of *Aspergillus* and *Penicil-*

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lium. The infection of seeds with storage fungi leads to (a) Discoloration, (b) Heating (c) Biochemical changes in the grain, (d) Production of toxic substances and finally, (e) Loss of germination.

Metabolic changes. Respiration is one of the measures of metabolic activity taking place in stored seeds. Loss of viability results from a depletion of food supply to the embryo or when reserve food material is changed chemically so that the embryo cannot utilize it. Metabolic changes during loss of viability of cereal seeds include decrease in protein and non-reducing sugars and increase in free fatty acids. The metabolic changes taking place in stored seed also depend upon the size of food reserves; seeds with large food reserves lose viability more rapidly than those with small reserves. The factors which influence respiration rate are temperature, moisture content of seed and oxygen pressure.

Genetical damage. There is considerable evidence that disorganisation of nuclear mechanism is responsible for seed deterioration. Temperature also induces chromosomal aberrations. Increasing relative humidity of the air also increases the chromosome aberrations, particularly at high temperatures. With an increase in moisture content of seeds in air-dry storage, percentage of chromosome aberrations also increase sharply. High moisture content and longer storage period result in rapid accumulation of chromosome aberrations which consequently affect the viability of seeds. —*Department of Horticulture, A.P. Agricultural University, Bapatla.*

* * *

MECHANICAL COMPACTING

Of Loose Soils

LIGHT TEXTURED SOILS with 70% to 90% sand, have very poor agricultural production because of their low water and nutrient retention capacity, and poor mechanical hold for the growing crops. Such soils occur over a large area in Rajasthan and Haryana. Sandy and sandy loam soils are noticed in Coimbatore, Kanyakumari, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli districts of Tamil Nadu as also in the coastal regions. To correct the textural weakness of the sandy soils and to make them suitable for sound farming various ameliorative measures have been devised by the scientists; Introduction of artificial barriers in the sub-soil zone using asphalt, bitumen and cement has been found to arrest the high rate of nutrient and water losses in sandy soils. But the prohibitive cost of sub-surface barriers makes them practically non-available.

NOW A NEW APPROACH to this problem, by mechanically compacting the soils by passing stone

rollers over the field several times has been found to be effective in making the loose soils yield more. Developed by two scientists, Mr. P. Yesudian and Dr. A. Gopalaswamy, of the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, this economically feasible and simple technology has demonstrated its efficacy in field experiments conducted in Coimbatore district. In the field trials, a 400 kg stone roller was used to compact the soil. The roller passed 10 times over the field, 24 hours after irrigation, had brought about the desired bulk density (strength) of the soil of 1.6 gm/c.c. from the initial level of 1.5 gm/c.c. At that degree of compaction, the yield of maize (Ganga-5) grain and straw showed a 30% increase over the control (no compaction) plot. An additional revenue of Rs. 525 per hectare was gained by the high yields, according to the scientists. In the compacted plot maize registered a grain yield of 2.3 tonnes/ha. Further there was considerable saving in the irrigation water used, because of the increased moisture retention by compaction. It had also helped in easy availability of the major nutrients for the growing crops. The NPK uptake was increased by 60% over the control, the scientist claimed. Similar field experiments taken up with sorghum and groundnut also showed remarkable improvements in the yields of crops and the structural behaviour of the soils, according to the scientists. The trials were conducted as part of an ICAR (Indian Council for Agricultural Research) scheme on Improvement of Soil Physical conditions. The results of trials clearly indicate that the compaction technology could be effectively employed in loose soils to increase their power of moisture retention, arrest excessive leaching of plant nutrients and to enable better contact with the seeds. In addition, being an inexpensive process, costing only Rs. 225 to cover a hectare, it is within the easy reach of farmers and the high yields could easily compensate the money spent on compacting the soils, according to the scientists.

* * *

BEETLE

To Beat Parthenium

An exotic beetle from Mexico has been imported to rid the country of parthenium, the fast-growing plant that is an environmental and health hazard. In one of the major experiments in biological control of unwanted pests and plants, the beetle—*zygogramme bicolorata*—is to be first released in Bangalore shortly. Parthenium has of late become an ecological menace in several States, including the capital. In Bangalore alone the authorities spend Rs. 25,000 just to manually root out and destroy the plant.

The leaf feeding beetle is the first of three insects, to be introduced in the country for controlling the wild growth of parthenium with assistance from the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control (CIBC), Trinidad.

The All-India programme for biological control was initiated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1977, with a coordinating cell at Bangalore. But it was not until 1980 that the first field trials started. The Plant Protection Directorate, New Delhi, has cleared the beetle for field trials in Bangalore. The beetle is known to have contained the growth of parthenium in Central and South America where it is endemic. The other two insects cleared for import are also from Mexico. One is *smicronyx rutulentus* which feeds on the seeds of parthenium and the other is a stem boring moth, *epiblema strenuana*. Trials in Australia, which also faces the parthenium problem, have shown *epiblema* to be the most effective.

Strangely parthenium which cause rashes, allergies and other dermatological problems in India has been found to be relatively innocuous in its home countries. The pollen of the plant also prevents cross pollination of other plants. Tests at the CIBC station in Bangalore have proved that the imported insects are plant specific, that is they do not prey upon any other plant. The insects are averse even to *parthenium argentatum*, commonly known as *quayule* which has been introduced in the country for latex production.

