

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol. 27 — No. 52

October 15, 1983

Rs. 4.00

- ★ FOOLING WHOM ?
- ★ IMAGE ABROAD
- ★ ARMS CONTROL
- ★ RUBBER OUTLOOK
- ★ INCENTIVES
- ★ WAY OUT
- ★ S. L. S. P. C.



Sarvodaya leader Ariyaratne in a bullock cart in the North, *Tribune* reader A. R. Rajes from Jaffna Writes: ".....Why don't you, Mr. Editor, visit every Centre established by Sarvodaya in the North, South, East and West.....over 6000 of them.....visit those at Pungudutivu and Mancumpan situated in unmotorable sandy wastes. Poor children and adults learn to look after themselves and also care for others.....Let me tell you one unforgettable incident at the Mancumpan Sarvodaya Centre..... A Sinhalese lady teacher, fluent only in Sinhala, was in tears when she bade farewell to the villagers who came with gifts of mats and oilcakes and gave her a tearful send off. I was present on that occasion and she was very happy I spoke to her in Sinhala. I was impressed with the way she had made friends with simple village folk..... She was from Hanwella. She was eager to come back to Jaffna....."

TENDER NOTICE

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

Govt



Notice

Tenders for construction of Two Storeyed O.P.D. Administration Block for Hospital at Karaliyadda under Victoriya Project will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, upto 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 26. 10. 83.

02 Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer / Kandy North before 4.15 p. m. on 20. 10. 83 by registered Contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 2,000,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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

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

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHP. 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT, NO. 28 OF 1964.

Reference No. ATH 19/53

It is intended to acquire the Land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 246 / 2 of 26 .9. 83.

SCHEDULE

D.R.O's Division : Kaduwela.
Situation : —
Village : Kotaiawala.
Name of Land : Udukumbura Owita.
Lot No. : 01 - 04.
Plan No. P.P. Co. : 5928

K.C. Samaraweera.

Director of Buildings.

H. C. Gunawardane.

District Land Officer.

Colombo District.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
P. O. BOX 504,
COLOMBO 1, 1983.10.03
GUNE/

The Kachcheri,

Colombo.

Date: 1-9-1983.

TRIBUNE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WHO IS FOOLING WHOM? Not so long ago we had the hallucinatory proclamation that everything was "normal" and tourists were invited to come flocking back to Sri Lanka. But this did not work. Little did our pundits know that whatever pow-wows foreign travel agents have with officials of the Tourist Board and however attached the incentives the big wigs of our hotel industry offer them, these smart aliens make private inquiries on their own whether the displaced who fled to the North and the East have returned with their families to their old homes; whether the traders and merchants whose shops were burnt were back in business... This is the yardstick that the foreign travel agents and business entrepreneurs apply to decide whether the situation has returned to normal. On this basis, the situation is far from normal. And what is even worse is that in the absence of any meaningful moves on the part of the government even to edge slowly to national unity the simmering fires of the July holocaust continue to glow. To add fuel to these dangerous uncertainties, certain important governmental spokesmen and their henchmen seem determined to propagate the chauvinistic slogan that this island is only for the ethnic Sinhalese—no doubt to cut the throats of others in the ruling Party in a fuhrer-like bid to capture vantage points in the struggle for leadership. We hope that other voices like those in the Sarvodaya and the Mahanayake's associated with Sarvodaya will drown the inflammatory rhetoric of the purveyors of race hate even if they are entrenched in the seats of power... Prime Minister Premadasa has also warned the country that there was a small group within the United National Party itself which was not for a united multi-racial multi-religious and multi-linguistic country. In the ultimate analysis, foreign tourists and entrepreneurs will not swallow propaganda even if served up by highly paid international publicity and public relations organisations unless there is concrete proof that communal tensions have in fact decreased, or been eliminated and that the country was on the road to communal harmony and national unity. Press reports indicate that the government will spend Rs. 40 million on a vigorous tourist promotion drive in association with the Tourist Board and the Travel trade... to take immediate and aggressive measures to bolster the tourist industry which is facing a severe crisis. State Ministry Secretary Douglas Liyanage told *Sun* that the Ceylon Tourist Board will undertake a dollar to dollar promotional drive with major foreign tour operators to bring back the traffic which has been affected after the recent disturbances. The need to inject money on the massive drive with foreign tour operators at this time is because the travel trade abroad has already put out their winter catalogues and Sri Lanka has not received due recognition as a destination due to the disturbances. "The product is there and the consumer must be encouraged to come", he said... This campaign has been in operation during the past month." *But it is not clear as to who is fooling whom in this rather expensive (for the taxpayer) exercise. Admittedly, there is already a 70% drop in tourist arrivals and in addition to the Rs. 40 million for the promotional drive the hotels will be asked to "reduce prices in a bid to catch up with the losses and the Government is further considering the reduction of certain burdens in the way of taxes and charges levied on hotels at present".* Unless the Sri Lanka's house is (internally) put in order and an honest effort is made to resolve the ethnic problem (with out discordant racailist speeches by some governmental bigwigs), the Rs. 40 million on tourist promotion can be considered money down the drain. Even if a few tourists are beguiled into coming because of our much devalued currency the moment the fragile ethnic relations is shattered again, even in small was, it will be goodbye to tourism for all time.

