

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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October 8, 1983

Rs. 4.00

- ★ INDIAN CP
- ★ ZERO OPTION ('47)
- ★ SARVODAYA
- ★ PLANTERDOM
- ★ POOR POORER
- ★ MARK COORAY
- ★ "TIMES" & J. R.



TENDER NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION.
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION.
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Tenders for Construction of balance work in the two storeyed building for library and Assembly hall, Certified School, Makola will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, upto 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 19.10.83.

Tenders for Construction of New Classroom 6 Block for Junior Technical College, Kurunegala will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, upto 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 19.10.83

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer/Colombo South before 4.15 p.m. on 14.10.83 by registered Contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 1,000,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer/Kurunegala before 4.15 p.m on 14.10.83. by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 1,300,000/- 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.

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

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K. C. Samaraweera.
Director of Buildings.

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Director of Buildings

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
P. O. BOX 504,
COLOMBO 1, 1983.09. 28

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
P. O. BOX 504,
COLOMBO 1, 1983.09.28

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ON THE COVER we have a scene of peace and quiet with a sophisticated modern machine that helps in construction. Though this particular picture of serenity is of a part of the Gin Ganga valley, it is one that could have been regarded as true of all parts of the island—until the holocaust of the black week in July. The disturbances were brought under control and the government claims that it was not a purely ethnic outburst but it was only the first phase of an anti-government insurrection that was launched under cover of a latent anti-Tamil hysteria built up over a period. The President has, in a recent speech asked the people not to allow a repetition of the July incidents. He had also said the attacks on the 25th were not sudden but were planned. The attack on the Indian High Commission and Indian residences was aimed, he said, at creating discord between India and Sri Lanka. He wanted the people not to fall prey to the machinations of such elements. In this connection the thought provoking and constructive editorial in *The Island* of September 30 entitled A CHORD OF SANITY has come as a silver lining in an otherwise gloomy sky: "In the current ill-informed and hysterical hub-bub of political voices emanating from South India over Sri Lanka's national question the enlightened stand adopted by the Tamilnadu Wing of the Moscow-leaning Communist Party of India comes as a chord of sanity. Yesterday, *The Island* carried a news report from *The Hindu* of Madras where the CPI had urged the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam to reconsider its stance of sending an Indian Army to Sri Lanka. THE CPI had further adopted a resolution stressing the need for a favourable climate of opinion to be created in the country so that the Sinhalese would agree to a reasonable accord guaranteeing educational and employment opportunities for the Tamil minority and the development of the Tamil language. The CPI by this resolution has demonstrated that it had correctly grasped the situation in Sri Lanka... The Communist Party of India would have been greatly assisted in arriving at its correct diagnosis of the situation here by their colleagues here including the cogent contributions to parliamentary debates by the Kalawana MP Sarath Muttetuwegama... In this context it must not be forgotten that the Soviet Union was among the bloc of countries which supported Sri Lanka at the United Nations Sub Commission where a resolution empowering the Secretary-General to call for details of the recent communal violence from the Sri Lanka Government was adopted. While Sri Lanka found that even its erstwhile friends of the non-aligned movement like Egypt were deserting it Soviet Russia fully supported Sri Lanka. It must also be borne in mind that this line of thinking reflected the stand of the Soviet government and not its individuals representatives at the Sub-Commission a point which is particularly relevant in the context of the argument adduced by the Foreign Office that some of the representatives did not reflect the thinking of their Governments. The CPI's attitude can set the stage for a correct political appreciation of the problem in Sri Lanka. No outside Government or agency can solve the current problem for both the Sinhalese and Tamils here. They can at best only contribute to generating the proper climate. The problem itself has to be solved by the leaders of both communities who by their political will and tenacity of commitment to a solution should transcend the petty differences and hair-splitting casuistry which interested parties will try to place in their way... In this context we cannot but express our disappointment at the failure of our intelligentsia to give leadership to a broader search for a solution which would transcend petty political loyalties and party badges. It is true that ultimately the solution will have to be political but the country's thinking people can play a role in placing the matter in perspective, diffusing tensions, exploding old myths and generally acting as a moderating and sobering influence. This is the challenge of our times."

Zero Option 1947

Colombo October 3: One of the most important Conferences ever held in the island, in our view, took place in Colombo at the BMICH on October 1 and 2. Organized by Sarvodaya to promote national peace and harmony, the Conference attracted a wide cross-section of the public all keenly interested in finding a way out of the present tensions and fears that stem from the ongoing problems between the Tamil political parties and groups, on the one hand, and the Sinhalese counter-parts on the other. These differences were among the causes (or were made the cover) for the July disturbances and the ensuing holocaust.

Tribune, generally, studiously avoids seminars conferences and the like because in this country they have become blah-blah talkathons for calculated inaction. But *Tribune* representatives sat through the two full days of the deliberations of the Sarvodaya Conference and came away fully convinced that something concrete was likely to materialize from it; and that it will, undoubtedly, lay the foundation for national peace and harmony in the coming years—especially because the message, plan and programme of work which the Sarvodaya leader, Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne and his other collaborators outlined at the Conference will definitely reach the ordinary people of this country and will be implemented as far as humanely possible. Sarvodaya's record of work inspires such confidence. Moreover, everyone at the meeting seemed to be willing to transform the Declaration from a paper document into a living reality.

It is also important to note that no political or short-term solution has been suggested in the Declaration with a promise to produce a quick panacea to resolve the tangled communal problems which have caused great distress and suffering. There are no quick remedies—they are usually the pious and wishful hopes of politicians who want slogans before the next elections. What the Sarvodaya is attempting to do is to create an environment and climate in which suspicion and fear will vanish and in which a dialogue between all communities at all levels—not merely political—becomes possible. In such an atmosphere, a political solution will automatically emerge. Solutions to other problems will, at the same time, be also easily found.

The Conference adopted a *People's Declaration for National Peace and Harmony*. It is a long document which *Tribune* will publish in full (in instalments). We will endeavour to ensure the implementation of the different sections of the Declaration and suggest changes and amendments as we go along. The original draft presented on the first day of the Conference was altered after discussion and

the amended document was adopted on the second day. The declarations will now be discussed at meetings in an expected 6,000 village centres in all parts of the island (5,000 in Sinhala areas and 1,000 in Tamil). As it is, the Declaration is a comprehensive and exhaustive document but Ariyaratne rightly believes that only when it goes through the fire of grass-roots discussion and evaluation it will be complete. This will be done, he said during the *padayatra* from the South to the North and from the West to the East.

We will examine each section of the Declaration in the coming weeks in an attempt to have a *Tribune* evaluation of the matters dealt with in the context of the current problems of the day. In our view, one of the most important sections deals with Education—the reorientation of some aspects of language teaching as a corrective to the gulf between the communities. *We have on innumerable occasions pointed out that communalism in the current form can be traced to the trifurcation of education into the three language streams in 1947.* The Declaration has a ten-point recommendation on "education".

EDUCATION

1. The education of the Sinhala and Tamil children should be so organised from their young days that they be proficient in both languages.
2. All children throughout the island should have opportunities to gain admission to any school. In addition to the education they receive in the mother tongue it should be looked into how far children should be given the opportunity to study certain subjects in English, Tamil or Sinhala according to their preference.
3. A translation of classical Sinhala texts into Tamil and Tamil texts into Sinhala should be made and published that are beneficial to the school children.
4. All higher institutes of education and Universities should be made common educational institutes into which children of all races could gain admission.
5. Children studying at all educational levels should be taught and made to respect the principles of all religions, spiritual experiences should be facilitated by inter-religious relationships fostered by activities such as meditating together.
6. Children belonging to various religions and communities should be made to join in common activities, by involving them in cultural and sports activities, so that from their young days they would develop in their minds the feeling that they all belong to one nation.
7. In each district and in each A.G.A.'s. Division there should be educational institutes of three levels—primary, intermediary and advanced where Sinhala, English and Tamil languages are taught; these institutes could be organised by the Department of Education and Private Institutions.

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8. The Pali and Sanskrit languages should be rehabilitated.

9. The scholars of Sri Lanka should look into the feasibility of developing an Alphabet similar to the Roman Alphabet so that language studying could be easier.

10. Children speaking Sinhala should spend one term in the homes of students speaking Tamil in the Tamil speaking areas and vice versa. Such a system of education where these children could receive education during a term in another area could be organised and community service programmes could be promoted so that national unity could be fostered—Principals and Teachers should provide leadership here.

Tribune has often pointed out that the Sinhala-Tamil communal problem as it has manifested itself in the last thirty five years, in an ever-increasing crescendo reaching peak in the July disturbances, can be traced to the creation of three-language streams in our system of education. There was a cry for Swabasha or mother tongue from 1935 from the embryonic Left movement. The Leftist intellectuals, who came back from the UK (1932-1938) bubbling with enthusiasm for what they thought were Marxist solutions for all human ills, believed that with, *Swabasha*, Cultural Imperialism (English) could be eliminated and that thereafter it would be easier to banish the political and economic stranglehold of imperialism.

But the imperialists and their agents were smart. They accepted *Swabasha* and in the jingoistic nationalism aroused by it, side-tracked other more vital issues. The last British Director of Education in this country, Dr. Howes, devised the three language streams system and divided the nation into three. One stream (the English) disappeared fairly early and the Sinhala and Tamil streams have led to the present conflicts and confrontations. In the ardour and enthusiasm to fight Cultural Imperialism, the Left did not realise that *Swabasha* was being converted into a chauvinistic battle cry to create communal blocs to win votes at elections. The British Director of Education satisfied the demands for the enthronement of the mother tongue by creating a Frankenstein in the form of three (really two) communal streams. *Swabasha* could easily have been given its rightful place in so many other ways without the trifurcation of the country. The scheme adopted however brought the Frankenstein to the forefront in 1956 and it has thereafter been growing in strength from year to year.

The rather feeble attempt to reintroduce English, not as a third stream, but as a link language, from 1978, has not done much good because it came too late and the (English) package was too little. *A mere link language cannot solve the problems as they exist today. The Sarvodaya plan of the three*

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languages in a practical way to meet the realities of the day in a pragmatic way. It is not a quick remedy but if successfully implemented it can lead to a lasting solution to many problems and if a massive grassroots movement develops along these lines, even the Government will take note and introduce educational reforms of a fundamental nature.

As a result of the language chauvinism which was the inevitable outcome of the three streams, Tamils refused to learn Sinhala and Sinhalese would have nothing to do with Tamil. The Sarvodaya way seeks to break these barriers. The Sarvodaya plan is a genuine attempt to reverse the 1947 *divide et impera* strategy through language and which has brought such disaster to this country. *Tribune* will extend the fullest support to this plan for reorientation in the study and reorientation of the Swabasha and English as a world language. It is first step for a long term solution of the communal problem. **The suggestion that a common alphabet—Roman, preferably—should be adopted for the ordinary (and not scholarly) use of Sinhala and Tamil is also excellent. This will make the study of Sinhala and Tamil easier for the overwhelming majority of ordinary people.**

The Communal problem in this country has aroused violent passions through linguistic disputes (which were made a cover for other matters). The first step to bring sanity, national peace and harmony, is to eliminate the Frankenstein the three-streams system of education had spawned. Among ordinary people in the country there is already an awareness of this and a desire to end it. *Swabasha*, yes, to uplift people but not to divide them.

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A PEOPLE'S DECLARATION

For National Peace and Harmony

PRESENTATION

We,
the Citizens of Sri Lanka,
belong to
diverse races, professing different creeds and speaking
several languages, representing people
from all districts of Sri Lanka,
but engaged in professions and services of a non-
party-political nature such as,
Justice, Education, Agriculture, Labour, Medicine,
Science, Technical, Legal, Arts, Letters, Adminis-
tration, Communication, Business, Banking, Teaching,
Clerical, Corporation and Public Security,
having assembled in the Bandarakaike Memorial
International Conference Hall, Colombo
having assembled in the Bandaranaike Memorial
International Conference Hall, Colombo

on
1st and 2nd of the month of Binara in the year 2527
of the Buddhist Era

of
October 1983 A.C.

responding to the kind invitation extended by
The Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya
and

with the blessings of the Maha Sangha,
headed by the most Venerable Maha NayakeTheras
as well as, the very Reverend Clergy of Hindu, Chris-
tian and Islamic Religious Orders,
and being devoid of all partialities,
with the avowed aim of dispelling
the current mutual distrust, disunity, violence and
indecision, and with the sole objective of
achieving unity, harmony, peace, co-existence and
prosperity of the Sri Lankan population, and to
re-establish our country as a true, non-violent,
united and a nationally integrated society, based
on the Law of Righteousness and People's Power,
to be re-worthy of the honour of being called
The land of Plenty and of Righteousness, and having
met peacefully and deliberated peacefully
having arrived at a consensus

do most respectfully present this
"People's Declaration for National Peace and Harmony"

to
All Religious Leaders headed by the Maha Sangha,
the General Public of
The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
their community leaders,
His Excellency the President and the Honourable
the Prime Minister, the Members of Parliament,
the Leaders and Followers of all Political Parties,
and solicit their fullest co-operation and participation
in effecting this
Declaration.

PROLOGUE

In 1948

when Sri Lanka was about to rid herself of foreign
domination and influence of over four and a half
centuries, a Sinhala-Tamil distrustfully began,
disrupting the amity that prevailed till then
and kept growing into many aspects of Community life
in the form of racial politics and divisive activities
leading to national disharmony
and the tragedy of the last week of July 1983,
giving violent shocks
to law abiding, decent, Sri Lankan majority and
violating both the State Law and the Law of
Righteousness
destroying the social peace, and in particular,
the co-existence that was there even to some extent,
between the Sinhala and Tamil communities,
and thus, having realised that it is the duty of every
citizen to study in depth and analyse the symptoms
of common degeneration in our society,
thus surfaced through this tragedy,

and remove its contributory factors
and as this tragedy has discredited and dis-honoured
Sri Lanka in the world opinion,
and as the very thought of resultant repercussions of
such inhuman incidents if repeated is frightening,
it being the duty of every responsible citizen to
vouchsafe that no such unfortunate situation would
ever re-occur in the future in our land
and to resolve this complicated problem justly and
nonviolently and with a genuine conviction
avoiding being extremist,
to check it from being worse confounded
and hence the re-establishment of peace being the
main historical challenge of the moment, facing
the Sri Lankan Community and as it our firm
conviction and fervent hope that only through
such non-violent, just and peaceful means a lasting
solution could be found and
the territorial integrity, the unitary status of the State
and the fortune of posterity to live in peace and
co-existence, could be ensured.
We representing the general public of Sri Lanka
have resolved to decide upon this "People's
Declaration for Peace and Harmony" for our own
guidance.