Under the ICAR programme, nearly 40 natural enemies of crop pests and rine parasites of weeds have been imported from West Indies, Brazil, the U. S., Australia and Yugoslavia since 1980. The success in some cases can be even cent per cent. But the sources say, this is not desirable because it would leave the "natural enemies" without food.—PT,

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

RECONSTRUCTING

The Pettah That Was . . .

With acknowledgements to the special issue of "Journal of the Netherlands Alumni" Association of Lanka" published to commemorate the inauguration of the Dutch Period Museum on July 10, 1982, we publish

the article entitled "The Pettah That Was . . ." by the Editor. This article is topical now that a new Pettah is to be built upon the ruins and ashes of the Pettah as we knew it for the last five decades. Wanton destruction caused by arson and every device imaginable has levelled most of the buildings in the Pettah to the ground. A new Pettah is on the drawing boards and construction work will begin soon. But it is not enough to build. A social concord has to be established to ensure that a new holocaust will not reduce the Pettah to ashes once again. The primary task before the Government and the people of Sri Lanka is to create a world of peace, calm and amity that will last and withstand all the strains and stresses that extremists and anti-elements of every kind will unleash upon the country.—EDITOR.

THE MADRAS CIVIL SERVANTS who come to Ceylon after the British took over the Island in 1796 introduced many South Indian terms such as "Cut-cherry Pettah..." According to Hobson-Jobson (a glossary of Anglo-Indian terms) *Pettah* is an adaptation of the Tamil *Pettai* meaning "extra-mural suburb outside a fort". In Ceylon *Pettai* was anglicised to *Pettah*: but it is strange that, in spite of the phonetic similarity, the vernaculars continued to use *Pita-Kotuwa* and *Pera Kottai* following their usage of the term *Pita-Kotte* when referring to the area outside Kotte citadel. When the Dutch planned the city of Colombo in the latter half of the 17th century, they laid out a fort (*casteel*) and town (*stad*) with a large tract of open no-man's land between the two, as a security measure. This safety gap included a lake known as Lotus Pond, in the later Dutch records. Present Lotus Road derives its name from Lotus Pond, which was filled up by the British and used as a parade ground for the soldiers garrisoned in the Fort. Now Chalmers Granaries stand on that land.

Pettah proper of the Dutch times was bounded on the south by Front Street, north by Fourth Cross Street; east by Maliban Street bordering the lake and west by Main Street, adjoining the harbour waterfront. The only exit from *Pettah* was through Cayman's Gate at the northern end of Main Street. This gate derived its name from the swarms of crocodiles infesting the moat which surrounded this part of the town. Another horror-scene near this gate was the gallows erected there for hanging criminals until Governor Gregory decided against it. Past a guard post at Cayman's gate and over a draw-bridge, the exit from the *Pettah* leads to Negombo. The entry to *Pettah* at the southern end of Main Street was for this reason, named Negombo Gate. The archway of this gate can be seen to this day, leading to the Police Officers' Mess at Bristol Street.

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While on the subject of gates, it is interesting to note that one of the points of entry to the Colombo Harbour was until recently, called "Delft Gate". Perhaps the scene in that part of the harbour was reminiscent of Deiftschehaven in Holland during the East India Company days.

PETTAH had been planned on a geometrical design; with four parallel Streets running north-south; Main Street, Keyzer Street, Prince Street and Maliban Street—with four cross streets intersecting them, east-west at right angles, creating sixteen rectangles combining into a quadrangle. This was a popular residential area which had "luxurious gardens" and the streets shaded by pleasant ripen trees. Close to Front Street, and half way along it, lay the Kerkho for Graveyard surrounded by a masonry wall. Outside this wall was the *Kade* or market place. Expanding trade had forced the market area to move beyond Cayman's Gate and later to the western slopes of Huifsdorp. This area is even now known as New Bazaar or *Aluth Kade* in the vernacular.

Gradually, increasing commercial activity had compelled the spacious residences to be replaced by shops and business houses. Even "Gods acre" was built upon and occupied by commercial establishments and the Pettah Police Station. Some of the tombstones, which were in the graveyard can be seen lined up against the Police Station wall, while some have found a resting place in the "Hall of Death" of the Dutch Period Museum in Prince Street. This building with its "pillars of striking height and dignity—outhouses enclosing a centre court yard is typical of "Dutch colonial town houses". It has somehow managed to withstand the engulfing commercial tide and return in the "*Meda-Midula*" the only patch of grass that can be found in the once "Luxuriant" Pettah. History must at least show itself: it cannot repeat itself. We are lucky enough to have this building left for conversion as the long-dreamt of "Dutch House" to show posterity the unique characteristics of the heritage the Dutch have left behind in Sri Lanka.

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NATIONAL HARMONY

The D. S. Way

By R. Kahawita

THE OTHER DAY, Minister Athulathmudali, speaking at a function at Amparai, referred to the communal harmony in that region and referred to the ideals of D. S. Senanayake. There are many ideas of D. S. Senanayake, not publicized today, nor known or

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appreciated by the present day politicians. In the present context of "communal disagreements" it may be relevant to revive memories of this great man's ideas and ideals for a united nation.

The writer was asked to design and prepare plans for the construction of Gal Oya Valley and Walawe Schemes in 1945. When the designs were completed I was asked to go to America to get the designs checked by that famous "Dam designer"—Dr. Savage of Denver—and to select a suitable firm and negotiate a contractor to build the two schemes. I was dispatched to Denver with half a million dollars of public money in my personal account to carry out the assignment.