Propaganda War ?

Colombo, October 10: The *Sunday Observer* (2/10/83) had a front page banner headline NATIONAL UNITY TALKS ARE ON. The report by Prema de Mel read: "Ministerial sources told the *Sunday Observer* that discussions were now going on between Sinhala and Tamil groups to work out a solution for national unity. These same sources added that all communities have their own problems which have to be considered. There is a realisation everywhere that it is not purely a minority problem. It is a problem of all communities. Just as much as the Tamils have their own problems there are the Sinhalese as well as the Muslims with their problems. One of the major proposals for which there is a strong backing is the proposal made by the Minister of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, for the setting up of a Permanent Commission for National Unity to deal with discrimination and to take positive steps towards building a Sri Lankan identity.

"Violence—No Answer : Following discussions between Government groups and non-government groups it has become clear that among the Sinhalese and the Tamils the view emerging is that violence is no answer. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa and Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali have in their recent speeches espoused the cause of non-violence. According to ministerial sources the view has also emerged that the solution to achieve national unity will be within a unitary state. Indications are that the Leader of the Opposition and General Secretary of the TULF Mr. A. Amirthalingam is moving towards federalism.

Eelam—No Answer : It has also become clear that separatism in Sri Lanka has found no international support. India too has constantly taken the stand that they are supporting unity in Sri Lanka. There is also a growing consensus among the two major Sri Lankan political parties—the UNP and the SLFP—that Eelam or separatism is no answer and would not be conceded. The Government's aim is to have a package deal for all communities in Sri Lanka. The Sinhalese are asking for proportional system of recruitment in regard to State employment and admission to the universities. The Tamils are asking for more autonomy. The Muslims too are backing the proportional system and are against separatism and the Indians are seeking a solution to the problem of the stateless."

Anyone with a modicum of intelligence who reads this will realise that the news item is just blah-blah without even the faintest suggestion about any concrete 'proposals for "national unity talks".'

Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali's Permanent Commission for National Unity to examine complaints of discrimination is a non-starter. It is only a British type hobby horse (rocking variety) which no one will want to ride. The *Sunday Observer* news item furthermore does not recognise any of the realities of the situation and there is not even a hint of the grave problems which have to be tackled especially in the new situation that has arisen after the July disturbances. There is a reference in the article to "discussions going on between Sinhala and Tamil groups to work out a solution for national unity". **Who are these groups? And why the secrecy about the discussions? Do they really exist? Or are drawing room pundits indulging in wishful speculation ?**

On October 6, the *Sun* under the headline: PACKAGE DEAL FOR NATIONAL UNITY. PRESIDENT TO SUMMON ALL PARTY CONFERENCE reported: "An all party conference is likely to be summoned by President J. R. Jayewardene to reach a national consensus on resolving outstanding Tamil problems and other issues, *Sun* reliably understands. Among those who are to be asked to attend this conference, to be held in the middle of this month, it is learnt, will be the United National Party, Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Lanka Sama Samaja Party. The proposed all party conference, *Sun* learns, is the outcome of informal contacts that have been going on between the United National Party and other political parties in the past months. This was exclusively reported in *Sun* of August 29. The basis of discussion at the all party talks informed sources say, will be a package deal for national unity which is now being formulated by the Government. This package deal is expected to include proposals towards national unity to deal with the anxieties of all communities. The viewpoints of other parties too are to be incorporated. The all party conference is expected to be a precursor to the second visit here of Indian Premier, Indira Gandhi's special envoy, Sri Gopalswamy Parthasarathi. He is expected to be in Sri Lanka later next week, a few days before October 24, the deadline before which all MPs are required to take their oaths in Parliament disavowing separatism. Till now, only members of the Tamil United Liberation Front have not taken their oaths disavowing separatism"