PRINCIPLES

Accepting

the Buddha's exhortation, that
"Hatred does not cease by hatred; only non-hatred
ceases hatred", and the fact
that people should progress, following only the
non-violent means in the solution of the problems
of modern society, and the principle that we should,
even in future, safeguard the territorial integrity
of Sri Lanka, comprised of 25,332 sq. miles
of land surrounded by the Indian Ocean,
the identity of the Sri Lankan community, and
the Unitary status of the Sri Lankan State, and in
particular, the laws defining the Fundamental
Rights enshrined in the Constitution of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
as well as the Fundamental Rights enshrined in
the United Nations
Charter of Human Rights
and focussing our concern on the "wrong deeds"
and not on "wrong doers" of the past or present
and as it is even more difficult to arrive at a solution
by merely shifting the past or present responsibility
for the current divisive situation on any person or a
group alone, and following the principle that,
in a distress or a crisis, that man has to face
individually or collectively their casual factors
should be searched and analysed in depth,
and realising the importance of removing such casual
factors, the solutions and processes should be
prepared, we have drafted this Declaration.

AIMS

While proclaiming that
the aim that motivated us to participate at this

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Conference and to adopt this Declaration, was not to offer detailed solutions or in particular, to propose political solutions to all the problems between the Sinhala and Tamil or other Communities, which is one of the major problems facing our contemporary society

but, the creation of a spiritual, mental, social and intellectual environment on a national scale, leading towards finding solutions through friendly discussion and our active participation and through twelve intellectual panels to study in depth, the subjects related to national problems and to issue recommendations, and we re-emphasise that our aim in searching for these solutions is not to get involved in argument and debate making the problem more complicated,

but, to create a suitable spiritual, mental, social and intellectual environment for arriving at political and other solutions in a friendly dialogue respecting Truth and Non-violence.

To be Continued.

x x x

28 YEARS AGO

Down the Mahaweli-3

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 this article in its issue of December 1980 (Vol. XV, No. 4) which the subheadings: "From The Pages of the Past—Twenty Five Years Ago". Now twentyeight years have gone by and in the era of the Accelerated Mahaweli Programme, Philip Crowe's article raises nostalgic memories of a past which will never return—Editor.

CROSSING A NARROW BIT OF TOBACCO CULTIVATION, we found ourselves on the edge of a vast swamp which stretched for hundreds of acres towards the distant line of the jungle. The going was difficult. Not only did we sink to our knees in the mud but the grass, three feet high, further impeded our progress. Suddenly our guide stopped dead and pointed. There on the edge of a clump of swamp elm we saw four huge brown shapes moving slowly away from us. Through the glasses they were brought close and I saw the massive trunk, the lack of visible tusks and the greater than normal bulk that characterize the swamp variety. The herd consisted of three cows and a bull with the possibility of calves hidden by the high grass.

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I was quite satisfied and had no desire to go closer but Paul with the scientist's insatiable curiosity decided to try and get closer to the herd. Accordingly Jim, Charlie and I halted where we were and watched Paul and the guide creep along the edge of the cover towards where the elephants were last seen. Then we heard a terrifying scream and the big bull, his trunk carried up and his ears cocked forward, charged straight out of the bushes toward the luckless pair. Evidently the elephant saw the boy first and started to charge him. The boy, however, quickly dived into a clump of cover and the elephant, cheated of his prey, saw Paul standing in a clear space and charged his direction. Paul was then faced with a grim fact. He could not possibly run to the edge of the jungle before the elephant reached him. A quick glance, however, revealed a single tree standing along some fifteen yards away and Paul spurred by the continued screams of the charging bull, managed to struggle to this tree and fell down flat behind it. The bull, with the poor eyesight of all elephants, rushed past him and into the jungle.

As he reached the point where I last saw Paul I fired over his head, hoping to turn him. The range was at least 150 yards and I did not dare try a body shot as I might only have wounded him and made him even more dangerous to Paul. Charlie and I who had seen the whole drama had no idea whether or not the elephant had stepped on Paul in its charge and I was preparing to go and find him when Paul and his boy appeared. The boy was three shades whiter but Paul, even though he knew he had the luckiest escape of his life managed to appear cheerful and unconcerned. I was never happier to see any one in my life. The prospect of bringing him back in a sardine can had appeared all too probable.

BACK AT CAMP Paul. told me about these wild elephants of the Mahaweli vilus. The first hunter to note them was Sri Samuel Baker, who commented a hundred and fifty years ago on their great size. At the turn of the twentieth century Harry Storey, perhaps the most famous contemporary big game hunter in Ceylon, first suggested that they were a race of the Ceylon elephant. Neither of these men, however, were scientists and it was Dr. Lydekker of the British Museum who gave the first expert opinion on them, but since he had no specimens he had to base his conclusions on Storey's descriptions. E. L. Walker, a planter who wrote a book called *Elephant Hunting in Ceylon* (1920) gave the most accurate description of the swamp elephant. It was not until 1936 that Paul, while working in this area, made a detailed study of these elephants and discovered characteristics by which they could be scientifically distinguished from the other elephants. He named the sub-species *Elepha maximum vilaliya*. The type skull, shot by E. L. Walker is now in the Colombo Museum, and the paratype is in the British Museum. Paul, thinks there are probably not more

than fifty or sixty of these elephants left in Ceylon, and virtually all of them are concentrated in the swamp wilderness of the Mahaweli. It would certainly be wise if the government declared some of these *vilus* game reserves and protected the remnants of this interesting sub-species (Not much hope of this now, —ED).

THE MORNING OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH dawned grey and cold, and it looked as if the north-east monsoon which gave us a taste of its pleasure the previous evening might have set in for a long spell. Many varieties of birds of prey were seen. The *Brahminy Kite*, the *Marsh Harrier* and the *White-bellied Sea Eagle*. We were alerted by Paul to find the *Broad-billed Roller* one of the rarest birds in Ceylon. For many years it was thought to be extinct until Mrs. Darnton discovered a pair in 1950 in this general area. Over the jungle we spotted a hovering *Kestrel* which later dove like a fighter plane on some luckless mouse. As we progressed downstream the river became shallower instead of deeper. The reasons for this appeared to be heavy silting due to chena work and evaporation. The going in place became slow and difficult and necessitated all of us getting out and walking beside the canoes.

At a ford in the river we came on a big herd of white cattle slowly crossing and tried to buy some curd from the shepherd. He had none but offered us sour milk. Resisting this certain invitation to dysentery, we talked with the man and learned that his herd was a prey to cattle-eating leopards as well as crocodiles. It is undoubtedly strays from herds like wild that become lost in the vilus and sired the wild herds that have been reported in this area. Drogo said that the curd, which are safe to eat, due to the acetic acid content, were largely responsible for the fine physical condition of most of the villagers we passed. Their sole diet, he said, is rice and curd, fish and pumpkins.

As we ran in close to the red clay banks, Paul asked us to look for the day *Gecko*, a very rare little lizard that is only found in this section of the Eastern Province. The night *Geckos* are said to be bad luck and a villager hearing it will often put off adventure until he propitiates the local gods. Whether or not the note of the day *Gecko* is also bad news is not known. By eleven thirty we left the last chena cultivation and started through virgin jungle, lush tangles of great trees, cable-like creepers and matted grass which bore little resemblance to the serene and stunted bush of the dry country.

Unlike the resolute yellows and browns of the Wani, the prevailing colour was deep green relieved occasionally by the brilliant purple flowers of the *Pride of India* and the yellow blooms of the *Golden Mohur*. We passed great stretches of it indented

here and there by the muddy slides by which the elephants descended to the river. The banks had been crushed down as if by a giant bulldozer and in the mud were the huge platter-like impressions of elephants. There were so many of these elephant slides that there was no question but that large numbers of the pachyderms must live in the district. And soon after this we saw one drinking from a pool in the river. Further on we saw another and soon after that a third. All of them had the typical huge trunks of the swamp variety.

At two-thirty we passed the junction of the Mahawe and the Kuru Ganga, or elephant river, and instead of having to get out and help the crew drag the canoes over the shallows we found ourselves in a great board river where the poles were laid aside and only the oars used to help the current. We ran into several violent thundershowers which soaked us thoroughly but such was the strength of the sun that were soon dried.

To be concluded....

x x x

FILM FOCUS

•Sister Mary •Shaolin

SISTER MARY (Sinhala): Back to the Metropolis from the hill country exile, your columnist was on his rounds again, to see a film release or two and catch up on lost time since July. And what better film could have been the first choice than "Sister Mary", for more reasons than one. Cleverly directed by Director M. Arukgodan, who gets through his films in a minimal period without much fanfare, his latest effort lays heavy emphasis on a religious unity theme. If only the local czars and the big names in the local film world, could address their minds on similar themes on other fronts as well, maximizing the effect of the visual media on the masses how convincing and meaningful their efforts would be, to dissipate tensions and weave togetherness in Sri Lanka for the hour is now more than ever.

Sister Mary (Sonia Disa) is portrayed with fervour as a Roman Catholic nun who is willfully compelled to give refuge to one (Sanath Gunatilaka) who is on the run from the Police, for a killing to preserve and protect the chastity of his pretty sister (Heannita Samarawira). This refugee, a Buddhist, shocks the cloistered nun by his intrusion, but calms her down long enough overnight to pour out his story and that is when his predicament rolls out in flashback. The camera focuses on the rural milieu where a small-time lecherous villain of the Walawa (Somi Ratnayake) has cast his roving eyes and is in calculated

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pursuit of the runaway sister, taking mean advantage of her poverty-laden background. As the villain closes in lustfully, he is thwarted by the victim's brother, who crashes the burnyard sequence in a violent climax to preserve her virtue.

Well that is the long and short of the absorbing story which also embraced the Nun's plight in harbouring a prodigal and a wanted one at that, contrary to her religious vows. The refugee is already in love with a Varsity co-ed (Sriyani Amarasena) who is herself from a rigidly Catholic family, and this delicate situation too is impinged on the story, with the camera in full play on sacred statues, both Buddhist and Catholic, as talks of a mixed marriage takes to a ragged course. The religious susceptibilities of both faiths are respected in carving out this story and moving it to an unforgettable and poignant climax, with a surprise packet for the audience in the last few seconds of the film. Veteran actresses Ruby de Mel, as Mother Superior and Denawake Hamine retain their characteristic prowess in their roles, while Freddy Silva's presence raises a few titters without deflating the serious theme. The main stars played out their roles commendably in a film for our times, that is being received well by audiences of all ages. Do not miss this film—it augurs well for the future in these troubled times.

36 *CHAMBERS OF SHAOLIN* (English): A film of the finest quality where Martial Arts are concerned, but with a difference in that it takes one through the sieved and measured paces on the road to the coveted belt and the crown. Filmed in Shawscope colour—whatever that might mean, it features the Chinese Karate Black Belt, Li Chia Hui in the fiery role of one against a ruthless regime in a Chinese province. Weak kneed and on the run, he stumbles on Shaolin—a school that seeks perfection and finesse in the execution of the much coveted arts of self defence. There are 35 techniques or doors to complete mastery and our hero is painstakingly pitched to take them on one by one, under the eagle eyes of veterans, who mark him out eventually, as the best among the novices. And the wafer thin story draws to a close, with the cowardly runaway returning to avenge the demise of his father, by the tyrant, and free his comrades in danger. In doing so, he also introduces a 36th technique to "Shaolin" in self defence and hence the title. Just the cup of tea for Karate styled action fans. This column wishes that this box office cracker is distributed without favour to all outstations and small time exhibitors as well, to be of relief and neutralise the difficult times they have faced recently. This film will certainly replenish their near empty coffers.

JAMES N. BENEDICT

TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 8, 1983

**LAND ACQUISITION ACT AS AMENDED BY
LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO.
28 of 1964 (CHAPTER 460)**

**Amendment of the Notice
Under Section 07.**

MY No. Wen/03A/LA/4440.

Attention is drawn to the notice of even number dated 23.05.1983 relating to the above matter published in the Extra Ordinary Gazette No. 248/14 dated 10.06.1983 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,

The inquiry on claims scheduled to be held on 02.08.1983 in terms of this notice will now be held at 9.00 a. m. on 28th October 1983 at the Assistant Government Agent's office. Wennappuwa.

Further the particulars of such claims/rights should be notified to me, in writing, in duplicate, before 19th October 1983.

D.F. Abeysinghe
District Land Officer,
Puttalam District.

15th September 1983.
Kachcheri,
Puttalam.