In 1947, when Independence was being discussed, I wrote to the then Minister of Agriculture—D. S. Senanayake, suggesting that one way of commemorating the "New Slice of Political Independence" was to construct an entirely new irrigation project where a new pattern of development and settlement could be undertaken and that the choice was either Gal Oya or Walawe. The reply came asking me to finalize the details of Gal Oya, negotiate a contract, and get back to Colombo. Morrison Knudson of Boise Idaho, was selected as the contracting firm and a target estimate of 10.5 million dollars was negotiated for the construction of the project.

On return to the country and during a discussion on the two schemes, I asked "Why do we go to the Eastern Province to start a new settlement scheme, when there is over population and a land hunger in the Southern Province?" The answer was "They are all Sinhala. If I want to build a new independent Ceylon all communities must be brought together so they understand each other...without that there cannot be one people, one country...and the ideal setting for this is the Eastern Province, where there are already Tamils, Muslims and a scatter of Sinhala people living in harmony....I want to consolidate this peace and communal harmony by bringing in more Sinhala families to live and understand the Tamils and Muslims and work towards a common goal....As a matter of fact Batticoloa Tamils do not like the Jaffna Tamils....The Jaffna Tamils have their own reservations and they do not like the Tambimuttus, Casinaders etc. etc. of the East.... So I want to settle some Jaffna peasants also in Gal Oya valley so that they will mix and understand their Eastern brethren."

This, a summary, was his ideal. The development work went apace. Land was settled with Sinhala families on the left bank, Muslims on the Right bank, Sinhala around Digavape and Malwattu Vihare and Jaffna Tamils around Kalmunai. Never for a moment these different communities and sections of a community thought differently that they were anything but one community with common goals—till 1956.

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"Sinhala Only" became a political cry and the first language riots started in the valley in 1956 and the dream of D. S.—"One people, one country" was shattered by this single phrase coined by the power hungry politicians. From that day onwards, murder, looting, arson, became a way of life with us. Not that D. S. did not care for the Sinhala language. His conviction was "Leave the language issue alone. Tamils will master the Sinhala language better than you and I and beat us in the game—don't force it down their throat. Anybody would resent such force". *The wisdom of this great man we realize today. What the language issue has caused to divide the two communities and destroy each other we experience since that cry "Sinhala Only" was raised in 1956.*

x x x

MALWATTE AND ASGIRIYA

For National Unity

In a joint statement issued in connection with a conference summoned by the Citizens' National Peace Committee on the theme of 'For a United Sri Lanka' the Maha Nayaka Theras of the Asgiriya and Malwatta chapters have called upon the people to take steps to ensure that the country's scope for the march towards its goal of national development as a single nation, was not allowed to be eroded. The statement signed by Ven. Sirimalwatte, Ananda Maha Thera, Mahanayaka of the Malwatta Chapter and Ven. Palipane Chandananda Maha Thera the Maha Nayaka of the Asigiriya Chapter is as follows:

"The endeavour of your Committee to establish harmonious relations between the communities living in Sri Lanka are worthy of praise. It should be mentioned that the Sinhala Buddhists having been inspired by the teaching of the Buddha and nurtured in a Buddhist culture are capable of working harmoniously with any community. The history of Sri Lanka would prove that the Tamil Hindus like the Sinhala Buddhists were two communities who were born and bred in a culture similar in almost every respect. The recent incidents can be described as a serious blow to the friendly relations existing between the two communities who lived together peacefully for thousands of years.

"Sri Lanka inherited its policy of Nonalignment from the 'Middle Path' doctrine taught by the Buddha and this policy of Nonalignment has brought Sri Lanka great reputation among the many countries that subscribed to it. It was the duty of every citizen to ensure that the scope for the country's march towards its goal of national development, as a single nation, in an environment of compassion, kindness, non violence and mutual trust as taught by their

founder of the religion is not eroded. Both the terrorism of the North and violence of the South should stop. Solution to problems should be sought through peaceful means".—*Sun, 15/9/83.*

x x x

MISPRISION

Of Felony

K. Kanapathipillai

FELONY is grave crime of a strident and sinister sort. It smacks of the cruellest and wickedest form of violence. It has no object to wreak its vengeance on. No specific illwill against any particular object. It is crazy, and acts with unrelenting brutality. There is rage in it; very little anger. It is, to wit, murder in cold blood, loot and brigandage, malicious burning and slashing and rape: satistic and masochistic. It inflicts pain for the mere pleasure of inflicting it. It is illegality and illogicality of the wickedest type. The commission of felony cannot be condoned in any orderly society; in any accepted political set up; in any state or government of an orderly nature: monarchy, aristocracy, plutocracy, democracy or even autocracy or dictatorship of a benevolent sort. Any orderly, peace-loving, lawful government can't tolerate it; any society can't afford to entertain it; it can't even have its eyes shut and pretend to ignore it and say: "Let us forget all about it." It can find lodgement only in an addled social order: in anarchy where law and order has no place; where goodwill and urbanity prevaleth not; where amity and harmpny dwelleth not.