This "SUN" story has, at least, a little meat. It contains a few suggestions that may lead to a dialogue. There is no doubt that a meeting of the UNP, SLFP, LSSP and the CP would be useful if a consensus could be arrived among them and such a consensus will no doubt reflect not only Sinhala and Muslim opinion but the sentiments of Tamils who do not support the TULF

WHILST THE UNP and the government has been taking a defensive negative and apologetic approach

TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 15, 1983

not only to the July disturbances but also to the whole gamut of minority question, the TULF has continued to wage an aggressive propaganda campaign in India and in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and a number of other countries. Expatriate Tamil associations in these countries have hired some of the best public relations and mass media consultants to put across the story of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. And over the years they have carried on this campaign with a great deal of success. And the July disturbances gave them more material to expand on the propaganda.

As against this, the Government has endeavoured to "meet the charges" and give the "other side" of the story through their diplomatic missions. But, this effort has proved a dismal failure. There is now talk about hiring mass media and public relations organisations to publicise the government's case. Advice from such organisations will no doubt be helpful, but the Government must have something positive and constructive to offer. The kind of negative attitude and propaganda so far dished out by the government will be of little help even if professional media experts handle it. The government must have something concrete and positive to offer merely detailing the terrorist activities (and atrocities) of the Tigers cannot create a new image of the Sri Lanka Government either in the country or abroad.

Whilst the government is for all practical purposes in a state of near paralysis on this and other matters, both inside Sri Lanka and abroad, the TULF is active in India, UK, USA and other countries. The TULF has lobbied in the United Nations. (It is difficult to understand why the Government did not send a large contingent of lobby at the UN. The money spent on such a campaign would have paid greater dividends than all the millions sent on tourist promotion at this juncture.)

In the USA, the Tamil Association had hired the services of the Third World Incorporated, reportedly one of the most successful of such organisations. From Washington, there was a press release on October 8 on the work done by Mr. Amirthalingam. This is what it said: "The Sri Lanka Tamil United Liberation Front leader, Mr. A. Amirthalingam who yesterday conducted a round of discussions with officials of the US administration and Congressmen on the plight of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, said that practically everybody he talked to had agreed that a negotiated settlement of the problem through the good offices of India was the best way to restore peace and tranquility in the island. He said officials of the Canadian Government and members of the Canadian Parliament also held the same view. In Washington, Mr. Amirthalingam met, among others, Mr. Gray Mathews Deputy Assistant Secretary of

State dealing with human rights, Mr. Howard Schaffer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, and several senators and congressmen. In Ottawa, he appeared before the Canadian Parliamentary Consultative Committee on External Affairs for two hours, called on several political leaders and talked to officials of the External Affairs Ministry, including Mr. M. E. Drake, Director-General for South and South East Asia, and executives of the Canadian International Development Agency.

"Last week Mr. Amirthalingam had met Mr. G Parthasarathi, special envoy of the Prime Minister, in New York and had a long chat with him. Mr. Parthasarathi had come there as part of the official delegation accompanying Mrs. Gandhi to the UN for the summit meeting. Request to US: Mr. Amirthalingam told this correspondent that he had acquainted both US and Canadian officials and legislators with the current situation as regards Sri Lanka Tamils. He explained to them the nature of Human rights violations taking place there against the Tamil population. I specifically requested them that the US being the biggest aid giver to Sri Lanka should use its influence with the Government there in such a way as to put a stop to the genocide being perpetrated on the Tamils, he said. I made them understand that army and police violence against Tamils is continuing still. The TULF leader said he had also requested the US authorities and others that the only chance for a peaceful settlement of the Tamil problem was to make use of India's offer of good offices and negotiate a permanent solution. He charged the Sri Lanka government with delaying the negotiations and putting obstacles. I requested them that the US should use its good offices with the Sri Lanka Government to persuade it to make use of India's offer and work out a solution without delay. I find that practically everybody I talked to was receptive to this suggestion and they all agreed that it was the only way to ensure peace and tranquility in Sri Lanka. Mr. Amirthalingam indicated that the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and the House of Human Rights Committee were likely to discuss the case of Sri Lanka Tamils shortly. In his talks in Ottawa, the TULF leader said he requested that Canada, as a key member of the Commonwealth, should make use of this forum to bring pressure on the Sri Lanka President, Mr. Jayawardene, to accept India's offer of good offices and work out an early solution. In all my talks in Washington, said Mr. Amirthalingam, I made it clear that if the present opportunity of settling this problem is missed, particularly in the context of the Government's Sixth Amendment to the constitution to drive out Tamil representatives out of the Sri Lanka Parliament, there may be no more meeting point. Then the initiative might get into the hands of the extremist elements, and no peaceful settlement may be possible. In the current situation