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September 19 - 25

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—Dayasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RV—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IS—Island; DI—Divaina; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: With Sri Lanka very likely to produce an exportable surplus of rice by 1985, agricultural researchers are firmly convinced that quality-wise, what is now being produced falls far behind standard specifications in the international rice trade. A billion rupee project funded by the World Bank to develop and expand rural telecommunications, providing 12,000 new connections in 14 outstation towns, commenced last week. Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, the SLFP's presidential candidate in October 1982, died in his sleep at the Kandy Nursing Home on Sunday morning. Syria and the United States stood at the brink of a serious confrontation yesterday with Syria threatening to bombard the US Navy if it shelled Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon—DN. The November budget which has already been predicted to be a "hard one" will have a broadening tax collecting base to appreciably increase the projected Rs. 26 billion revenue the Government expected to collect both by direct and indirect taxation—CDM. A blueprint for a co-ordinated super-intelligence network to keep Lanka a breast of even-changing security patterns is now being finalised by the Government. Commissioner General of Essential Services Bradman Weerakoan disclosed Government's moves to pay a monthly allowance to the employees of destroyed factories, who have lost their jobs—SU. Fifteen major trade unions have appealed to the government to lift the ban imposed on the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and the Nava Sama Samaja Party and to release the leaders and trade unionists belonging to those parties who are being held in remand custody. Even though two Municipal and five Urban Councils controlled by the TULF are now defunct because of their failure to hold the required number of meetings, a legal problem has arisen where they cannot either be dissolved and fresh elections called for or appoint special commissioners to administer the local bodies—IS. Tamil students of the Universities in the South who have taken refuge in the North due to the recent disturbances appealed to the Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education who was in Jaffna yesterday to postpone the University examinations—VK.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: A 9-judge bench or the Supreme Court will decide whether the judges of the superior courts had ceased to hold office by their failure to meet the September 7 deadline for taking their oaths before the President as prescribed by the sixth amendment to the Constitution. There has been a dramatic increase in the use of natural rubber by local industry, with domestic manufacturers today consuming nearly three times what they did ten years ago. Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan seemed headed for a new low today after state radio in Islamabad said seven of Kabul's fighter jets bombed a Pakistani village, killing one man and injuring another—DN. Touristik Union International of West Germany—one of the biggest tour operators in Europe is now confident that they could keep the target set for 1984, summer season in bringing out 8,500 holiday makers to Sri Lanka—CDM. The Telecommunications Department which has recently embarked on a modernising programme has again advised subscribers to make their "long calls" between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. A 20 percent decline in the average paddy yield in the Mahaweli areas is feared in the next Maha cultivation season, due to the recent drought. The Tamil United Liberation Front is likely to contest a forthcoming by-election in Trincomalee according to its President M. Sivasithambaram; he was quoted as saying this in Madras in an interview with *The Hindu*—SU. Seven persons including two young Tamil women who were arrested by the CID on Sunday when they arrived here from Singapore with "suspect" passport were yesterday produced before the Fort Magistrate Mr. S. I. Imam and remanded till today. A rehabilitation fund for all small time businessmen affected by the recent ethnic disturbances is to be established by the Transport Ministry in collaboration with the Muslim League—IS. About 30,000 persons employed in the tourist industry face the danger of losing their employment as a result of arrivals of tourists having gone down—DP.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: A major threat to the successful commissioning of the Victoria Hydro-Power project by the scheduled date in mid-1984 is causing grave concern to the Ceylon Electricity Board. Government is exploring the possibility of legal action against the publishers abroad of some recent libellous reports, the Presidential Secretariat said yesterday. Two SLFP members of the Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council yesterday tendered their resignations to Mayor Srinath Kumarasinghe. The International Monetary Fund has suspended negotiations on new credit programmes for Third World debtor countries in an apparent ploy to put pressure on leading industrial nations to provide the fund with short term bridging finance, financial sources said yesterday—DN. A new all time record for the BOP grade was established at yesterday's tea auction, when

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Uva Highlands invoice Number 325 BOP was sold at Rs. 345 per kilogram. This BOP grade was purchased by Lipton Ceylon Limited. The Import duty on newsprint has been reduced from 25 percent to 5 percent with immediate effect under the Revenue Protection Act of the Customs Department—*CDM*. Seven nominations have been made for the vacant seats in the Batticaloa Municipality following the resignations of four UNP members and three TULF members. The Tamil United Liberation Front's refusal to disavow separatism and initiate a dialogue to resolve Tamil problems has necessitated the government to give consideration to a new policy package as part of its own efforts; this new deal was described by a high-ranking government source yesterday as "a package for national unity seeking to deal with the anxieties of all communities." The TULF will almost certainly arrive at a consensus to nominate new Development Council Chairmen and other members to fill the vacancies in the Northern and Eastern Provinces when its General Council meets on September 25, authoritative party sources said yesterday—*SU*. Some sixty employees of the Vijaya Studios, Hendala, have been informed that their work has been terminated; this premier Sinhala film studio was burnt down during the recent racial riots. The Government is considering introducing new legislation to bring to book leaders of certain organisations which have illegally settled thousands of persons on state lands in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces. At the meeting of Cabinet Ministers held on August 31, the Minister for Industries and Scientific Affairs Cyril Mathew referred to libelous reports about him by the *Indian Express* and the BBC and other papers. President J. R. Jayewardene stated that the *New Statesman* had published reports about him and others. It was decided that action should be taken after consulting legal opinion—*IS*.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: The Cabinet yesterday decided to consider lowering the age of optional retirement of public servants displaced by the recent disturbances to 45 years or after 20 years of service. Teachers will be entitled to bigger loans, with immediate effect from the Education Employees' Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society; they can now draw a sum of Rs. 10,000 at a time; originally the maximum loan a teacher could obtain was Rs. 5,000. About 150,000 women in the public service can now join a pension scheme that will enable their husbands and children to be supported after their death. Moscow has agreed to hand over objects recovered from a South Korean airliner shot down by Soviet jets, but there was no indication whether the vital black box recorders would be included, the United States Department said yesterday—*DN*. The Government yesterday announced sizable salary hikes to Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents in the two key government plantation bodies and also to all officers who have reached Class I grading

in the General Clerical Service—*CDM*. A 76.1 percent drop in tourist arrivals in the trouble torn months of July and August yesterday forced the government to examine urgent relief measures to prevent a collapse of the tourist industry. A proposal by the Food and Cooperatives Minister Gamani Jayasuriya that cooperatives should be exempted from BTT was referred to the Finance Minister for consideration. Government will shortly introduce a new Nursing Homes Act to regularise supervise and coordinate private sector medical institutions in a better national health service structure.—*SU*.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party in an effort to project a new image, has appointed three special committees to revitalise party policy in different spheres. Nearly three thousand Justices of the Peace have relinquished their offices as a result of their failure to take the oath disavowing separatism as required by the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution. The arrival of three top investment missions from Japan, Korea and Britain in the next few months, informed sources said, has sparked off thinking in the international business community that Sri Lanka, hit by recent ethnic disturbances, is once again economically active—*IS*. It is understood that after a lapse of about twelve years that the spread of Malaria is on the increase—*DP*.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: The High Commission of India has advised all Lankans intending to travel to India that visa fees have been reintroduced with effect from September 22; all Lankans applying for visas are required to pay fees, both for visit visas and transit visas. Sri Lanka's August tea crop was up 2 million kilos from a year earlier, conclusively demonstrating that propaganda abroad, that the crop had fallen due to the recent disturbances was untrue. US Navy vessels, steaming closer to Beirut's shore, shelled gun positions in the hills above the capital last night for the third day running, Radio Beirut reported; the radio said one or more naval vessels fired at around 11.30 p.m. and silenced anti-government gun positions with precision shelling; the shelling appeared to come from well south of Beirut—*DN*. The Commissioner General of Essential Services Mr. Bradman Weerakoon has recommended to president J. R. Jayewardene that those who have lost their dwelling places in the recent outbreak of ethnic violence in the country should be given financial payment up to Rs. 2,000 for repairs—*CDM*. Parliament yesterday passed the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution carving out Kilinochchi as the twenty fifth district in the country with 119 voting for and none against. Gampaha MP S. D. Bandaranaike yesterday moved a resolution in Parliament to hold a Referendum on the question of forming a national government. A well stocked spacious Duty Free Shopping Complex complete with computer installations to monitor transactions is likely to be located at a rising

five star hotel along Parsons Road—*SU*. The Department of Immigration and Emigration has placed a rush order with the Government Printer for the supply of passport blanks to meet the mounting demand for passports. A top government source said yesterday that the Government may decide not to pursue the idea of taking legal action against foreign newspapers that had published libellous news reports against the President and a Minister of the Government—*IS*.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: The possibility of exempting books and periodicals from custom duty now charged on their import is expected to be sympathetically considered in the next budget due in mid-November, authoritative governmental sources said yesterday. Displaced final year medicos from the Colombo and Peradeniya Universities will be permitted to sit their theory papers of the MBBS final examination in Jaffna University, Grants Commission Chairman, Stanley Kalpage said yesterday. Japanese Foreign Ministry sources were quoted today as saying the United States had located the "Black Box" of the South Korean airliner shot down by the Soviet Union on September 1. The International Monetary Fund faces serious cash flow problems by April next year unless it gets fresh income from quotas and borrowing, according to a report prepared by one of its directors—*DN*. The Government is actively considering a proposal to develop District Development Councils on the lines of the British Country Councils. The meeting of the General Council of the TULF will be held in Jaffna early in October, TULF party sources said yesterday—*CDM*. Government yesterday made a fervent plea to all displaced persons to return to their places of residence as conditions have returned to normal. Over 250 inmates of the maximum security prison in Batticaloa made a daring escape to freedom last night; most of them were beneficiaries of a well planned attack on this heavily guarded jail where nearly 50 suspects were detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The Tamil United Liberation Front is prepared to accommodate the entire Tamil population who are now in the hill country in areas in North and East Lanka according to TULF President M. Sivasithamparam—*SU*. The Government yesterday released four members of the Communist Party (Moscow Wing) who had been in detention since July 31 under Emergency Regulations; the four of them are K. P. Silva, Secretary of the Sri Lanka Communist Party and politbureau members H. G. S. Ratnaweera, L. W. Panditha and D. E. W. Gunasekera; but the proscription imposed on the party is still in force TULF President Mr. M. Sivasithamparam has said, in India that all Tamils residing in Sri Lanka should be given full citizenship and none should leave the island—*IS*. Tension prevails in the Kalkudah area because those who come there in uniforms are intimidating and assaulting the people in the area—*DP*.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: Will the Tamil United Liberation Front nominate a member to the vacant Trincomalee seat in Parliament? This is the question rife in political circles following the Sixth Amendment introduced to the Constitution by the government; the Trincomalee seat fell vacant in Parliament following the continuous absence for three months of its member Mr. R. Sambanthan; following this vacancy the Commissioner of Elections has written to the TULF to nominate a member for the vacant seat; however the TULF has so far not appointed anyone and the last date for the intimation of such appointment is October 14. The popular Colombo cinema, the Majestic where the Metro Lion used to roar is to be demolished; in its place will rise a housing and shopping complex complete with a brand new cinema; the new complex will be named "Majestic City"—*SO*. A Corporation will be set up shortly (similar to the one existing in Singapore) to provide industrial and vocational training to prisoners. The Inspector General of Police Mr. Rudra Rajasingham is offering Rs. 100,000 for any information that will lead to the arrest of the escapees from the Batticaloa jail. For the second time this year the Kandy Passport Office has been burgled; last Monday night thieves had entered through the rear door and ransacked the office of the Assistant Controller and removed 255 unused "G" serial passport—*ST*. While a nationwide manhunt for prison escapees of Batticaloa jail was in progress Government yesterday launched a full scale investigation into the events that led to the jailbreaks as well as to ascertain how on Friday night 212 prisoners broke jail with assistance from separatist terrorists who came to release detainees under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Minister of Trade and Shipping, Lalith Athulathmudali has come up with a permanent solution to ethnic problems and national harmony; he has recommended to President Jayewardene, the setting up of a Permanent National Commission to deal with communal and racial injustices—*WK*. Police and Armed Services threw a security dragnet over land and sea for the 14 political prisoners who broke jail on Friday night with 168 other prisoners, but there was widespread speculation that these terrorist suspects had fled to South India by boat. Government had decided to drop its earlier proposal to amalgamate the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal; instead the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court will be enlarged. The Sri Lanka Administrative Service Association had called upon the government to extend to all members of the administrative service the right to retire after the completion of 20 years' service or on attaining 45 years, as given to persons displaced by the recent disturbances—*IS*.

* * *

TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 8, 1983



Editors Note

Tribune has resumed publication of its feature the *Foreign Scene* and hopes to have it as a regular feature every week. This week we are publishing material on the South Korean airliner disaster. Next week we will publish material about the current arms control talks in Geneva and in the UN based on the statements of Reagan and Andropov.

The political and diplomatic reverberations and repercussions of the South Korean airliner on the morning of September 1 suddenly brought a new dimension into the cold war that has begun to bedevil the world in what is termed the Reagan era. Among other things the 38th Annual Sessions of the UN General Assembly opened on September 26 without the presence of the Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko—something that has not happened in 25 years. Moscow and Washington have taken directly opposite stands on the shooting down of the plane, but according to neutral observers "neither can prove its case". For the benefit of our readers we are publishing this week extracts from statements released by the two sides and also articles from prestigious magazines. We will publish in the coming weeks other relevant articles that may throw fresh light on this incident which has virtually shattered detente at least between the two super powers.

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FROM "TIME". 12/9/83

Soviets Destroy An Airliner

.....Thus began one of the strangest and least expected confrontations between the superpowers in the annals of US postwar diplomacy. Though the aircraft so wantonly destroyed near the Soviet island of Sakhalin was not American, the distinction scarcely mattered: Flight 007 had left from US territory and carried at least 61 American passengers, including a US Congressman. The incident, moreover, seemed to be a crime against all humanity, a violation of the most fundamental rules of the air on which all the nations of the world, including the Soviet Union, depend in the busy crowded skies of the jet age. 'Attacking an unarmed civilian plane', said Republican Congressman Thomas F. Hartnett of South Carolina, 'is like attacking a school bus'.....

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Stunned by both the senselessness of the attack and the Soviets' blatant lack of repentance, Reagan loosed a withering diplomatic barrage in Moscow's direction Noting that "where human life is valued extraordinary efforts are extended to preserve and protect it" Reagan declared that every civilized society must 'ask searching questions about the nature of regimes where such standards do not apply.' He asked pointedly of the Soviet Union: "What can we think of a regime that so broadly trumpets its vision of peace and global disarmament and yet so callously and quickly commits a terrorist act to sacrifice the lives of innocent human beings?"

His anger and the world's outrage were augmented "beyond the deed itself by Moscow's sullen and specious responses to the unequivocal evidence of what had happened. After remaining virtually silent on the matter for almost two days, the Soviet Union finally issued a labored account of an "unidentified plane" that had "rudely violated the state border and intruded deep into the Soviet Union's airspace." TASS admitted that Soviet interceptors had 'fired warning shots and tracer shells along the flying route of the plane' but refused to acknowledge shooting it down. Tass implied that the US had planned the course deviations that took Flight 007 into Soviet territory, 'relevant US services followed the flight throughout its duration in the most attentive manner'. Hinting that the jetliner was on a spy mission, it added, 'So one may ask that if it were an ordinary flight of a civil craft... then why were there not taken any steps from the American side to end the gross violation of the airspace of the USSR?' Tass said that 'leading circles' in the Soviet Union express "regret" over the loss of life but the news agency dismissed the worldwide uproar over the attack as more "hullabaloo."

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US—ORGANISED MEASURES AGAINST

Soviet Civil Aviation

Washington, September 19: The following represents preliminary data compiled by the Department of Transportation on impact of civil aviation measures taken against USSR in response to the shootdown of KAL flight 007. The NATO countries (except France, Greece and Turkey), Japan and Switzerland, all of which are observing the two-week boycott of air service to the USSR beginning September 15 account for a total of 54.3 percent of world civil aviation traffic (based on passenger miles flown international traffic). Australia and New Zealand, which do not have flights to the USSR, but are taking other steps against Aeroflot account for another 4.1 percent of world traffic. Of the non-participants in the boycott, France is the single most important country, accounting for 5.5 percent of world traffic., The Soviet Union, China and other Communist coun-

tries account for about 4 percent of total world civil aviation traffic.