FELONY assumes varying proportions, often of a formidable and staggering form. It takes the form of rape and mindless burning, murder and brigandage, heartless loot and wanton wastage of human life and property: vandalism of the worst degree. It leaves its deep gashes and dirty scars writ large on the face of society. And every wound bleeds and rots, turns septic and stinks; and every cut and gash becomes a tell-tale bluish, every loss a reeking heart-burn brimming over with anguish and agony. When a society or community resorts and descends to the commission of felony and degenerates morally or to the misprision of felony, that is to say to the concealment of the knowledge of grave crimes, it may be said to have butchered its conscience, smothered its inner small voice and to have got sunk in the slough of messy thinking and low bestial trends. It certainly has divested itself of a sane social ethics and the eternal social clues of justice and fairplay, kindly neighbourly feeling, and close bonding human relationships. It descends into the inferno of anarchy and tyranny; sans law, sans order, sans justice, sans equity; let lone liberty, equality and fraternity.

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WHOEVER THE CULPRITS MAY BE, have we not, as a people, gone down deplorably in the estimation of the civilized nations of the world. The mischief makers have tarred the entire nation with the same tainted brush and have smudged our national pride. Haven't we regressed, and gone far far back in the scale of human progress, and turned out to be beastly depraved, lustful and malicious reeking with envy and rage? And didn't it seem as if pandemonium reigned supreme for a week or more in our fair home where we have lived in untainted peace and harmony for centuries, if not milenia? *And now how about amends? The reparation has to be effected in earnest, for the remedy is in our hands. Let us rally round our leaders and seek for a lasting solution.*

x x x

TWO LETTERS

From Saudi Arabia

Sir,

THE TAMIL QUESTION

The present situation in the country is more explosive than the insurgency of 1971, and the cry for separation of the North resulting from several decades of neglect and discrimination particularly on language and education has not been rectified by meaningful action. Terrorism seems to be a desperate step of an unemployed and frustrated youth population who are the victims of irresponsible and treacherous politicians. Sinhala nationalism as a logical development of independence from colonial rule was exploited by politicians to gain power, with little regard for minorities, in pursuing extreme language and education policies. It has contributed to mass unemployment and disrupted social and economic life. There was a time when Sri Lankans were known to speak better English than the Englishmen and our standards were regarded as the highest in the Commonwealth. Continuation of such education would have contributed to more rapid development as well as reduced unemployment throughout the country. One reason for such extremist policies was to rectify the disparity between the two main communities in employment. A more rational approach would have been to upgrade schools in Sinhala areas to compete with those in the north.

The solution, if there is one at this stage, would require immediate action on two basic needs: (1) Active measures to develop the north and generate employment while taking steps to eliminate terrorism; (2) complete review of language and education policies to rectify anomalies in the system. The obvious solution would be the reintroduction of English as a medium of instruction in all regions while giving option for education in other languages.

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Language and education particularly under the SLFP rule since 1956 had become the plaything of politicians. Some legislation such as the Reasonable Use of Tamil was so ineffective that it was treated as a joke, which has now become sour. Unless there is a genuine attempt to rectify the situation permanently, it can be regarded as a moral justification for separation.

PATRIOT

Riyadh,
20th June 1983.

x x x

Sir,

A MEANINGFUL SETTLEMENT

I fully agree with views expressed by you and action take by government against moves for separation of the country. The solution for the Tamil problem can be found in (1) Effective measures to unify the country by uniting all communities with one link language and culture; (2) Implementation of the Guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms already embodied in the Constitution including additional safeguards against standardisation, ie. discrimination of minorities in all aspects of government business; (3) Effective steps being taken to combat terrorism in the north as well as the south without excessive use of armed forces as in the recent past. The need for effective Intelligence operation to detect trouble-makers is evident from recent development.

Despite sentiments expressed by government and other politicians, there does not appear to be any positive action take during the last twenty five years to unify the country. The factors that have united various communities in the past such as language and agitation for independence no longer exist, allowing scope for parochial tendencies. While it is now evident that recent disturbances were sponsored by political forces intended to overthrow the government, it also underlines the need for national unity and vigilance against disruptive elements. For this purpose there has to be a complete change of heart, and the need to obtain greater cooperation and involvement from all sections of the community is vital.

Despite opposition of Tamil politicians to the present government, there is not only the need to provide a working solution to minority grievances but also the need to involve them and draw them into the mainstream of government affairs. The last time such an attempt was made was in the late sixties under the previous UNP government. What is needed is a restoration of confidence among the two main communities for which soul-searching answers to the following are needed: (1) What steps are being taken to improve security and prevent further atrocities

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Including those committed by the armed forces? (2) What action is being taken to redress grievances of Tamils in the north in respect of employment and development? *Failure to achieve a meaningful settlement will have an impact throughout the country and on all communities. It will also result in a loss of confidence and stability in economic, financial, political and social life which a small third world country like ours can ill-afford. We have now reached the cross roads and a turn in the wrong direction can be prevented by statesmanship of the highest calibre.*

Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia
12/9/83.

PATRIOT

x x x

LINKING VILLAGES

For National Amity

By M. Samantha

In 1981 when social conflicts arose between the Sinhalese and Tamils, Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne thought of a strategy how an understanding—a sort of a bridge across the gulf of misunderstanding and distrust between these two communities could be established. He thought of creating a psycho-physical infrastructure in order to build this understanding. At the time of the conflict Sarvodaya assisted the Tamil rehabilitation camp established at the Vajirarama temple in Colombo. Forty families were looked after here. At Kahawatte, at the heart of the Tamil area, where tea plantations are found, Sarvodaya directly intervened in safe-guarding the Tamil people and rebuilding some of their destroyed houses. This sort of activity was useful in bringing the two peoples together.