me is of the greatest essence and expeditious handling of the problem is necessary. I told all those I met that if not for Mrs. Gandhi's decision to send the External Affairs Ministers Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao to Colombo the carnage in Sri Lanka might not have stopped. About the next round of negotiations by Mr. Parthasarathi in Colombo, Mr. Amirthalingam said, as far as he was aware, no date had been fixed, he said he was "worried" about Mr. Jayewardene's attitude in this regard. Speaking about the future, Mr. Amirthalingam said that if negotiations with the Sri Lanka Government failed: "we will be out of Parliament to start an extra-parliamentary agitation. We will launch a non-violent struggle for our liberation. What that will lead to we cannot say. The Government of Sri Lanka alone will be responsible for a situation of that type developing. On the issue of separation Mr. Amirthalingam commented, We have said that we were elected on mandate to work for separate State, but it is up to the Jayewardene Government to offer a viable alternative. If at the negotiations which India is fostering, a reasonable alternative is worked out, we are prepared to place it before our people and implement it with their approval. It cannot be said that we are intrasigent and standing in the way of a settlement. It is the intransigence of the Sri Lanka Government and its reluctance to negotiate under the aegis of India's good offices that is standing in the way of a peaceful settlement of the problem. Mr. Amirthalingam will address a meeting in New York on Sunday and leave for London where he is expected to speak to a public audience. Mr. Sri Thillai Ambalam President of the Eelam Tamil Association in the United States said the friendly role played by India on the issue was being appreciated by Sri Lanka Tamil residents in the US they had formed as Eelam Tamil, Rights Defence League and were enlisting the support of prominent Americans."

It is interesting to note that the TULF has sought to persuade important foreign governments that the Jayewardene government should welcome and use the good offices of India to resolve the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka. In India itself, apart from the daily durbars being held in Madras by the main political parties on the Sri Lanka Tamil question (which is likely to be made one of the main planks in the next elections), a new spurt of activity has started up in New Delhi after the return of the Indian Prime Minister from the United Nations General Assembly Sessions

In a despatch from New Delhi to the Madras *Hindu* on October 8, G. K. Reddy stated: "The Sri Lanka Minister for Rural Development, Mr. S. Thondaman who is President of the Ceylon Worker's Congress is arriving in Delhi on Monday on his way back from Miami in the US to Colombo for talks with the Indian leaders on the possibilities of a political settlement

of the Tamil problem. As a leader of the Indian Tamils in Sri Lanka and a member of the Jayewardene Cabinet, Mr. Thondaman has been finding himself placed in a particularly difficult position in attempting to steer a middle course between the TULF demand for separation and the anti-Tamil policies of the present government. Though he is known to be a man of moderation, he has been doing some tough talking to his Sinhalese colleagues in the Jayewardene Cabinet about the need for a more sympathetic approach to the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils people, while refusing to identify himself with the TULF's plea for a separate Eelam State. His main anxiety is to avoid a political rift between what are known as the Jaffna Tamils, the indigenous Sri Lankan Tamils settled in the northern part of the island, and the Tamils of Indian origin who had migrated to Sri Lanka during the British rule. Mr. Thondaman has been seeking Indian help in avoiding any serious conflict of interest between the Jaffna Tamils and the Tamils of Indian origin in negotiating a political settlement with the predominantly Sinhalese government of the President Mr. Jayewardene. After his talks in Delhi, he will be going to Madras to participate in a seminar being organised under the auspices of the World Tamil Youth Federation on "Plantation Workers and the TULF stand on Eelam". The Secretary-General of the TULF, Mr. A. Amirthalingam, who had gone to the US from London is also expected back soon for talks with the Government of India before the Prime Minister's envoy, Mr. G. Parthasarathi goes to Colombo to resume the threads of his mediatory efforts.