The percentage of flights by non-Communist countries to the USSR affected by the suspension of national service is 51 percent. (This excludes flights from Yugoslavia). A total of 80 scheduled flights to the USSR by non-Communist country airlines will be cancelled out of a total of 156 in the two week period. Should France and Finland (if pilots cut service to Leningrad as well as Moscow) join the action, the total would be increased by 34 flights (France 18 and Finland 16) and the overall percentage of flights affected would increase to 73 percent. A total of 28 percent of Aeroflot flights to the Non-Communist World will be affected by the two week suspension (125 flights out of 443 will be cut). Many of the remaining Aeroflot international flights are with smaller aircraft to Third World countries, whereas the flights cancelled will be to major destinations in which larger aircraft would have been used. If Aeroflot flights to France and Finland were suspended (a total of 58 in the two week period), the overall percent of flights cut would rise to 42.

USIS.



KOREAN JETLINER DISASTER

Charge & Counter-Charge

By Murray Sayle

In the *Far Eastern Economic Review*,

September 27, 1983

TOKYO: IN THE AFTERMATH of the September 1 Soviet attack on Korean Air Lines (KAL) Flight 007 and the deaths of all 269 passengers and crew aboard, the Soviet Union and the United States are each accusing the other of responsibility for the tragedy. "The murder of innocent civilians is a serious international issue between the Soviet Union and civilised people everywhere who cherish individual rights and value human life", said US President Ronald Reagan shortly after US and Japanese analysts confirmed 007's fate. And Moscow's officials Tass news agency responded: "Who sent this plane to Soviet airspace and for what purpose? Does (Reagan) believe that the very concept of national sovereignty no longer exists and one may intrude with impunity into the airspace of independent states?" These statements frame the superpower conflict in content and tone. The US position is that the KAL flight "strayed" innocently into Soviet airspace from its Romeo 20 air route across the North Pacific and that the Soviets downed it deliberately, knowing that it was an airliner and nothing more. The Soviets counter-charge that the aircraft must have overflown their territory deliberately—and therefore, for a sinister

purpose—which gave them the right and the duty to shoot it down. Respite a brisk and widely reported search for wreckage, the Soviets to date have offered no proof to back up their position. The evidence so far produced leaves some key parts of the KAL 007 puzzle missing. Given that some clues are scattered over the Sea of Okhotsk with the wreckage of the aircraft, the whole truth may never be known. Whichever side finds evidence will be accused of falsifying it by the other.

SOME BASIC FACTS are not in dispute. At 2.07 a.m. (Japanese time) KAL 007 reported by radio to Tokyo's Narita Airport that it was located at a compulsory reporting point called Nippi, some 180 miles southeast of the Soviet Union's Kamchatka peninsula, and was proceeding southwest. It was due to cross another reporting point—Nikka, south-east of the Japanese island of Hokkaido—and from there it was to cross the Japanese archipelago to reach Seoul at about 6 a.m. *The report that 007 had reached Nippi was false either by mistake, carelessness or deliberate intent.* The Soviets charge that by this time the aircraft was already crossing their airspace over the Kamchatka peninsula, while US Secretary of State George Shultz says that 007 was shadowed for two and a half hours by Soviet fighters—which exactly matches the time the Soviets say it crossed their coastline, flying northeast to southwest across Kamchatka. *It is clear, therefore that Flight 007 did not stick to the flight plan filled by KAL pilot Chun Byung In before it left Anchorage, Alaska.* US spokesmen have said that the aircraft was "wandering" or "straying". *But Chun was one of KAL's senior pilots with 10,500 hours in command (mostly in military aircraft) and two years experience flying Romeo 20. He had been selected to fly South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan and was generally considered one of South Korea's best pilots.*

Flight 007 was a Boeing 747 fitted with a Litton Industries triple inertial navigation system (INS) which will automatically fly an aircraft through a series of map coordinates punched into the system by the captain and according to airline rules, checked by the first officer. A copy of Chun's flight plan, left at Anchorage, shows 007 as due to pass through all 12 compulsory reporting points between Alaska and Seoul. *But at the time Chun reported himself at Nippi, he was actually flying over the mountains of Soviet Kamchatka, an area prohibited to all foreign aircraft.* Flight 007 was next heard from at 3.18 a.m. by Japanese civil aviation radio at Sapporo, on the Japanese island of Hokkaido, when Chun asked permission to climb to 35,000 feet from 33,000 feet which is normal towards the end of a long flight because fuel has been burned off and the aircraft is more efficient at higher altitudes. At 3.26 a.m. the aircraft was due to pass reporting point Nikka in the Pacific, well away from Soviet

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territory. At 3.27 a.m. Japanese ground control heard the flights call sign "KE 007..." but the rest of the message was drowned out by noise, and radio contact was soon afterwards lost. The Japanese authorities reported the aircraft as missing, and the first air-sea search was made in the Nokka area where the aircraft was assumed to be down. Until KAL 007's last moments, it gave no indication that it was off course or in trouble. But the airliner was in deadly danger. At 3.20 a.m. the Japanese Air Self-Defence Force radar station at Wakkanai on the northern tip of Hokkaido, observed a large aircraft crossing Soviet-held Sakhalin island from the north-east to the South-west some 112 nautical miles north of Hokkaido. The station then saw three smaller blips, which could only have been Soviet fighters, ascending to intercept. The unidentified aircraft was first sighted, according to the Japanese radarmen, at an altitude of about 32,000 feet. It then was seen to descend to about 1,000 ft. and at about 3.28 a.m. it disappeared from the radar station's screen.

THERE SEEMS TO BE NO REASONABLE DOUBT that the Japanese saw and by an extraordinary coincidence, their radio colleagues heard the destruction of the doomed airliner. Nor is it any longer disputed that the Soviet fighter shot it down. Soviet chief of staff Marshall Nikolai Ogarkov has said as much and the nameless Soviet pilot said to have commanded the attacking fighter has appeared on Soviet TV to explain his role in the incident. The South Korean airliner's last message, if it could be deciphered, would perhaps clear up many mysteries. Was it reporting the aircraft to be at Nokka, where it was due, when it was in fact north of the tiny town of Nevel'sk on Sakhalin, more than 400 miles off course? Or was pilot Chun reporting the menacing appearance of Soviet fighters? The Soviet prohibited zone over Sakhalin is, at this point less than 100 miles wide, which the 747 would cross in about 12 minutes. The crash site is close to Soviet airfields and not far from a Soviet nuclear submarine base. But it has an even more startling location: the Korean airliner was shot down not far off the so-called Great Circle route from reporting point Neeva, near the US airbase on Shemya Island in the Aleutians (the pilot's last chance for a radio fix to check his position) to Seoul, 007's destination. This is not clear from the many Mercator projection maps which have been published, but can be readily confirmed by looking at a polar-projecting chart. *How did 007 get to its rendezvous with disaster? An error in the INS which would have taken it exactly where it was going—a million to one chance—has to be added to another million to one chance; that the two pilots on the flight deck never once noticed Kamchatka's coastline appearing on their weather radar—which has a range of about 200 miles—or even looked out of the cockpit window to see that they were flying over land where there*

have been sea. And this in an area where their maps are studded with warnings to pilots to stay on course. Japanese weather satellite photographs for the days before and after the airliner was shot down show broken cloud cover and the moon was in its last quarter, a crescent with 23% of its surface illuminated. These coincidences strain credulity and force an examination of a simple explanation: that the aircraft was far some reason deliberately flown on the course that it took.

THIS WOULD SIMPLY REQUIRE the pilot to punch in the coordinance of Neeva and Seoul, omitting the coordinates of all reporting points between the two and the INS would do the rest. It would also involve misreporting passing all of the compulsory reporting points enroute. Such a practice is not unknown in other, safer, parts of the world and it even has a nickname: holding in one. The motive for this action could have been economic. The Great Circle route between Neeva and Seoul is shorter than Romeo 20 route and in normal circumstances would provide a valuable savings in fuel, but no pilot would fly over most of the Soviet Union's conventional and nuclear military installations in East Asia in order to save a sum of about US \$ 2,500. But equally perplexing are the repeated Soviet charges that the downed plane was engaged in some kind of electronic spying or in the testing of Soviet air defences. Such information could conceivably be useful to the US and pilot Chun who served in Okinawa during his military flying days, had many American friends and colleagues. But what pilot could be induced to risk the lives of himself and his passengers on such a brazen mission which was certain to be detected? Even the wind offers no explanation. A Japan Air Lines cargo flight on Romeo 20 the same night reported winds of 40-70 knots from the northwest, which would have blown 007 out of danger, not into it. However, what the West believes about the last two and a half hours of flight 007 is not important. **The key question is : what did the Soviets make out of it ! The argument that no pilot of a civil aircraft in his right mind would fly such a course applies to the Soviets, of course, as much as it does to these on the other side of the argument. Throughout, the Soviets have maintained that the aircraft they admit shooting down was on a "spying" mission though they have produced no evidence to support the claim.**

US SOURCES HAVE DISCLOSED that a US RC 135 aircraft was on reconnaissance mission that night—but outside the Soviet prohibited zone—and that it flew a course similar to that of the Korean air-liner for part of its journey. One of the published transcripts of conversations between the Soviet interceptors and their ground controller mentions the designation RC 135. This aircraft—a military version of the Boeing 707 airliner—is smaller than

a 747, but has a similar configuration. The main distinguishing features—apart from size—are the 747's bigger engine casings and its protruding upper flight deck and cabin. Just as the mystery of 007's course starts with the presumption that no pilot would knowingly flit it, the worldwide indictment of the Soviets starts with the matching assertion that Soviet pilots must have recognized it as a civil airliner. But the circumstances leave this in doubt. At high subsonic speeds, one aircraft intercepts another from astern and usually from underneath: a head to head or head to side pass would give only a second or so of useful visual range, especially at night. Only the silhouette of the aircraft is seen from below and astern. Normally the cabin lights of a passenger jet would be dimmed on the night run between Anchorage and Seoul so that passengers could get some sleep and the tail and wing markings of an aircraft cannot be seen from astern. Airliners in flight show navigation lights and flashing anti-collision lights but military aircraft also are fitted with such lights, and illuminate the in routine peacetime operations—and could do so as a ruse when confronted by enemy fighters. The critical problem here is mental set or the well known human tendency to see what one expects to see. Only daylight or a powerful search light would make the identification of an airliner certain, if a pilot believed he was looking at a military aircraft. And fighters carry no search lights. (The problem of mental set could of course equally well be applied to the KAL pilots who may have simply failed to realise they were being shadowed).

REAGAN'S CLAIM that "with a half moon, on a clear night, they (the Soviets) must have seen that this was a civil airliner"; would have come with more authority from someone who had actually tried to identify an aircraft from a fighter by waning moonlight. Questions also remain about the interpretation of transcripts of Soviet fighter pilots conversations with their ground controllers prior to 007's demise. These were released by Japanese officials in Tokyo and by US Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick at a UN Security Council session on the KAL tragedy. The wordings differ: the Japanese versions include remarks from Soviet ground controllers: the US version — presented on a TV screen with the English subtitles at the UN—does not. In one, a Soviet pilot speaks of lights flashing "on and off" in the other of lights "burning" and "flashing". But nowhere in any of them, is an unequivocal statement of what the Soviets thought they were shooting at. One aspect of the Soviet version of events has been confirmed by a revised US translation of the tapes of Soviet pilots. The US State Department explained that US experts, after electronically enhancing the tapes, issued a revised transcript on September 11, quoting a pilot as saying he fired "cannon bursts" at the KAL airliner six minutes before two heat-seeking missiles were fired at the

KAL aircraft. The State Department said: "The transcript does not indicate whether the cannon shots were aimed at the KAL plane or were tracer rounds" Previously the US administration had stated bluntly that there was no evidence of any serious effort to warn of identify" KAL 007.

The State Department statement does point out that KAL 007 "in a routine transmission" to Tokyo's air controller at 18.23 GMT — two minutes after the cannon bursts were fired — "gave no indication it was aware of Soviet aircraft in the vicinity, or that the cannon had been fired. The evidence indicates that the pilot was totally unaware that he was off course." Another nagging question is why at least eight Soviet fighters scrambled on the fateful night followed their target over Kamchatka and then on to the very edge of the prohibited zone over Sakhalin before firing. Some commentators have blamed the delay on slow Soviet communications, but it is just as likely that they waited until the last possible moment, when it seemed the aircraft was staying on course for the major population centre of Vladivostok, before acting. To shoot down an aircraft which has not been positively identified is of course reprehensible, whoever does it. But with people caught in a malignant mental set which sees an opponent capable of any amount of deviousness or inhumanity, but not of making a mistake, it is all too understandable how the KAL attack might have occurred.



PRAVDA ASKS

When Will Washington Answer ?

Moscow, September 26:

Under the title WHEN WILL WASHINGTON FINALLY GIVE ANSWERS, the newspaper "Pravda" of September 24 carried an editorial article on the Korean airliner episode. Below are some relevant excerpts.

With the active personal participation of President Reagan, the US administration continues to whip up the anti-Soviet hysteria around the crude provocation engineered by the United States against the USSR, connected with the dispatch of a South Korean plane with special intelligence assignments in to Soviet airspace in the Far East. Now it has already become quite clear that the following chief objectives are pursued in the process. *Firstly* to sharply whip up the international tension and to provide Washington with a cover-up for the pursuit of its militarist preparations. One cannot regard it in any way as coincidental that immediately in the wake of what happened, a decision was passed

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through the US Congress to approve a military budget of an unheard-of size, which is more than enough to meet all the Pentagon's requests for the development and production of new types of weapons, above all nuclear. *Secondly*, to divert world public attention from the topical international problems and try to discredit the Soviet Union's peace initiatives which encounter an ever growing support in the world. Simultaneously, to complicate the achievement of a mutually acceptable accord at the talks on disarmament and station its new nuclear missiles in Europe taking advantage of the atmosphere of military psychosis.

The organisers of this provocation reckon that by whipping up an atmosphere of enmity toward the Soviet Union, shamelessly speculating on the human aspect of the entire incident, they will succeed in concealing the truth, deluding the public, thus covering up the traces, and avoiding responsibility for the crime. However, the conviction is growing with each day around the world that the US authorities are engaged in deliberate deception in a bid to lead public opinion along the wrong path. In brief, they resort to tactics usually employed by offenders All actions by the South Korean Boeing showed that it was not a plane which accidentally strayed from its flight path. Its flight, lying over major Soviet military facilities, which has been planned in advance, was directed and corrected by corresponding services It was originally asserted in Washington that the US services had no radio link with the South Korean plane. It then transpired, however, that the radio exchange between its crew and the US flight control services was carried out continuously. " *Washington stubbornly evades giving answers which would inevitably shed light on what really happened in the Far-East on the night of August 31 and September 1.*

Question No. 1 If that were an ordinary flight, how can one explain that the plane, equipped with first class navigational means, piloted by an experienced crew and serviced by a ramified air traffic control system of the United States and Japan, equipped with back up radio navigational systems of general and military purpose, controlled by the United States, deviated 500 kilometers from the international route and penetrated into the USSR's airspace for a long time ?