This was followed up by a series of camps (5) both in the Sinhala areas and Tamil areas where both Tamils and Sinhalese joined together as brothers and sisters experiencing Sarvodaya. By bringing them together to share Sarvodaya experience, it was thought that the mutual distrust and misunderstanding could be gradually replaced by love and understanding. In each of these camps leaders including such distinguished speakers as the Prime Minister and leaders coming from both Sinhala and Tamil groups participated. In the tea estate areas the strategy assumed a different form. The tea estates are situated right across the village. In the village the Sinhalese lived while in the estate there were Tamils. What was necessary now was to find a way to bring these two peoples, speaking two languages, coming from two cultures, together. The Sarvodaya shramadana camp was a means of joining them

increasing the mutual understanding. In addition to this a Sarvodaya Pre-school too was started. The tea estates were thus connected to villages, families to families, and the Sinhalese to Tamils. The sharing of the identical experience at the Sarvodaya camp made them realize that they are all brothers and sisters of one family.

THE STRATEGY was still developed in an extended manner in the Sinhala and Tamil villages in other areas of the country. A Sinhala village in the South was joined to a Tamil village in the North. A group of youth from the Sinhala village went to the North and lived a number of days as guests of the Tamils. Having thus lived they experienced their life and the understanding developed was a very good starting point for bridging the gulf. The Tamils in turn came to the South, and experienced the life in Sinhala villages. The whole exercise joined individuals, families and more than all the communities in whom there existed nothing but mutual distrust, dislike and suspicion.

The following are the Sinhalese vilages "linked" to such Tamil villages in the country: *Kotugoda*—Atchuvely North; *Kolugala*—Uduvil South; *Gurulawela*, *Ukuwela*—Katkalawame, Pedurutudu; *Madola*—Analaitivu; *Kongolla*, *Medawela*—Chunnakam South; *Harangoda*—Punguditivu; *Kolonna*—Kaitadi; *Hapugastenna*—Kolmadanata; *Kegalle*—Palanai; *Ellawale*—Wasantupuram, Ilavala; *Dunukewatta*—Madagal West; *Kirigalwewa*—Katkalawame, Pedurutudu; *Eheliyagoda*—Mantumadan; *Trincomalee*—Ponalaiji (Atuwelwawaya Road); *Yat-awatte*—Pandiruppu; *Trincomalee*—Jaffna (Kadinadi South).

This experience Sarvodaya believes would enable both Sinhalese and Tamils to realize that they are, above everything else, human beings, brothers and sisters of one family, who realize this when they share their identical experiences. Even though the majority of them, both Sinhalese and Tamils, lacked any understanding of the rudiments of the other's language at the time of arrival, this was no bar at all to the understanding, affection and warmth that arose later. It was indeed surprising to see how Sinhala families began to treat the Tamil visitors as one of their children and how in Tamil families, the identical situation occurred. This great realization was effected by the Programme and it is hoped that in the future the gradual extension of the Sarvodaya activities would enable both Sinhala and Tamil people to realize that all of them possess the identical heart. —Dana.

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SPOTLIGHT



Cricket Sri Lanka

CRICKET—one of the most popular games in the country was fired off to a start by **Ceylon Tobacco Co. Ltd.**, who very kindly agreed to come to the rescue of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka and sponsor the under 25 tourney. In previous years this tourney was sponsored by the Stafford Group. The actual story to the Stafford pull out from sponsorship is not known. ALLROUNDER believes that there has been some misunderstanding between the Cricket Board and Stafford Group hence the sudden pull out by Stafford Group. However one thing has been proved. It is that no one is indispensable. **Ceylon Tobacco** has always been in the forefront of cricket sponsorship in Sri Lanka and we congratulate them for coming to the rescue of the Cricket Board. The Cricket Board is in for hard times owing to the recent disturbances which caused a lot of damage to several cricket sponsoring firms. However, Ceylon Tobacco's gesture must be appreciated. However the under-25 tourney was off to a bad start with the rains proving a spoiler on the two opening days. Most of the games had to be curtailed over-wise and it is heartening to note that several of the less fancied teams gained good victories over their much fancied opponents. This tourney saw six of the cricketers who represented Sri Lanka at the last World Cup cricket tourney in England in action. They were Ranjan Madugalle, Asantha de Mel, Arjuna Ranatunge, Guy de Alwis, Brendon Kuruppu and Vinodhan John. It would have been seven had Rumesh Ratnayake been fit to take the field. Ratnayake has had an operation and is expected to be fit to take the field for the NCC in the Premier tourney.

According to a spokesman from Tobacco, the object of the sponsorship is to promote the game and produce a base to build up the national team. The sponsors are also keen on promoting the game in the outstation and have arranged for a Champions versus Rest match to be played at the Galle Esplanade. The sponsors have even increased the sponsorship money by another 30 thousand rupees. The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka meanwhile has made arrangements and brought in new strictures

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for the Premier tourney which is due to start soon. For a start the Tournament Committee has decided to take firm steps to curb irregularities by clubs in the new season. Last year, the inaugural Lakspray Trophy tourney was soured when at the last moment Bloomfield claimed the title from the Tamil Union. Both clubs had apparently submitted inaccurate scoresheets to the recorder. To prevent a similar occurrence this time, the Tournament Committee has decided to impose a penalty of one point on any club sending incomplete or inaccurate score sheets.

THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE has also introduced the following rules: Any changes of venue must have the prior written sanction of the Tournament Committee before 12 noon on Wednesday of that particular week after agreement has been reached by both clubs. Failure to do so, shall render the host club liable to a penalty of one point. All teams in Division 1, 2 and 3 will be required to maintain in any single innings an average of 16 overs per hour. A team faces a penalty equivalent to five runs bonus points for every over under bowled—and the equivalent points credited to the batting side. Calculations will be made on the basis that while one and two balls will be ignored 4 to 5 balls will be rounded off to an additional over and three will represent $2\frac{1}{2}$ in penalty points.

A *Disciplinary Committee* has also been appointed. The functions of this committee comprising Nihal Senaratne (Chairman), Ranjit Samarasekera and Anura Tennekoon will be to take action on cricketers rebelling on the field of play. The Board of control for Cricket in Sri Lanka hopes to revamp its entire structure soon if the memorandum submitted to the Ministry of Sports is okayed. The Board wants to remain autonomous. Whether the Minister of Sports will give his approval to this is still to be seen. The Board has in the meantime appointed W. A. N. Silva as *Director of Coaching*. WAN, as he is popularly known, will in future be in charge of all coaching schemes initiated by the Board. WAN was the first Sri Lankan to be awarded the Advanced Coaching Certificates by the National Cricket Association of England. This is a certificate considered the highest any cricket coach can obtain. Silva was also a selector of the Cricket Board for two years (1975/76). Associated with the Board for eight years he was one of the three coaches sent by the Board for training in Pakistan under former Test star Khan Mohammed. Silva also went as Assistant Manager and coach to England in 1981 and as Manager of the Sri Lanka under 19 team to Pakistan in 1976.

IN FUTURE the Division III winners of the tourney conducted by the Board will receive the *Pure Beverages Trophy* and not the *Daily News Trophy*. With apparently no sponsorship money coming from the donors of the *Daily News Trophy*, the Board had no

alternative but to offer the tourney to Pure Beverages who has agreed to sponsor this tourney by pumping in over a lakh of rupees, in fact 120 thousand rupees. Of this money Rs. 20,000 will be awarded as prize money and the balance of Rs.100,000 distributed equally among the participating clubs. Last year too, with no sponsorship coming from the donors of the P. Sara Trophy, the Tamil Union, the Board had no alternative but to offer the sponsorship to Lanka Milk Foods, CWE Ltd., who in addition to offering big sponsorship money also donated the Lakspray trophy.

The Board in drawing up its schedule for the new season has not forgotten the *umpires*. The cry often heard from the umpires is that they have been poorly paid. The new season will see them receiving enhanced fees. In addition to the increase in fees, umpires will also have their travelling costs to the outstations also enhanced. We are sure the umpires will appreciate the gesture by the Board and endeavour to raise the standard of umpiring all round. It is understood that the umpires have received a 30 percent increase from the existing rates. According to a report, Nuski Mohammed, Secretary of the Cricket Board, has said: "This decision was taken on its own by the Board, because it was felt that the umpires were not adequately remunerated. In relation to the inflationary trend in the country this increase is very justifiable. Umpiring is an important aspect of cricket in the entire world and the standards of umpiring has to be improved domestically as well as internationally. It is the Board's thinking that more people who are connected with the game should take to umpiring for the upliftment of the game as a whole". The Board will again foot the umpires' bill for the new season. This will enable clubs who play in three divisions to benefit to the tune of nearly rupees eight thousand.

AT THE TIME OF WRITING the President of the Cricket Board, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake and Secretary Nuski Mohammed are in New Delhi attending the Inaugural Asian Cricket Conference meeting. Delegates expected to attend this meeting are India and Pakistan with other Asian members of the International Cricket Conference also expected to be present. The main items likely to come up for discussion at this meeting will be the drafting of a constitution and matters pertaining to the Asian Cup Tournament to be staged in Sharjah next year. The chairman of the Sharjah CA is also expected at this meeting.

Sri Lanka's Somachandra de Silva who is only second to Abdul Qadir of Pakistan in the specialised department of leg spin bowling has been honoured by being invited to play for an international event chosen by the Jamaican Board of Control for Cricket. The team is expected to play eight exhibition games at the forthcoming Jamaican International cricket festival. In addition Somachandra, has been requested to assist in the coaching of young Jamaican leg spin

bowlers at the end of the festival. The International team picked is; Ian Botham (Capt.) Greame Fowler, Sadiq Mohammed, Roland Butcher, Imran Khan. Somachandra de Silva, Jack Richards, Paul Alott. Normal Gowans, Kevin Curren and Eddie Hemmings,