"The Indian view is that the leaders of the TULF the Ceylon Worker's Congress and other organisation representing the Tamils in Sri Lanka should arrive at some understanding and work out a joint strategy for negotiating a settlement with the Jayewardene Government. The TULF stand has been that it cannot give up in advance the demand for a separate Eelam until the Sinhala leaders had agreed to an alternative arrangement within the framework of a united Sri Lanka that would meet their legitimate aspirations for proper representation at all levels in the government. The Ceylon Worker's Congress, representing the plantation labour and other bodies, speaking on behalf of the Tamil traders and professional classes settled in Colombo and other southern districts sees no harm in subscribing to the concept of a united Sri Lanka to open the way for a comprehensive settlement. The Sri Lanka government is not inclined to engage in substantive negotiations in either case until the President Mr. Jayewardene, has met the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, during the commonwealth conference at the end of the November in Delhi. The second visit of Mr. Parthasarathi should be utilised in the opinion of the Sri Lanka Government, to prepare the ground for this Mrs. Gandhi-Jayewardene meeting without attempting to step up the

pace of discussions between the Sinhalese and the Tamil leaders before they are ready for engaging themselves in a serious dialogue to find a lasting settlement. The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr. S. J. S. Chatwal, is now in Delhi for consultations on all these aspects. He met the President, Mr. Jayewardene, a few days ago before leaving for Delhi to report to the Government of India on the latest situation there. The combing operations launched by the Sri Lanka Army and the police in several districts to track down the so-called-Tamil terrorists and the blatant attempts being made to settle Sinhalese in some of the northern areas to reduce the majority Tamils into a minority have made the Tamil community doubly suspicious of the Jayewardene Government's intentions...."

What next?



THE ART OF

Ivan Peries

By Albert Dharmasiri

Ivan Peries was born on 31st July 1921 at Dehiwela in Sri Lanka. It was Harry Pieris who discovered the talents of Ivan at an early age, and who led Ivan along the path of creativity till he achieved a language of his own. His genius was a result of hard work not an overnight success like that of many young Sri Lankan contemporaries who become famous painters overnight by the grace of our local journalists.

The French painter Ingre's dictum "if you can draw you can paint" comes to my mind when I watch Ivan's progress in art. Drawing is a discovery. Constant drawing draws you nearer to the truth of an object or an event. Drawings done under Harry Peiries' guidance is evidence of his incessant Probity. His early drawings of the nude anatomically faithful, graceful, and sensuous reminds one of Maillols plasticity. He was not an academic in the traditional sense but they reflect his struggle to realise the essence of nature. His style is the outcome of his probe in line and colour into nature and his romantic imagination.

Ivan Peries was a founder member of the '43 Group, the most dynamic art movement in modern Sri Lanka. In 1946 he went to England on a Sri Lanka Government Scholarship to study at the Anglo-French Centre. He returned home in 1949 but went back to England where he has stayed ever since. He has exhibited extensively in Europe. A few of his important international exhibitions are as follows: Imperial Institute, London (1952), Petit Palais, Paris (1953) the Venice Biennale (1956 and 1958) South London

Art Gallery (1960), Bear Lane Gallery, Oxford (1961 and 1963). Participation in the contemporary Sri Lankan paintings Exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute (1964), St. Catherine College Exhibition (1965), Commonwealth Institute, London (1966). His last major Exhibitions was at Brussels, Belgium (1981). His work has been favourably reviewed by esteemed international journals and Newspapers like *Manchester Guardian*, *Lea Lettres Francaises*, *Arts News and Review*, *New Statesman and Nation*, *Oxford Mail*, *The Times* and *Art Review*.

Apart from his international standing his importance in the context of contemporary Sri Lankan art is unique. As William Graham says, "There are few painters working at present whose imagery so expressively combines the outward eye of the nature mix with an inner mystical vision". His unique style is a product of his earthen sensitivity, concepts of representation and a deep understanding of modernisation. He has reduced everything in nature to their nearest essentials both in colour and form. His paintings are monochromatic and the forms are mere silhouettes. But they are vitalised with an inner dynamism unexpressible in words. His paintings are spiritual exercises transformed into pictorial terms. With the decline of art appreciation in Sri Lanka today it is not surprising that an artist of such sensitive vision is beyond the understanding of our money conscious pleasure seekers.

The present exhibition sponsored by the Sapumal Foundation to be held from 13th—21st October is a cross-section of his early and recent works. Some of the Landmarks in his development as a painter like the picnic, the Return Homage to El Greco and many other interesting compositions can be seen at this exhibition. The latest work include acrylics on paper where he resorts to a bold usage of strong reds, yellows and blues and pale greys in contrast to the sombre tones in his oil paintings.