Question No. 2 : Why did the crew of the Boeing 747, having its own radar station which is capable of determining reliably the location of the plane above land or sea-not adjust their flight when passing over the Kamchatka Peninsula, but continued to proceed along the previous course, knowing well that their entire route up to the Japanese islands was to be above the ocean ?

Question No. 3 : Why did the flight of the intruder plane pass precisely over the regions where the USSR's major strategic facilities are located, for which it manoeuvred correspondingly while staying in Soviet airspace ?

Question No. 4 : Why did the American side not undertake any steps to stop the gross violation of the USSR's airspace—the fact which it acknowledged from the very beginning—and why did it not return the plane to the international route, although it had all possibilities for that? Why did the American authorities not establish contact, with the Soviet side and provide it with necessary data about the flight of the plane if its deviation off course was purportedly due to a mistake ?

Question No. 5 : Why were numerous planes of US air and naval forces operating in the region simultaneously with the flight of the Boeing 747 ? Why was the Boeing's flight precisely synchronised with the appearance over that region of the American reconnaissance satellite Ferret-D ?

Question No. 6 : How can one explain that the US State Department's statement said that the South Korean plane allegedly reported on its whereabouts only on the basis of radio bearings, and not of real geographical coordinates, while according to an official statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan genuine data were transmitted from the plane about its flight over the sea of Okhotsk 600 km. South-West or Petropavlovsk-on Kanchakta ?

Question No. 7 : How can account for the claim of 'omissions' in the behaviour of the 'Boeing 747' crew that it neglected its duties of checking the work of the navigation equipment, did not use other instruments for determining the plane's whereabouts did not obey signals given by Soviet fliers and ground services on the international emergency frequency' or the manoeuvres of Soviet aircraft, and did not react to the warning shots with tracer shells ?

Question No. 8 : What can one offer by way of accounting for the unusually large number of the plane's crew members ? Was it not that the extra personnel was needed to service the special intelligence equipment ? Why didn't the lists published the names of all the crew members ?

"All these questions—and their listing can be continued, call for direct and honest answers. The US Government must give them. And, finally the main thing—Who benefits from what has happened ? Is the beneficiary the USSR which resolutely advocates defusing tensions, improving the international situation and enhancing trust ? Or is it profitable to those who are stepping up the arms race, whipping

up the [militarist psychosis and sowing enmity between] peoples? The answer is clear. The political course of the US administration and its practical actions speak for themselves."—APN.



PLANTATION WORLD

Moving Forward

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AS GUEST OF HONOUR TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CEYLON PLANTERS' SOCIETY AT THE 47TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN COLOMBO ON 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1983.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is always a pleasure to accept an invitation from the Planters Society, not only to attend their Annual Meeting, but also to attend the dance. Unfortunately, and I quite understand, you have cancelled it this evening. It is a pleasure to attend your meetings because whenever I come to them, I find myself surrounded by flowers. I see here before me roses, silver birch, lilies, —on the right—, anthuriums and star of bethlehem, and whenever I visit estates, I find many of them, at least the ladies, growing flowers. That is a tradition, a good tradition, we inherited from the British Planters, and I hope that tradition will continue, because flowers that bloom in the spring are those that make civilised people happy. So please continue that practice and make it a part of your daily work. *Your main function is to produce tea and rubber, and also coconut. These three have been some of the major producers of our foreign exchange. There are other products now taking your place, gradually, but for a long time to come, tea particularly, will occupy a very predominant place in the important economy of our country.*

WE ARE NOW a nationalised industry and I see from your report, and from the communications I get as the Minister in charge, many of your grievances have now been settled. Of course, others will spring up as time goes on. There seems to be a growing friendship between the employees of all grades and categories, and those who represent the owner, the State. I have certainly tried my best as Minister in charge to reduce, if I cannot eliminate altogether, political and outside interferences in your daily life. That was one of the causes of discontent. The other was the question of your salaries, as I would mention in a moment, what we have done, but I wish to remind you as I do always, that the tea industry will remain for a quite a long time to come, one of the major contributors to our national development.

You refer, Mr. Chairman, to inputs and outputs. I have never been a Planter of any considerable success in my life. Now the ownership has been reduced to 50 acres but through the period that I was an owner, and my wife is an owner of estates, and I saw that the inputs were put in completely as required by all Visiting Agents. I must say of the output, very little of it came to me. I have not the expertise, I have not the time, I have not the initiative, to look into that aspect of my plantation life, but it is very necessary that in your Organisation, which is a State Organisation, and upon which we depend so heavily for income, for taxes, and for the general economy to thrive, that we should see that there is some relationship between input and output. Of course, as I always say, the time will come when we have to find other sources of foreign exchange earnings, and we are trying out best to increase them, but I am glad that from your report I find there is a better feeling of comradeship and friendship between the State as employer and its Agents the J.E.D.B. and the S.P.C. and their Chairmen and other officers, and those who work so hard, in the sun and the rain, in the fields.

THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS about these Organisations that their production is not up to the level that they were several years ago. That in a sense is true, but your acreage is much less and there are other good reasons why our cannot compare our production and our management today with what happened earlier, but I do know that the tea industry, particularly, as well as the other industries depend not only on management but also on the weather. If there is a prolonged drought, your production gets less. If there is too much rain, your production gets less. We are not like factories that depend on putting in some raw material and producing the product at the other end, irrespective of what the weather is. So, we are so much dependent on the weather and also on proper management as well as those who work in the fields and, as I said before, I find that there is much more friendship, much more

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co-operation, and much more attention to duty and to detail than occurred some years earlier.

I will not detain you too long in my speech, but I thought I should mention to you that of the four proposals the Chairman mentioned in his speech three of them have been implemented, namely, the revision of salaries of non-Stage II Planting Executives. I am very glad that I have been able to do that. Secondly, the transfer of the transport of labour wages from banks to the Planters. As you said, Mr. Chairman, there is some danger in that, but there is a danger in anything. There is danger in being a President; in being a Member of Parliament, in being even a prisoner in jail. No wonder they have escaped. The Bonus Scheme covering all grades of employees. You did not mention that in your report, but we are implementing that, and the plans are ready to put it into effect. The Advisory Committee, with regard to disciplinary procedures, also will be implemented very shortly. I have noted your comments about some of the matters such as the Security Scheme, the payment of gratuity and the Benevolent Fund. These are being attended to and decisions will be taken very shortly. I am glad that you have started the Benevolent Fund. I note that you have started with Rs. 7½ lakhs. Well, I will make it a million. The President's Fund will contribute to your Benevolent Fund Rs. 250,000/. I find that at all my meetings, whenever I refer to contributions from the President's Fund, I become very popular.

I HAVE TO REFER to a most sad and unfortunate experience that all of us went through about two months ago. It was an unnecessary outburst of racial violence. Though very few, let us say about fifteen to fifty thousand took part in it, a very small number out of a Sinhala population of almost eleven million, still, those who were guilty of these acts, make it to us a matter of shame and regret at all that happened. Everything possible is being done to help those who were the unfortunate victims. Among them, were some innocent employees of your estates, innocent because they do not advocate separatism and nor are they terrorists, nor do they support them.

During the last 170 years, since the British occupation, our country has become a multi-racial and a multi-religious nation. We have to develop and we have to think as Sri Lankans, with the Sri Lankan identity. The Constitution and all our laws accept every citizen as having equal rights and obligations. Just as we accept the conferring of equal rights, so must we accept our obligations, one of which is to accept and protect the unity of Sri Lanka. I am glad that the Indian Tamil population on your estates accept this position fully. If so, why should they be the target of attacks by those who also oppose the division of the nation, I cannot understand unless the objection is that the majority

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of them are supporters of the government. We are considering proposals to help them to protect themselves in the future. Those plans will be implemented in the next few months, and I hope that as a result of those plans, there will be no further attacks on those who live on the estates. I hand the Security Scheme to you Planters, who ate the 'periyadorai's and 'sinnadorai's to see that these harmless people, these loyal people, these citizens of Sri Lanka are no longer the subject of these violent attacks of hooligans.

I do not think that I need speak to you any longer except to thank you for inviting me. Thank you for surrounding me with all these lovely flowers — I mean in a biological sense—and to wish you all good luck in the future, with my best wishes. Thank you.

* * *

RICE RESEARCH

For The Next Decade-2

By Dr. S. N. de S. Seneviratna

IN RICE PATHOLOGY, we have been on the right course. Yet, we have concentrated on the more "applied" aspects. Now we must go more deeply into areas we have not probed sufficiently before, perhaps some "basic" aspects too. Our younger researchers who show ability and promise must be developed as competent scientists and encouraged to study them. We have been concerned for a long time about the seed transmission of diseases. Only recently have we acquired a capability to research into this field in depth. We are now better able to research into fungal diseases where the casual agents persist in the soil. We need a more specialised capability to probe bacterial diseases such as bacterial blight. That capability is presently being developed in one of our younger researchers. We must be prepared to face the challenge from vector transmitted virus diseases. We have yet a long way to go to acquire that capability. But we know the direction in which we have to move and we are aware of the problems before us.

The achievement of research objectives : We must recognise our abilities and weaknesses, our assets and our deficiencies, and recognize that rice diseases are not confined to any particular region or zone. Rice is grown from north to south in this country, from east to west and in the centre. There are common concerns, shared interests. For instance, in the north a short aged variety is required, with red pericarp and blast resistance. So is it in the deep south—red rice and blast resistance. There is something in common. When the tigers of the north engage themselves in battle with the lions of the south, perhaps at the end of the day they can get together for a meal of good red rice. In their weariness and hunger, they might discover their common brotherhood and their shared humanity. So in working

towards common identified goals, in whatever disease or in whatever subject area, research workers at the various stations can cooperate and each can contribute his share as determined by ability and resource. In studies on rice blast, for instance, researchers at Karadian Aru, Kilinochchi, Batalagoda and Gan-noruwa are working in a manner so as to complement each other's efforts to achieve a common goal. One has to tread cautiously in such cooperative endeavours, depending on the environment at each station and the peria dorais directing operations. In these days of empires and emperors, of power blocs and associations, the ground is mined and explosions cannot be predicted, It is unfortunately true that recent trends in the Department have not been conducive to the fostering of comradeship and the development of confidence and trust. But team work is the surest way and the most logical in achieving common objectives.

IT NEEDS TO BE EMPHASISED also that the achievement of objectives will be largely determined by what support institutions and the researchers in them receive, how they are developed and sustained to achieve their full potential, and what kind of environment they will have to work in. Researchers must be properly trained, relieved of the unbearable burdens of survival, stimulated and encouraged in their work, and their efforts appreciated and adequately rewarded. Also, an environment, conducive to creative work must be ensured—the thuggery at the C. A. R. I. when an unscrupulous bully ran amok must never again be repeated. It is well to record here that the GSL/IRRI Rice Research Project was intended to support the rice improvement programme in its totality. Yet, we in Plant Pathology at the C.A.R.I. did not receive one single dollar from it, not one piece of equipment, not one bit of glass, not one bottle of chemical not a single, training programme, not even a foreign junket. Will the Directorate take note of the fairness of its administration? Yet we have not slackened any of our efforts which are directed at the rice farming community and agricultural development in this country.

Now finally to the politics influencing rice pathology. I despair at our readiness to despise our agricultural heritage in the name of modernisation; our willingness to get trapped in economic dust storms in the expectation of instant international charity; and the ease with which we are bartering our independence and self-respect for the uncertain transitory prosperity offered by multinationals and financiers.

THOSE OF MY GENERATION were fortunate enough to benefit from the greatest gift given to us by our colonial masters — the English language, a gift denied to many of the later generations by rabid nationalists. Sinhala Only fanatics and unscrupulous politicians, some of whom educated their children and their relatives' children abroad. We were fortunate also to be cared for and taught by devoted teachers.

It was one of them who read to us Oliver Goldsmith's poem, "The Deserted Village" and I want to quote a few lines from it.

*"'Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay;
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade;
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied."*

From time immemorial, Sri Lanka has been an agricultural country. Her people lived in villages and worked on the land. A strong agricultural base supported them. The temple gave them spiritual moorings. We are now in the process of modernisation; in the throes of development. We have lost our sense of direction. The bold peasantry, our country's pride, is being steadily destroyed as farming becomes progressively less attractive. The lure of quick and easy money offered by the flesh industry, tourism, the deceptive glamour of jobs in the metropolis and factories, the temptations of the fortunes assured through the desertion enterprise, migration, in employment abroad; all these have dealt severe blows to our country's stable base consistent with her culture and endowments, agriculture, and the peasantry it sustained. The agricultural ground is being cut underneath; it is being tunnelled. The contractors on the job may well be the compatriots or our aid donors, our admirers, expatriate nationals and local collaborators. It is possible that we do not recognise the dangers ahead. It is possible too that our failure to heed these dangers is merely a manifestation of a more recent national trait:

*"Kappalla Beepalla Jolly Karapalla
Heta marunath hithata sepai Adha jolly karalla"*

TIME DOES NOT PERMIT ME to dwell at length on matters relevant in the long term. I will merely make some suggestions which I hope will receive consideration.

1. Aim at maximising rice production and yields per unit area within the constraints imposed by uncontrollable outside factors. Let there be enough rice produced locally to meet the needs of a rising population.
2. Take those options where disruption by uncontrollable outside factors are minimised, e.g., continue emphasis on the development and use of disease resistant varieties; ensure production of seed paddy of high quality and good health status for raising vigorous crops; give adequate attention to sanitation and regulatory measures to reduce disease problems. By such strategies, avoid excessive dependence on expensive and hazardous agro-chemicals and prevent the reduction of attainable production levels.
3. Improve rice quality; develop processes for the greater acceptability and use locally of rice products

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such as rice flour, Recognize the implications of changes in food habits with reliance on imported alternatives such as wheat. Food aid is a deceptive gift; PL 430 donations are linked to political expediencies.