ALLROUNDER



SPORTS CHRONICLE

September 12 - 18

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: Wesley recovered from 89 for five to 136 for 8 to beat St. Anthony's, Kandy and take the All Island under 17 Division II junior cricket champions title in the final played at Katugastota yesterday. The Antniansa added only 2 runs to their over-night 116 for 7 to be all out for 118. St. Anthony's 116 for 6 continued 118 and Wesley 136 for 8. Isipatana pulled off a thrilling one wicket win on the stroke of time to beat Dharmaraja and become All Island under 15 division II junior cricket champions in the final played at the Police Grounds, Kandy yesterday: Dharmaraja 61 for 7 continued 112 and Isipatana 116 for 9. Larry Holmes retained his World Boxing Council heavyweight title last night when the referee stopped his scheduled 12-round fight against fellow American Scott Frank at 1.28 of the fifth round. It was Holme's 16th consecutive successful title defence, bringing his record to 44-0 with 31 knockouts.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: The Indian men's hockey team squandered a two goal advantage and drew their second and final Test against New Zealand 2-2 at Auckland in North Island on Monday. New Zealand snatched the equaliser in the last minute to give them a historic result. Singapore thrashed Thailand 5-1 in the finals of the ASEAN police soccer tournament at Kuala Lumpur; the half time score was 2-1. David Moorcroft, British world 5,000 metres record holder won a comeback race at Jarrow yesterday after a season wrecked by illness and injury. Mrs. Krishnadasan and P. M. Jayarajan won the monthly mixed pairs event of the Contract Bridge Association held last Saturday at the Women's International Club, Colombo.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: Travel Bag defeated Associated Management Services by 9 wickets in a Mercantile Services cricket tournament E Division match on the MCA grounds: Associated Management Services 36 in 21.2 overs and Travel Bag 37 for 1. in 7.4 overs. Kandy Sports Club, Kandy defeated Young United Sports Club Gampola 3-0 in their inter-club soccer match played at the Bcgambara Stadium on Sunday. Udawalpola Rangers SC A team defeated their B team by 5 goals to 3 in a soccer match played at Udawalpola MC Park, Kurunegala,

recently. Wesley College, Colombo who became champions of the under 17, Division II cricket tournament of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association by defeating St. Anthony's College, Kandy in the final played at Katugastota last Sunday will be promoted to Division I next season. India and Pakistan, traditional cricket rivals will meet in the First of Three Five day tests on Wednesday; Zaheer Abbas a star batsman who has 4,073 runs to his credit from 94 innings off 56 Tests, at an average of 45 leads Pakistan.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: A good knock off of 47 by J. Biggs helped Akbar Brothers beat Gestetner by 63 runs in their 40 over cricket match played at the Health Grounds, Castle Street; Akbar Brothers 142 in 39.4 overs and Gestetner 79 in 33.2 overs. Veteran Wille Barsenbach maintains his lead in the Grand Prix Golf Ratings after the conclusion of the September Monthly Medal of the Royal Colombo Golf Club sponsored by Pigot Chapman. Two new records were set up and one equalled at the National Age Group Swimming and Dividing Championships conducted by the National Amateur Aquatic Sports Union of Sri Lanka now on at the Josephian Pool; Candice Morrel of Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya set a new mark in the 50 metres Free Style for Girls in the under 12 Age Group; she clocked 33.31 seconds—1.99 seconds better than Bombay's T. Hoosanally's 35.30 seconds set in 1981; Royal's Pravin Kalpage equalled the 50 metres Free Style for Boys under 12 record of 34.50 seconds set by Fonseka (St. Joseph's) last year.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: St. John's Panadura entered the All Island Under 15 Division III final when they defeated Lumbini MV by 23 runs in the semi-final concluded at the Panadura esplanade yesterday; St. Johns 111 for 7 and Lumbini 88. J. A. Wahid and J. W. H. Boteju entered the Round Robin Stage of the National Snooker Championships now on at the Borella YMBA tables; in the quarter Finals Wahid (Kandy Cue Club) beat M. J. Mansosor (SSC) 25-53, 52-29, 60-18, 49-21 and 59-49 and Boteju (YMBA) beat M. J. M. Isseth (Old Bens) 59-7, 30-15, 82-25, 81-41 and 66-56. Olympic champions India beat a New Zealand Indian team 3-0 in a men's hockey match at Auckland yesterday. Mark Kayler came off the canvas to knock out World Title contender Roy Gumbs and win the British and Commonwealth Middleweight Boxing Crowns last night.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: Carey held the whip hand on the Railway Grounds Mount Mary yesterday when they dismissed Sri Jayawardanapura MV Kotte for a paltry 76 and reached 117 for 3 by the close: Sri Jayawardanapura 75 and Carey 117 for 3. D.S. Senanayake A team played 7 matches won 5 and lost 2: Lost to St. Peter's A. DSS 129 and St. Peter's A 158 for 9; Beat Nalanda A. DSS 144

and Nalanda A 113. Lost to Prince of Wales: DSS 183 and POW 185 for 9. Beat St. Josephs A: DSS 155 for 7 and St. Joseph's 96. Beat St. Thomas Matale: DSS 121 and St. Thomas Matale 58. Beat Nalanda A once again: DSS 123 for 5 and Nalanda A 122 (quarter final). Beat Ananda A: DSS 113 for 8 and Ananda A 112 (Semi finals.) Australia II cried "Foul" after squandering a huge lead and falling behind 2-0 to the US yacht Liberty in the Best of Seven Americas Cup Series. Royalist Julian Bollings natched his seventh win and another record in the National Age Group Swimming Championships at the Josephian pool; Bolling erased his own record in the Under 19 Boys 200 metres Free Style Heads; he clocked 2; 12.00 which was .31 seconds better than the 2; 12.21 set last yer. Teruni Corea of Ladies College then broke an eight year old record in the Under 15 Girls Group she had a timing of 1: 20.90 in the 100 metres Back Stroke. Renuka Ranasinghe had held the record with 1: 21.60 since 1975.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: St. Sebastians made a spirited recovery for 3 wickets to 107 for 5 wickets in their rain-restricted Schools Cricket Association under 15 division one cricket final against D. S. Senanayake Vidyalaya on the Cambrian grounds at Moratuwa yesterday. At Maitland Place SSC beat Galle CC by 8 wickets; Galle CC 68 for 9 in 21 overs SSC 70 for 2 in 17.4 overs. NCC beat CCC by 66 runs: NCC 117 for 4 in 18 overs and CCC 51 for 5 in 17 overs. At Reid Avenue Bloomfield beat Nomads by 9 wickets; Nomads 85 in 26.5 overs and Bloomfield 86 for 1 in 13.2 overs. At Katugastota Kandy Cricket Club beat Colts CC by 19 runs Kandy CC 270 for 4 in 44 overs and Colts 251 in 38.4 overs. At Kurunegala Negambo Cricket Club beat Kurunagela Sports Club by 2 wickets; Kurunegala SC 155 in 36.1 overs and Negombo CC 160 for 8 in 39.1 overs. At Panadura Tamil Union beat Panadura Sports Club by 2 wickets; Panadura SC 92 for 8 in 30 overs and Tamil Union 92 for 8 in 30 overs. At Police Park Police beat Moratuwa SC by 6 runs: Police 80 for 4 in 19 overs and Moratuwa SC 72 in 17.3 overs.