SOME REVIEWS

Manchester Guardian, 27th September 1952 S.A.

".....Peries...has evolved a strongly personal style and has entirely digested and made his own the influences which shaped him. His palette is dark without being sombre and there is a serenity in the figures of "the Bathers" and "Two Men".

Les Lettres Francaises, 19th November 1965. George Basson.

"...varied, subtle, austere and powerful; bearing witness to superb craftsmanship".

Artsnews and Review, 23rd January 1954, Peter de Francia.

"At the A.I.A. Gallery.... the large canvases of Ivan Peris are outstanding amongst the work of the other six painters".

New Statesman and Nation, 16th August 1958, John Berger

"(Ivan Peiries) is one of the painters who encouragingly remind us that art is independent to exactly the same degree as it discloses reality".

Oxford Mail 1st November 1981 Richard Carr.

"Almost the only artist to allow the eye to travel into the canvas is Ivan Peries who uses perspective and is related to the Surrealist tradition. Particularly pleasing is his nude. with its soft, brown tones and rounded forms..."

The Times, 3rd November 1961 :

"... beautiful 'Ambalawe' is a work of the utmost restraint and serenity.

Arts Review, 2nd June 1962. George Butcher

—Exhibition at the Queenswood Gallery. "His pictures are very classically conceived; they invite the contemplation of calm moments; and they are the very opposite of all those pictures today that scream raucously in many voices.... In this kind of art, everything depends upon the skill of the artist's interpretation. And Peries is often very skilful indeed. Some are built up with exquisite care, layer upon layer of paint on old, crackled canvasses; others deftly exploit the textures of gesso upon board..."

The Guardian, 11th June 1962. George Butcher.

".....startling parallel between Peries and Albert Pincham Ryder... both are natural visionaries; both depend upon emotion, colour and rhythm; and both share a vision that is ultimately innocent as well as primitive. Such a personality has the strength of its limitations, for it is 'unteachable' and incorruptibly by the fashions of the day.

Exhibition Catalogue. Galerie Abras Mont des Arts, Brussels, Belgium, 13th March 1981. Dr. Senake Bandaranayake.

"Ivan Peries' pictures have something of a dreamlike quality but his dreams have also a persuasive reality. Never sentimental, his melodies of colour and feeling are continually enhanced by a genuine sensuousness and yet, never merely sensuous, they are informed by a superb intellectual control'.

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TENDER NOTICE

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

Tenders for construction of A. N. P. 's Quarters. at Alawatugoda Hospital – Stage. II will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, upto 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 26.10.83.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer/Kandy North before 4.15 p.m on 20.10.83 by registered Contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 350,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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

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

K. C. Samaraweera.
Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
P. O. BOX 504,
COLOMBO 1, 1983.10. 07

TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 15, 1983

28 YEARS AGO

Down the Mahaweli

By Philip K. Crowe

We publish the concluding part of an article that had appeared in the "Loris" of June 1955 (Vol. III, No. 1) by the late Philip K. Crowe, former American Ambassador in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) entitled "Down The Mahaweli". "Loris" the Journal of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Ceylon, had reprinted this article in its issue of December 1980 (Vol. XV, No. 4) with the sub-headings: "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 nostalgia of a past which will never return—EDITOR.

THE EVER-NEW FASCINATION of sailing through untouched wilderness more than made up for the lack of lunch especially since we had plenty of cans of Mr. Schlitz' Product that made Milwaukee famous. Beer tastes good any time but on a jungle river it takes on the quality of nectar. Actually we were never uncomfortably hot as there was always a breeze on the river and the thunder-storms periodically cooled the atmosphere. Lady-like as it may seem, the umbrellas proved a real boon as they not only kept us reasonably dry during the lighter showers but shaded us from the sun. The *Lanka Palu*, the parasitic vine which eventually kills its host tree, made gloomy caverns in the jungle and, as we passed close to the banks, we could look down the these dim forest aisles. Often a crash of branches indicated that an elephant or a sambhur deer had started away on catching sight of us. Once we saw the cleverly concealed hut of a poacher—perhaps one of the forest Moors who make a precarious living killing deer and crocodiles illegally and selling them. The white belly of a crocodile brings three rupees as inch in the Colombo market so it is not strange that the Saurians are becoming rapidly scarcer, and wiser. One of our boatman shot a small four-foot specimen which Paul identified as a *Crocodylus palustris kimbula*, a sub-species of the Indian mugger which he identified in 1932. The main difference is the number of the scales, the Ceylon croc having more. Another difference between the Ceylon and the Indian crocodile is the former's propensity occasionally to attack man. There are two species of crocodiles in Ceylon, the estuarine, most of which are maneaters and the swamp, crocodile which inhabits the tanks and rivers.