4. Abandon intentions of exporting rice. Let rice production be for the exclusive use of the Sri Lankan population. Catering to the demands of an export market for consumers with greater purchasing power than the poorer Sri Lankan population will inevitably be at the expense of the local consumers. Example. Hundreds of doctors have been produced in Sri Lanka at great cost. They have been export commodities ministering to the sick in rich countries where patients have greater purchasing power. So, for the ordinary sick Sri Lankan health care is a nightmare. Therefore, let not priorities with respect to the staple food of the ordinary Sri Lankan be distorted. Let them not be determined by commercial considerations but be influenced by human needs in this country.

5. Adopt policies with respect to production subsidies and the pricing of rice and other agricultural produce dictated by considerations relevant in the Sri Lanka context. Let not the pressures imposed by money lenders and financiers wreck the agricultural destiny of this country.

6. Awake nationally to the need for intensive research in the various areas relevant to the optimal utilisation of our agricultural resources. Agricultural development does not mean merely the clearing of forests and the building of dams and reservoirs. Research must be intensified and sustained in a number of areas—forest, land and water conservation, land utilisation, water management, the numerous disciplines associated with crop production etc.

7. Emphasise the need for self-reliance. Encourage nationals to serve in their motherland. Let the glorification of the expatriate national "earning foreign exchange" cease. Let it be recognised that patriotic nationals are serving in this country, sustaining life in Sri Lanka, and conserving foreign exchange which will otherwise be required for goods and services from abroad. Both groups have benefited enormously from mother Lanka. One group has grabbed all they can and migrated to greener pastures abroad; the other group has remained in services in their motherland and been despised for their commitment.

8. Support the agricultural research base with adequate funds and facilities. Establish a national agricultural fund into which will be deposited some amount for every acre of land cultivated with an agricultural crop, for every unit of produce obtained. Let funds from such a national deposit be disbursed to meet the various needs of a research system— institutions, equipment, salaries, staff training.

essential amenities such as housing etc. Let the labourers be worthy of their hire.

9. In the Department of Agriculture, let changes be made and procedures adopted to restore confidence in the establishment as a whole. The rise of the "perks class", their style of operation and the consequences that flow from this malaise have undermined the performance of the Department.

It is probable that what I have said would have incensed some of you in this audience. Yet, it is part of the experience of a plant pathologist to be confronted with the ugly symptoms of disease, to seek their causes, and prevent if possible their consequences — disintegration, death and decay. Those processes affect not only the 'plant kingdom'— institutions, organisations and departments are also susceptible. What I have said is an attempt to set in motion the healing processes — hope must not be abandoned in the Department, yet.

Concluded.

x x x

IRRIGATION

For Coconut

SOIL moisture is often the greatest single limiting factor for successful growth of the coconut palm and nut yield. Summer irrigation and irrigation throughout the year helps the coconut palm to establish quickly, grow fast, flower early and yield heavily. The palms are to be irrigated at proper intervals depending upon the soil condition, season and age of the palm. Improper irrigation or insufficient moisture in the soil diminishes the production of nuts especially in plantations raised in sandy, sandy loam or hill slopes where rainfall is irregular or not well distributed.

The precise water requirement of coconut palm has not been worked out so far. It is estimated that the transpiration and utilisation of water by a middle aged bearing palm is about 24 litres per day. The irrigation requirement in a sandy loam soil arbitrarily fixed for fixing irrigation once a week is about 1000 litres per irrigation at 10 cm depth in basins of 1.5m radius. A young seedling needs less of water and an adult palm at flowing stage, needs more water, more so when the season is windy and hot. During the first year, a young seedling may require irrigation at the rate of 20-30 litres on alternate days. Two years old seedling requires irrigation twice a week at the rate of 50 — 100 litres. In the 3rd, 4th, 5th year and thereafter irrigation may be given once a week at the rates of 300-400; 500-600; 600-700 and 700-1000 litres respectively in basins. Provisions of proper drainage is also equally, important in areas subject to water logging particularly during monsoon months.

Instead of frequent light irrigation, it is advisable to give heavy irrigation, preferably during evening hours, once a week or 10 days. Under such heavy and evening irrigation, the water will soak down a few extra inches; besides minimising evaporation loss. Irrigation should not cause accumulation of soluble sales in the surface soil. Secondly ground water should not be allowed to rise higher than 2 metres below the surface and should be below 3 metres. *Sea water can be used for irrigation if the soil is sandy loam. On clay loam or clay soils sea water should never be used for irrigation. Hand watering may be done where adequate irrigation facilities are lacking.*

Application of organic mulches to the garden in basins during summer months help in conserving soil moisture and to reduce the soil temperature. Irrigation during summer months increase the nut yield substantially and the margin of profit over expenditure incurred is quite attractive, besides ensuring against adverse seasonal effects during draught conditions.

K. S. Shetty.

x x x

NO MORE

Ploughing

Crops like wheat, barley and rye can now be grown without having to plough or even sow. Such a possibility is neither science fiction nor a distant dream. Scientists at the all-union V. P. Goryachkin Research Institute for Agricultural Machine Building in Moscow have devised a method of coating seeds in special capsules sensitive to high-frequency electric current. After having been sown once, only a part of them will be made to germinate each season by an electric pulse, while the other capsuled portions will germinate other when activated in the next season.

The procedure can be repeated several times for x number of years. The discovery is expected to save the way to rich harvests without the tedious and toil of ploughing the fields.—APN

x x x

WASTE

Into Stockfood

A DEHYDRATOR developed initially to dispose of rock lobster offal in Western Australia can convert a wide range of organic waste into stockfood. The dehydrator was developed by a team of researchers from the Western Australia Meat Commission working under divisional engineer Mr. Jose Ruiz-Avila. Now a director of AKT Consultants, a Sydney reserach and development company, Mr. Ruiz-Avila has further developed the dehydrator to expand its application to stockfood production and other uses.—*Australian News.*

TENDER NOTICE

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

Tenders for the construction of Internal Plant Building at the proposed Telecommunication Training Centre, Welisara, will be received by the Chairman, Ministry Tender Board, Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction, Transworks House, Colombo 1, upto 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 19th October, 1983,

02. Tender forms could be inspected and/or obtained from Chief Construction Engineer (Buildings) Colombo North, Department of Buildings, Model Farm Road, Colombo 8, upto 4.15 p. m. on 14. 10. 83. Tenderers should be registered Contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of the Department of Buildings for a sum above Rs. 4,500,000/ and evidence of same should be produced before issue of tender forms. A refundable tender deposit of Rs. 2000/- should be paid at the Department of Buildings or any Kachcheri outside Colombo and the receipt produced for issue of tender forms.

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

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

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

K. C. Samaraweera.
Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

P. O. BOX 504,

COLOMBO. 28th September, 1983.

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RECONCILIATION, REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION AND THE PEOPLE

BANKS AND 5 STAR HOTELS

The Writing of the Wall

By Fred E. de Silva

The author, Mr. Fred E. de Silva, the well-known lawyer, politician and diplomat, had sent us this article some months ago—long before the July disturbances. What he has to say about the Shylockian activities of our banks and the priorities given to the five star hotel industry has more meaning today than when it was sent to us. Though the enthusiastic and fanatically blind adherents of the kind of open economy that has been in operation for the last five years will be reluctant to admit it, there is no doubt that the mobs that went on a rampage of looting were among the poor who had become poorer. The writing on the wall is clear. Will those in the seats of power take note..?

—Editor.

BANKING in Sri Lanka is now big business like the huge Multinational companies whose sole purpose is financial exploitation. Our State banks—the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank—have lost their mission of financial assistance to the small man at a reasonable rate of interest. The massive profits earned by those two State Banks last year is financially immoral—the People's Bank Rs. 212 million and the Bank of Ceylon Rs. 193 million. They have lost interest in the common man—the small man—who has to pay 30% on unsecured loans and 25% on secured loans—to get a loan for building his house, to start a small business or pay off a debt. These massive profits made by the State Banks have been squeezed from the borrower, who has no alternative but to pay. My father, the late Mr. Geo E. de Silva, was responsible for the creation of the Ceylon Bank at a time when the only Banking lending companies were foreign and the Ceylonese borrower was at their mercy. The Afghan money lender and the Chettiar who charged 30% to 25% were patronised by the Ceylonese and this rate of interest was considered unconscionable by the Courts. Today, our State Banks are charging Shylock interest and are no better than the Afghan and the Chettiar, who exploited the needy borrower, who has no alternative but to pay a massive 30% interest on unsecured loans a 25% interest on secured loans.

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The massive profits made by our State banks is blood money extracted from the small man.

The ugly face of exploitation is rearing its head. The State banks have shown scant respect for the aims of our socialist government and have done nothing positive to help the government projects or to give it direction. **Our Prime Minister is dedicated to the task of building a million homes for the poor. Have any of the State banks sought to launch a Middle class or lower Middle class housing scheme in any meaningful way or even a Housing Scheme for their employees.** There are other Banking institutions operating in Sri Lanka making tremendous profits by squeezing the citizens who are in need of finance. Like bees round the honey pot, banks have come into operation from those based in the Middle East, other European countries, America and India. All these banks are here ostensibly to lend a helping hand to those who need it. But, in reality all these Banks are wolves in sheep's clothing pretending to help the public, whilst fleecing the public by charging exorbitant interest rates. *Unless the lending banks, be they state banks, commercial banks or foreign banks, come to the rescue of the small man, the Government will fail to fulfil its objectives of reviving the economy of the country by attaining selfsufficiency and exporting as much as we can.*

ALL THE BANKS are in the hunt for 5 star Luxury Tourist projects. What the future holds for all the five-star hotels, that are in the pipeline, are in the lap of the Gods. Will our country be the graveyard of 5 star luxury hotels as has been in some other countries who went mad in an euphoria of building 5 star luxury hotels. We have just now in Colombo Hotel International, Hotel Oberoi, Galle Face Hotel that are considered 5 star hotels which are operating. In the pipeline are the Hotel Galadari Meridien—500—room five star super luxury hotel—a monstrosity of a building that has dwarfed all the other buildings and has taken the place of the old Echelon Barracks a thing of beauty compared with what has taken its place. The Taj Mahal Hotel another 5 star luxury hotel of 500 rooms, Trans Asia Hotel Ltd., are building another 5 star hotel, Colombo Hilton advertised as a true 5 star Hotel with 456 rooms, The Sheraton another 5 star hotel with 500 rooms, Swissotel another 5 star luxury hotel with 550 rooms is coming up in Kotte. There are many other 5 star hotels in the offing. *Consider the infrastructure of electricity and water that are used up by one of these 5 star hotels with 550 rooms. At least 5,000 homes can be served with water and electricity, that is consumed by one 5 star hotel. They will get priority treatment and the poor will have to wait. With a shortage of electrical power and drinking water, is it right to embark on these prestigious hotels?* The only beneficiaries are the sponsors, the

management and the foreign expertise. The country will learn nothing in foreign exchange after deductions are made for the steel for the high rised building, fittings for the rooms and the many items of food that have to be obtained from abroad, the exorbitant salaries paid for foreign expertise and foreign management. Every dollar spent by a tourist at a 5 star hotel is not an equal gain to the country. The margin of profit, if any left to us is negligible. We need not soil the beauty that nature has given us, undermine our national culture, sell our bodies, our soils and self respect in the name of earning foreign exchange, when in reality we are paying out more than we get from these 5 star hotels.

HIGH POWERED SALESMANSHIP on Television, Radio and the media are selling Rs. 10 shares of the 5 star hotels in the pipeline to the gullible public—in the rural areas, in the city and in the Middle East. Most of these small investors who normally invest their hard earned money on Government savings with a guarantee that they will not lose their capital, will no doubt be attracted to buying these shares without any knowledge of company law, Maximum Tax benefits or 100% investment relief etc. All this is dangled before the public, like offering a carrot to a donkey and then will be duped into buying shares of which they know little. The tourist trade is on the decline and half the hotels are less than half full. World depression and recession besides political trends will take a heavy toll on the tourist trade. For example the Socialist Government of France has last month for austerity reasons allowed a French tourist a basic of 2,000 French Francs for travel per person per year. In our money it is Rs. 6,000. Our Government allows a person £ 500 over Rs. 15,000. The French tourist has found Sri Lanka very popular. Our five star hotels charge 45 to 50 American dollars per room, i.e., about Rs. 1,100 without any food. These five star hotels that are advertised in all our brochures as they can afford the high cost of printing will drive away all the prospective tourists.

I have been in the tourist trade for the last 20 years in a small way owning a 30-room hotel and have some knowledge of the trade and what the future holds. At a Tourism Marketing Conference at the M.M.I.C.H. on 16th June 1982 organised by Ceylon Tourist Board, I had occasion to speak against the proliferation of five star tourist hotels and said that it caters for an elite like the old colonial days, and this country will be the graveyard of the five star luxury tourist hotels. It had a very hostile reception, but I spoke what I considered the truth and I still maintain. It will be like the South Sea Bubble. The bubble will burst, the poor shareholders will be left in the lurch and the foreign companies will just walk out, when they find it not profitable.

We should take a lesson from our great neighbour India, who has seen the writing on the wall that tourism is on the decline and that steps be taken to cater for the low Income Budget tourist. They have reduced the 15% BTT to nil to give the Industry an incentive and to make it competitive. A 15% BTT is equivalent to a 70% interest Tax. To cater for the lower budget tourist, India has built a new hotel called the Ashok Yatri—the common man's hotel—on Ashok Road in the heart of New Delhi. I have taken these facts about this hotel from *The Indian and Foreign Review*, Vol. 20 No. 9, 15-28 February 1983. For the first time the low Budget traveller will be able to realise his dream of a clean bed with attached bath, wholesome food at virtually throw away price. At the rate of Rs. 18 per bed in the family rooms, it represents a revolutionary concept in hotels; the perfect juxtaposition of the need for modern amenities and comforts with the constraints of a limited budget. The Ashok Yatri Niwas recognises this overwhelming need on the part of travellers, providing facilities compatible with those in top-flight hotels of the country to guests, at less than one-tenth the price scales of those top hotels. This need has been recognized by so many but only the ITDC has acted to fulfil it, making the Ashok Yatri Niwas the only one of its kind in the country. Single occupancy of a double room will cost a mere Rs. 50. The full double room charge is only Rs. 60 and in the family room of 4 beds the charge is Rs. 18 per bed. A self-service cafeteria provides food. It is time we gave up the hunt to provide five star super luxury hotels at exorbitant rates and come down to earth and instead build the type of hotel that will cater for the majority of tourists at reasonable rates.

The resentment that builds up in the mind of an ordinary citizen, when he sees a five star super luxury hotel coming up, when he has no water or lights are frequently out off, does not do our Government any good. Let the tourist enjoy the natural beauty of the country, its beaches, its fruit, its food, its ancient culture and above all the charm of the people in their natural surroundings.