THE WORLD WE MUST SEEK

"No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of the friend's or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

John Donne (1572 — 1631)

CONFIDENTIALLY

Colour-Line

IS IT NOT TRUE that coloured doctors in the UK are now not only subject to taunts and provocations by white racists but also face unemployment and consequent repatriation? That the Thatcher government has now decided to cut expenditure on the National Health Service by a third? That according to a news agency report, hundreds of doctors from India and other Asian countries, who had served the British health services for years, face the grim prospect of losing their jobs and being repatriated shortly? That the first batch of about 1,500 overseas doctors, whose temporary five-year registration ends in February next, would lose their jobs and their right to practice in the UK leaving them with the choice of either returning home or changing their profession? That under a new law passed by the British Parliament in 1978 overseas doctors were required to sit for an examination before being allowed to work in "educationally approved posts"? That those who passed the test were then given limited registration up to five years although they could apply for full registration later to be granted at the discretion of the Medical Council? That but full registration was rarely given to overseas doctors according to Dr. Krishna Korlipara, general secretary of the Overseas Doctors Association, who alleged that attempts were being made to get rid of doctors from abroad "through the backdoor"? That the news agency report went on to say that Britain had over 22,000 overseas doctors and an estimated 10,000 of them were from India alone? That the rest came from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other countries? That they formed the backbone of the national health service? That now the threat of repatriation was real. Dr. Korlipara said, adding that "after the first batch of 1,500, thousands of other overseas doctors would lose their right to practice in Britain at the end of the temporary registration? That he estimated the total number of temporary registered doctors from overseas was about 10,000?

IS IT NOT A FACT that overseas doctors have been under pressure lately from various quarters including the British Medical Association (BMA) which recently demanded regulation controlling both the number of such doctors working in Britain and the length of time for which they can practice? That the BMA had demanded tough controls to restrict numbers of overseas doctors because British doctors were unable to find work as a large number of overseas doctors were filling hospitals posts? That in reply, Dr. Korlipara had said, 'what they are saying is yes, you are useful. Come and serve us for some years; then go back? That overseas doctors, he alleged, were being treated 'like a pair of hands' and were being ruthlessly exploited? That it was also a fact that overseas doctors were being given 'dead-end' jobs which have no promotion pros-

pects and which the British are, therefore, unwilling to take? That for years overseas doctors had served the health service while their British counterparts received all chances of promotion? That they now faced prospects of repatriation because that suited the British? That some Indian doctors are quoted as saying: 'Time was when we would be met at the airport with a car on our arrival from India: that we were needed then? That Dr. Korlipara also refuted the contention that overseas doctors received training during their stay there: "our training in this country is hardly useful for our home countries? That all that most of the overseas doctors do here is to assist the British and give of their best in that capacity"? That Dr. Korlipara pointed out that even now about two thousand overseas doctors were being admitted annually into Britain? That they still admit them because British consultants want help? That full registration is denied so that they do not settle here?

IS IT ALSO NOT TRUE that some Sri Lankan residents in the UK (now on holiday here) say that whilst the reports cited above may be true of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladesh and other Asian doctors, it was different with Sri Lankan doctors? That even white racists treat Sri Lankans differently and regard them as a separate species in the coloured fraternity in the UK? That Sri Lankan doctors, specially Tamils (who can play a sympathy card), would never be repatriated? That other Sri Lankans from the UK dispute this and say that the Sri Lankans have to put up with same colour-line treatment and indignities as other coloured immigrants? That whilst *Tribune* is not in a position to say whether Sri Lankans are a privileged coloured group in the UK, it is aware that the galloping unemployment in the UK has brought about a radical change in the British attitude to all coloured people including Sri Lankans? That across the English channel in France, the French who have traditionally enjoyed a reputation for intellectual liberalism and racial tolerance almost unmatched in the Western world, are now afflicted with a growing spectre of rabid racism at the political and social levels? That the latest decision of the main French Opposition parties—with the exception of the Communists—to join forces with the extremist right-wing National Front which campaigned on racial issues in several key French cities in the current round of local government elections, making a mockery of French non-racist claims? That the local Government elections at Dreux, a semi-industrial town west of Paris, where the immigrant population rose to about a quarter of the town's 30,000 people focussed exclusively on racial issues? That this pattern could soon be repeated in cities such as Paris, Marseilles and Lyon which have sizeable immigrant communities? That racial attacks are on the increase mainly against Africans and Algerians who form the bulwark of the coloured population in France? That with increasing unemployment, the colour-line was spreading fast in Europe.)

TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 1, 1983

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