Our President, His Excellency Mr. Jayewardene who can be considered the father of our tourist industry has asked for a review of tourism from its moral aspect. The ugly face of nudism, homosexuality, the effects of drugs etc., on the people of our country and on our culture. It is not one day too late. The sad part of it is that those responsible for tourism must have seen this degrading aspect of tourism building up for the last five years. The type of Tourism our President had in mind when he launched the Tourist Industry in 1968 was a form of cultural tourism. It is an opportune time for our President to consider a review of the effect of the proliferation of the five star luxury tourist hotels; what benefit does the country gain in foreign exchange

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after deducting all the costs etc., and whether it is safe to risk the Ceylonese shareholders money without a guarantee that the capital invested will be secure in case of a crash.

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A MIRACLE

The Book and the Ball

By R. C. Thavarajah

Retd. Senior Supdt. of Police

The Book I refer to is not any book on Religion, Political Science, Philosophy, History or Literature. It is a book entitled "The Way of Jesus Christ". The author is a priest and not a writer of great eminence like Bertrand Russell, Shakespeare, G.B.S., Oscar Wilde or Aldous Huxley. It was presented to the daughter of a friend of mine, Mr. S. R. who was one of the innocent victims of the holocaust when phrenic pyromaniacs and ruthless looters went on an insane rampage in the dark days of July this year. Mr. R had been living in the house for the past thirty years. His daughter is an official of the Wild Life Department and she is married to a Sinnala gentleman. His son is married to a burgher lady. They were all living together in the house that is no more.

After the goons and goondas had devastated his dwelling, I happened to visit the place. There, amidst the ashes and debris, I found the book. Not one page was singed. A rubber ball with which his grandson used to play was also around. These were the only two articles which were not destroyed by the fire. Other books, over two copies of the Reader's Digest and the *Tribune* (back numbers) were set ablaze. You can figure that one out—whether it is a miracle or a mere coincidence. Strange and mysterious are the ways of God the Omnipotent, is what the Christians will say. A casuist or an atheist will describe it as one of those strange things. As for me, it is a wonder.

TOWARDS RACIAL AMITY. The Rev. W. S. Senior, one time principal of Trinity College, Kandy made a tremendous contribution with his inspiring and inestimable poem "The Call of Lanka". In one of the verses, he wrote:

*"But most of all, he shall sing of Lanka
In the bright new days that come;
When the races all have blended
And the voice of strife is dumb,
When we leap to a single bugle
March to a single drum".*

Was what the great mentor said relevant in the present context of events which occurred when Law and Order took a holiday? Were the hopes of that great man of any significance or a mere spark of poetic excellence for academic purposes? Your guess is as good as mine.

Bishop Heber wrote:

*"What tho' the spicy breezes
Blow soft over Ceylon's Isle*

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*Where every prospect pleases
But ONLY man is vile".*

REALITY.—All this is interesting. Let us see what led to the avalanche of arson, looting, murder and mayhem in July 1983. The unmitigated hoodlums very probably had a plan patterned by some "suave-qui-peuts" of the genre of the Master mind. Machiavelli, hell bent to launch a putsch. They generated the most torrid heat of racial hatred for reasons best known to them and least known to some of our Security Intelligence Division. Taking adequate steps after the incidents can be equated to the somewhat supine exercise of locking the barn door after the horse has been stolen. However, a fair share of blame has also to be accepted by the protagonists be they Tamils, Sinhala, Muslim or Burgher for fishing in troubled waters. At least now the so-called leaders should jettison their Insular or Pen-insular chauvinism and listen to the voice of REASON. It was not in vain that Thomas H. Huxley, English scientist, lecturer, educator and essayist, author of several books like: *A Liberal Education, Science and Culture* etc., wrote: "Irrationally held Truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors". Politicos in the North, South, East and West of Sri Lanka should abandon their shiboleths and think rationally for the greater good of our country.

The average layman, the civilian populace and every rightthinking person will rightly ask the question whether there had been foreign assistance to the enemies of the State or whether there had been "interference" from within to thwart the attempts of our Security forces. It is for this purpose that His Excellency, the President has, in his wisdom, ordered a complete probe. If any unscrupulous individual or individuals fails to play ball with the investigators, we will have to throw the Book of Rules at them.

When the history of this country is recorded, let not the future generation say with chagrin that the Priceless Pearl of the Orient was cast to the proverbial Swine.

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AUSTRALIA

Mark Cooray's Appeal

"Tribune" has received from a reader in Australia a letter that has been sent in that country to Sri Lankans there by Prof. L. J. M. Cooray, School of Law, Macquarie University, New South Wales.

Dear Sri Lankan/Friend of Sri Lanka, I was in Sri Lanka on Black Monday 25/7 and Black Friday 29/7 when Colombo burned and worse still men and women were murdered. Nothing that has happened before in recent history can be compared with it. What can be done to prevent it happening again? And if nothing is done, happen it will. SARVODAYA is involved in RELIEF work—it also has big plans

among other things for RECONCILIATION involving dialogue between Buddhist and Hindu clergy, communication between Sinhalese and Tamils, appeals to "non-violence" and religious sentiments of the people, propaganda and meetings all over Sri Lanka for peace and non-violence and a march for peace from Kataragama to Jaffna.

This is not a time to stand still and do nothing. It is not a time to hope for the best. All we in Australia can do is to donate money for relief work and the immense task of reconciliation and nation building. SARVODAYA is doing all this. GIVE GENEROUSLY. It is not a time to give peanuts. Give until it hurts' if you care for Sri Lanka, her people, your relatives and friends. You can be sure that your money will be very well used by an organisation which had a world-wide reputation and 26,000 workers (many of them voluntary). When you give you can specify whether money is to be used for relief aid and rehabilitation or for reconciliation.

Please send donations to: Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Sharmadana Sangamaya, Inc., "Damsak Mandira", 98, Rawatawatte Road, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd., Bank Account No. 21-1651 Under Government notifications gazetted on the 27th August 1965 Sarvodaya has been declared by the then Minister of Finance (Mr. U. B. Wanninayake) as an APPROVED CHARITY for purposes of section 67(1) of the Inland Revenue Act No. 4 of 1963, i.e., ALL PAYMENTS TO SARVODAYA ENJOY RELIEF FROM TAXATION BY THE INLAND REVENUE.

I will be glad to provide further details including a 20 page statement about the troubles to those who provide a gummed label with names and addresses and \$ 2..

Yours sincerely,
Mark Cooray

14, Surrey Street,
Epping, NSW 2121,
8th September 1983.

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ENVIRONMENT MUST BE

Safe And Productive

By **Herbert G. Hagerty**

Below we publish the official text of remarks by Herbert G. Hagerty, Charge d'Affaires ad Interim of the United States Embassy at the inauguration of a program on "Environmental Assessment Procedures Development" sponsored by the Central Environment Authority of the Government of Sri Lanka and the US Agency for International Development at the BM/CH on September 13, 1983. Prime Minister R. Premadasa opened the session and delivered the inaugural address.

IT IS AN HONOUR AND A PLEASURE for me to be here today. I bring greetings also from Ambassador

Reed, who is in the United States but who had hoped to be here with you today for this important event. On behalf of the United States Government and of the American Mission here in Sri Lanka, I wish to state that we are pleased and proud to be associated with the endeavour and to assist the Central Environmental Authority and the Government of Sri Lanka in this important policy initiative. A safe and productive environment is—I believe—a universal aspiration, however, belatedly understood and recognized. All our peoples' desire and appreciate clean air (to breathe) safe water (to drink) and sufficient resources with which to maintain productive employment and a decent standard of living. In the past, many of us came to take these assets for granted due to the relative abundance of our resources and living space in relation to the demands of our peoples and societies. However, we have learned—possibly just in time—that our supplies of these resources are not inexhaustable. In the face of an expanding world population and the steady march of industrialisation and urbanisation, we have come to understand that we cannot continue to abuse our environment—to take these everyday necessities for granted—and still be able to provide increasing numbers of people with the opportunity for a healthy and prosperous future. With each passing year—despite our environmental awareness, and despite also the advance of science and health—environmental, resource and population pressures are intensifying. Increasingly, they affect the quality of life on our small planet. Problems such as waste disposal, deforestation, soil erosion, salination, air pollution, noise pollution and water pollution have been exacting an increasing—and often hidden—toll in terms of human suffering hardship and privation.

UNLESS WE REVERSE THE PROCESS, we will find that this planet's ability to sustain our needs will diminish, and this will lead to a progressive deterioration of our common, and precious, natural resource base. In the United States and in Europe we have made an encouraging start at protecting our environment. But it is a global problem. If the adverse global trend is to be reversed, we will need far greater understanding of the problem and vigorous and determined environmental initiatives. We are involved today inaugurating such a major, and vitally needed, step in this important process in Sri Lanka. Environmental assessment—the assessment of real and potential environmental impact—is one of the more useful methodologies that have been developed as a result of our own environmental awakening to meet this global challenge. We in the United States have had a comparatively long history of involvement with environmental assessment practice and principles. One of the more important lessons we have learned through this experience is that environmental assessment should not be viewed as a luxury but rather as a necessity, not as an end in itself but rather as an

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effective and necessary tool to achieve the desired objective—ecologically sound and sustainable national and international development.

As Sri Lanka moves forward with its impressive programs of Mahaweli Development and Village Reawakening, among others, I believe we should keep in mind the need to ensure that the advance of progress, however worthwhile, should not occur at the sacrifice of important elements of the quality of life. With care, with forethought, and with knowledge, material and economic progress can be accompanied by—indeed contribute to—an improved quality of life for all our peoples. We, and you, owe this to ourselves, and to our children, and to our children's children. If used wisely and with care, I believe that initiatives like the one we inaugurate today can contribute much towards the country's future economic prosperity and well-being. I sincerely hope this will be the case. During the course of the two years I have been in Sri Lanka, I have had the good fortune to meet and converse with many of our people all over this island. Through such encounters, I have been impressed by the great appreciation and respect Sri Lankans have for their country's wonderful and bountiful natural heritage. They want progress but they do not want to lose what they have. And this is as it should be, for this nation has been blessed with an abundance of resources as well as natural beauty. It is in the interest in preserving these endowments for the use and enjoyment of future generations that we are gathered here today. To the extent that this program assists the people of Sri Lanka—today and in the future—in attaining this objective, we of the United States are proud to be able to be a part of it.

USIS.



SPOTLIGHT

- ACC
- Bristol Trophy
- Asian Soccer

MR. GAMINI DISSANAYAKE, the go-getter President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka who has been going from strength to strength after accepting the onerous and prestigious post has added yet another feather to his cap by being appointed Vice President of the newly formed Asian Cricket Conference (ACC). The meeting was held recently in New Delhi and Sri Lanka's representatives at the

meeting were Mr. Dissanayake, President, and Secretary Nuski Mohammed. Mr. K. P. N. Salve and Mr. A. W. Kanmadikar, President and Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India were unanimously elected President and Secretary of the new conference. Mr. Ashrafallah Haq of Bangladesh was elected joint secretary. Speaking after the meeting, Mr. Kanmadikar said that under the Constitution of the ACC adopted unanimously, the President, Secretary and Treasurer would be from the same country and office-bearers would have a two-year term. The head-quarters would change according to the nationality of the President who would be elected in rotation.

The inaugural Asia Cup Cricket Tournament, which is to be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, will host the tourney, was elected an associate member of the Asian Cricket Conference. ACC in its inaugural year will conduct a triangular tournament between India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the winners of the contest will be awarded a trophy presented by Air Marshal (Retired) Nur Khan of Pakistan. The tourney will be thrown open gradually to other members and will be staged every alternate year. One of the important decisions taken at this meeting was that none of the members, full or associate, will have any sporting contacts with any country practising racial discrimination. Any member country found to be having such contracts will be pushed out of the ACC. According to Mr. Kanmadikar, the Asian Cricket Conference would not be a parallel body to the International Cricket Conference, but would implement ICC decisions. The ACC has unlimited powers as far as the promotion of the game is concerned. The ACC's activities will include organising coaching camps for promising youngsters, examinations and seminars for umpires, preparing a panel of Asian umpires, sending observers to various tournaments and even extending financial assistance to needy Federations. The Asian Cricket Conference Constitution was signed by India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Singapore. There is no doubt that with the formation of the ACC, cricket in the Asian region is in for good times. There is a lot of talent in the Asian region and it is hoped that the ACC would be able to tap this talent for the good of the game. Sri Lanka is the newest addition to the International Cricket Conference and India and Pakistan who are senior partners must tour here or invite Sri Lanka whenever possible for a full Test series.

THE LOCAL CRICKET SCENE just got off to a start with the working off of the Bristol Trophy under 25 tourney. Rain went to thwart many a team's endeavour of entering the final round and the four finalists were Bloomfield, NCC, Tamil Union and the Police Sports Club. One of the most formidable teams to fall by the wayside was the Sinhalese Sports Club. They too, were affected by the intermittent

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rainfall and needing a run target in the final game against the CCC came a cropper when they were beaten by five wickets. The most striking feature of the tourney was the entering into the final round by the Police Sports Club. This is the first time in the four year history of the tourney that the Police have entered the final round. The NCC, Tamil Union and Bloomfield as expected entered the finals. The finals should be keenly contested and it is likely that the final winners are going to be the Bloomfielders. The Board of Control for Cricket and the Ceylon Tobacco Company have done well in organising this very interesting and much looked forward to tourney for the youngsters. *A suggestion from ALL-ROUNDER: When conducting this tourney next year make it eligible for those, over 20 and under 25*

Still on cricket and ALLROUNDER is disappointed at the way the under 17 cricket final between St. Joseph's and Ananda was conducted. True rain spoilt the game and the two teams were declared joint champions. But it would have been better appreciated if the game had been called off and replayed at a later date. To be elected joint champions would have struck a sour note in the camps of the two teams. Let's hope that the next tourney will see a change of heart by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association. However in this rain-marred final what was interesting was the batting of the Josephian skipper and stylish left hander Jonathan Alles. Alles showed immense maturity for one so young. One of the most talented cricketers in the cricketing firmament today, it is time the Cricket Board took Alles under its wing. He punched a stylish unbeaten 79 and together with Rukshan Soza took his side to a commanding position of 137 for four after an early collapse. With no chance of a decision likely owing to continuous rain, the Josephians declared at this overnight score and the Anandians at the time of the stoppage were tottering at 36 for 4. The Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association must also see that those who play in the first eleven of the schools do not play in this tourney. Right throughout this tourney all teams have continued to play their cricketers who have turned out for the first team. True they are under 17, but the schools and the Association will be throwing open the tourney and giving more promising cricketers a chance if they make it a point to request the schools to keep their first side cricketers out. Let's hope the SLSCA will give this idea a thought.

TO THE FOREIGN SCENE and the point of interest was that India's champion batsman, Sunil Gavaskar, needs just another hundred to equal the greatest Sir Donald Bradman's record of 29 Test centuries. Gavaskar who has had a lean period up to the time of the First Test against Pakistan, sprayed the ball all over the field in the second innings in the Test which ended in a draw at Bangalore to remain unbeaten on 103. At the time of writing the Second Test between the two countries is on at Punjab and Gavaskar has been dismissed for three

runs in the first innings. It is hoped that he will reach his goal of equalling the Sir Don by scoring a 100 in the second innings. A tax demand by the Excise and Taxation Department of Punjab that Rs. 2 million be deposited as an advance towards entertainment Tax nearly called off the Second Test between India and Pakistan. According to senior officials of the Punjab Cricket Association, it would have been impossible to stage the Test as they did not have the money to meet the demand of the Excise and Tax Department. Fortunately, the crisis was overcome in the larger interests of the game and the first ever Test between the two countries in a city in Punjab concluded with no problems.

TO SOCCER and news has it that China will play Hong Kong and South Korea will meet Thailand on November 1, on the opening day of the Asian Zone Group four qualifying football tourney for the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Sri Lanka was one of the teams that used to regularly participate in the Olympic qualifying tourney. But sad to say it is not the same now. The game is now receiving a tremendous boost, but sad to say the relationship between other football playing countries seem to be on the wane. The Minister of Sport, Mr. Vincent Perera, appointed a Board to see to the welfare and improvement of the game. We wonder whether the Board is serving its purpose for which it was set up. We have not seen a visiting national football team for a long time. It fell to the credit of the Prime Minister Premadasa to get down a foreign team here to mark the opening of the redeveloped Sugarhiadasa Stadium. After nearly two decades of not showing our prowess against a foreign team, the locals who were pitted against the South Koreans came off poorer by the experience. There were several other youth and international tournaments that Sri Lanka used to participate in when the game was controlled by the former Association. The Football Board will do well to explain their policy. Twenty one countries divided into four groups are contesting the three Asian berths in the Olympic Games Soccer tourney in Los Angeles next year. The winner and runners-up of each group will play in the two group semi-finals. The Olympic tourney will involve 14 teams of which Asia will have three.

ALLROUNDER

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SPORTS CHRONICLE

September 19 - 24

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: "Bachelors" beat "Married" by 102 runs in their 7th annual cricket match played at Dambaduraya, Alawathupitiya, Ja-Ela: Bachelors 1st innings 94 and Married 1st innings 44: Carey college opened their inter school cricket season with a bang when they scored an innings and 17 runs win over Sri Jayawardenapura MV, Kotte at Railway grounds on Saturday: Sri Jayawardena-

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pura MV 76 and 112 and Carey College 117 for 3 overnight 203 for 5 declared. The S-LSCA Under 15 Division 1 Final was marred by heavy rain. Prince of Wales College Grounds Moratuwa yesterday, St. Sebastians batting first were 135 all out and D. S. Senanayake Vidyalaya in reply were 42 for 5 when the match was abandoned; they were declared joint champions.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: Young Boys Sports Club, Katugastota, registered their fifth win of the season when they defeated Evergreen Sports Club, Katugastota 3-1 in their inter-club soccer match played at Sri Rahula College grounds Katugastota. Haputale Taj Mahal Sports Club won the men's title at the volley ball tournament conducted by the Badulla District NYSC in association with the Diyatalawa Youth Club; the women's championship was won by the Diyatalawa Youth Club; the tournament was held at the Sunday Fair grounds at Diyatalawa. India's opening batsman Sunil Gavaskar and Anushman Gaekwad settled down to some useful practice with an unbroken stand of 176 as the rain-ruined First Test with Pakistan fizzled out in a draw on the fifth and final day at Bangalore yesterday. Cambridge University Rugby XV outplayed Oxford University 22-9 in a match at Tokyo's National Stadium yesterday.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: D. S. Senanayake MV beat St. Thomas Matala, narrowly by 13 runs in the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association under 17 Division 3 final played at Matala over the weekend; on the same day at Moratuwa DSS shared the under 15 Division 1 title with St. Sebastians; D. S. Senanayake 236 and St. Thomas 223. In a 30 over cricket match for the Ronnie de Mel Challenge Cup played at Devinuwara playground, Silver Star Sports Club, Devinuwara, defeated Southern Sports Club by 20 runs: Silver Stars SC 117 and Southern SC 97 for 7. S. M. Gavaskar one of the world's leading opening batsmen yesterday achieved the distinction of scoring his 28th century in Test cricket as the First Test between India and Pakistan ended in a draw at Bangalore yesterday. The Man of the Match award went to a Indian all rounder Madan Lal who had scored 74 runs in the first innings and had taken three Pakistani wickets for only 22 runs.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: Red Eagles Sports Club, Seeduwa scored an 85-run win over Udammita Sports Club in a cricket match played recently at the People's Play ground, Seeduwa Red Eagles SC 54 and 95 for 9 wickets and Udammita SC 28 and 36. Lloyds Sports Club won the K. D. M. C. Bandara Challenge Shield defeating Sputnik Sports Club by 43 runs in the final of the softball cricket tournament sponsored by the National Security Agency Anuradhapura and played recently at the Railway Jayanthi Sports Club grounds, Anuradhapura: Lloyds SC 85 and Sputnik SC 32. Moosajee Sons beat Ceylon Biscuits Ltd., by 4 wickets in a limited

over cricket match played on the Colombo Campus grounds at Thurstan road: Ceylon Biscuits 53 in 20.2 overs; Moosajee sons 54 for 4 in 22.2 overs.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: Wattala Cricket Club warmed up for the Pure Beverages Trophy with two victories over Peterson SC A and B teams; both matches were played at Peterson Park, Wellawatte recently; Wattala CC A beat Peterson SC A by 21 runs; Wattala CCA 101 in 41.1 overs and Peterson SC A 80 in 33.1 overs; Wattala SC B beat Peterson SC B by 8 runs; Wattala SC B 147 for 9 in 50 overs and Peterson SC B 138 in 28.3 overs. A fine all round performance by Mumtaz Yusuf helped Mercantile Cricket Association Committee XI rout the Association of Cricket Umpires in their 35 over cricket match at McCarthy Road on Wednesday; MCA Committee 118 and ACUSL 63. Second seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia crushed U. S. amateur Steve de Vries 6-2, 6-1 last night in the first round of the 235,000 dollars Transamerica Open tennis tournament. Australia II recovered from a near disastrous start yesterday to overtake Liberty on the first leg and pull away to a decisive victory which narrowed the defenders margin to 3-2 in the America's 12-metre Yachting Cup.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: Ananda will pin their hopes on paceman Ajith Dharmasiri and Prabath Chaminda to regain the Sri Lanka Schools under 15 Division 3, Cricket Title they lost in 1980 when they meet St. Johns Panadura in this year's Final at the Panadura Explanade tomorrow and on Monday. How Ananda fared: Beat Piliyandala MMV: Ananda 112 and Piliyandala MMV 73. Beat Veluwana School B. Ananda 207 for 9 and Veluwana School 173. Beat Prince of Wales B: Ananda 37 and POW 59. Beat Dharmapala MV; Pannipitiya B: Ananda 230 and Dharmapala 20. Beat Moratu MV: Ananda 64 and Moratu MV 18. Beat Ananda Sastralaya Kotte. Ananda 122 and Ananda Sastralaya 84. How St. John's fared: Beat Tissa MMV Kalutara: St. Johns 142 and Tissa MMV 137. Beat Kalutara MMV. St. Johns 168 and Kalutara MMV 61. Beat St. Anthony's Panadura: St. Johns 158 and St. Anthony's 86. Beat St. Thomas, Kotte: St. Johns 87 and St. Thomas 93. Beat Thurstan B: St. Johns 114 and Thurstan B 66. Beat Lumbini MV. St. Johns 111 and Lumbini MV 88.

Next Week

- * Law & Order
 - * Gandhi Film
 - * World Food Day
 - * Sarvodaya Way
 - * State Plantations
-

CONFIDENTIALLY

J. R. & the 'Times'

WAS IT NOT SURPRISING to read on the front page of *The Island* of Thursday, September 22 under the heading **TIMES MAY BE CLOSED** a news item (by-line by B. C. Perera)? That the report read: "The Competent Authority of the Government-owned *Times of Ceylon*, has recommended to the Government, the sale of Times Building for around Rs. 40 million, close down the newspapers published by the group and continue only with its Commercial Printing Section. The Competent Authority has said that the Commercial section which made nearly Rs. 3 million per year, could be run profitably in a small building in Colombo with the available machinery"? That since this appeared, *Tribune* has been flooded with phone calls and letters from journalists and others interested in the print media about this proposed closure of the *Times* which is described as "cultural vandalism"? That we publish below one of the many letters we have received? That it is from one who knows what he is talking about as he is an EX-TIMESMAN? "That there is much speculation these days in political, commercial and journalistic circles that the *Times of Ceylon* may close down. That another newspaper has carried a news item to that effect and this remains uncontradicted? That *Times of Ceylon*, founded in 1846, is one of the oldest newspapers in the country and in its heyday set journalistic standards which others tried enthusiastically to emulate with little success? That if *The Times* should eventually fold up it will be a blot on those who after its take-over by the Government in 1977 contributed to this consumption with their particular brand of corruption, mismanagement, inefficiency or a woeful lack of managerial skills so necessary for the successful running of a newspaper? That after the take-over as a Government-owned Business Under-taking, Treasury finances gave the *Times* a new lease of life, but not for long because the Undertaking was enmeshed by red tape and lethargy so characteristic of Government Departments and State Corporations? That recruitment was made not on real needs but on recommendations by M.Ps and powerful Party men? That money that should have been used for the purchase of essential machinery and spares and been frittered away or wasted on salary for redundant staff? That the newspapers were used for government propaganda by amateurish bureaucratic bunglers who knew very little about the subtle use of the media for government propaganda in an enlightened society?"

THAT TO TRACE THE EVENTS that directly led to the closure proposal the writer says he interviewed some senior employees? That they confirmed that the *Times* is now being run by a firm of Management Accountants who are paid a fee amounting to Rs. 10,000

a month? That however the direct management of the *Times* is in the hands of a very junior, inexperienced officer (acting on behalf of the firm of Management Accountants) whose lack of experience is only matched by his lack of enthusiasm? That these employees also said that all "key" executive posts have remained vacant for the past one year leaving the business to run by itself or grind to a halt? That the pathetic countdown is: 1. *Competent Authority* (does not visit the *Times* even once in three months) is paid Rs. 10,000 a month; 2. *Finance Manager*, post vacant; 3. *Personnel and Administrative Manager*, post vacant; 4. *Advertising Manager*, post vacant; 5. *Production Manager*, post vacant; 6. *Circulation Manager*, the holder of this important post had been made Welfare Officer, a sinecure; 7. *The Editorial Staff* (the most important, branch in any reputed newspaper) continues to be the lowest paid in any newspaper establishment not only in Sri Lanka but the whole of South and South East Asia? That many senior journalists have joined other newspapers in sheer disgust? That these employees are also of the view that these senior executive posts have not been filled to shut down the paper so that the building situated on prime land in the heart of Fort could be sold to some interested parties to further their business interests? That they suggested that as the tax payer's money had been used to finance the running of the *Times*, those responsible for the mismanagement be dealt with by the government after an independent inquiry and the divesting and permitting of the *Times* to be published as a national newspaper? That these senior employees say that they will not permit those bent on closing the *Times* to serve their own sinister and selfish purposes and that they will not be allowed to have their own way?"

IS IT NOT TRUE that in the last three or four years, patriotic-minded citizens had attempted to give new life—flesh and blood—to the *Times* by offering to take it over and run it? That the dog-in-the-manger attitude of the vested interests that presently hold the *Times* in thralldom was able to prevent such a change? That if a group of persons well versed in business administration, modern financing and contemporary public relations are given the *Times* they can make its publications hum the way they should—with a small band of competent media enthusiasts who know their onions? That it will be a blot and slur on the government of President Jayewardene if the *Times* is sold to enable the "bottlemen" of the post 1977 open economy to make more profits? That the President has personal responsibility to see that *Times* does not go down the drain as a newspaper, and also to prevent its assets being used for private gain by the robber barons of the Fort and the FTZ? That this is a major J. R. responsibility?



TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 8, 1983

TENDER NOTICE

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

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

Tenders for Renovation to Kitchen at District Hospital, Lindula Superintending Engineer's Office will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board/Department of Buildings, Kandy upto 10.00 a. m. on Wednesday 1983. 10. 12.

Tenders for construction of Proposed Workshop for Affiliated Technical Institute, Wariyapola will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, upto 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 19.10.83.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer/Nuwara Eliya before 4.15 p.m. on 83.10.17 by registered Contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 100,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 100/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer/Kurunegala before 4.15 p.m. on 14.10.83 by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" Holders of Department for Rs. 750,000/- 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.

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

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K. C. Samaraweera.
Director of Buildings

K. C. Samaraweera
Director of Buildings

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
P. O. BOX 504
COLOMBO 1. 1983.09.28

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MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION,

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Applications are hereby invited from Citizens of Sri Lanka for six posts of Assistant Director (Legal) in the Urban Development Authority. The selected candidates will be required to work in the following places and will be attached to the Local Authority Offices in these places:—

- Kandy,**
- Badulla,**
- Kurunegala,**
- Batticaloa,**
- Galle,**
- Sri Jayawardanepura Kotte**

Salary Scale : Grade IV - Rs. 1,950 - 10 X 75 - Rs. 2,700/- per month. In addition to the salary, Govt. approved allowances will also be paid.

Age : Below 45 years.

Qualifications & Experience :

- (a) Attorney At-Law with 4 years experience
- (b) Should be proficient in the Official Language.

Applications stating full particulars relating to qualifications, experience, present employment and salary, etc. should be sent under registered cover to reach the Director (Administration) Urban Development Authority, No. 27, D. R. Wijewardane Mawatha, Colombo 10, on or before 14th October 1983.

Applicants in Govt. Departments / Corporations, etc should forward their application through the respective Heads of Institutions.

Chairman
Urban Development Authority

27th September, 1983