In the late afternoon we stopped two huge elephants, a bull and a cow, wading slowly across the river in front of us. The Moor captain cautioned us not to make a noise as the elephants are quite as much at home in the river as they are land and he knew of several cases where they had charged straight

at canoes, capsized them and then tried to locate the terror stricken occupants by smelling them out with trunks even though they drove as often as they could. Accordingly the boatmen rested on their oars and we drifted down silently on the pair, who, by the time we reached them had just mounted the opposite bank and were standing there facing us. The bull a bit in front of the cow. Again I noted the unusual size of the trunk, particularly at its base and the absence of tusks. Although we passed many likely camping spots the old captain kept insisting that unless we went on he could not guarantee to get us to Trincomalee by the deadline the following evening. We strongly suspected, however, that his real reason was fear of elephants and he finally admitted that there was no point in carting passengers this far down the river to have them made into jelly. Left alone there is no doubt but that elephants would take no more notice of men than they would of any other animal, but in Ceylon the poor beasts have been shot at for so many years that there are probably few alive that do not carry the festering sores resulting from bullet wounds. The villagers only shot at them to protect their crops and the guns they use seldom have the penetrating power to kill an elephant. The nails, glass and other unmentionable projectiles that they fire from their ancient gas pipes make nasty wounds however and certainly result in the elephant's hatred of man.

THE LOWER WATERS were too muddy to make trolling worth while but according to Paul the river carried some tempting prizes. There is even a species of *Saw Fish* that runs up from the Bay of Bengal and has been caught at Alutnuwara, 130 miles from the sea. *Sand Sharks* and *Rays* are also reported to have been caught at Manampitiya, the jumping off place for our voyage. At a jungle clearing, where we saw a hut, we landed and questioned the Tamil owner. He proved an intelligent chap who acts as caretaker for a vast estate formerly planted in fruits but long since abandoned. He has been on the estate fourteen years. He said the country is full of bear and leopard and only two days ago a leopard killed one of his Brahmini bulls. It was still early in the morning and thinking that the big cat might be having a late break-fast I asked him to guide a party of us to the kill. Jim and I led the expedition with guns ready. About half a mile along a jungle trail we began to smell the rank pungent smell of rotting flesh and soon came on the corpse. It was very high with swars of hornets as well as flies feasting on the carrion. On the soft sand around the kill were the pads of a big leopard, and they had been made since the last evening's shower.

The Tamil told us that he fished in the *Great Villu* as well as in the river and caught *Giant Snake Head*, weighing over twenty pounds. Paul explained that these are air breathing fish which must come to the surface every five minutes if they are not to drown. Behind their gills they have a little chamber that

allows them to live out of water for four hours. As the swamps start to dry out the fish wriggle to the deep pools and so survive the drought. The Tamil name is *Iruviral* and the Sinhalese name is *Ara*. They are about two and one half feet long and very broad, the head alone being nine inches across. They have dark olive backs covered with blue spots golden yellow bellies and diamond-shaped black marks on the sides. The mother fish guards her fry and has been known to leap into the air after a kingfisher.

THE LAST STRETCH OF THE RIVER before we arrived at the Bay was the most exciting of the trip. Sunken logs, whirlpools and rapids made the old Moor captain frilly fume with curses and brought a frenzy of action from the crew. We had some close calls but got through without a wetting or more important, a brush with the crocodiles. When we stopped on a sand pit for lunch, we were solemnly warned not to swim. We did, but struck close to the bank. I got a minor scare from a six inch fish that tried to bite me on the bottom. The setting of this last jungle meal was the most spectacular of this trip. Great *kumbuks* festooned with *lianas* hung far over a deep pool and the sunlight slanting down through this green fan fell like pieces of amber gold on the water.

We reached civilisation in the shape of the river part of Muthur about 2 p.m. and landing at the resthouse, had a cup of tea before we paddled down to the town Warf and disembarked. Muthur is an old town but is famous for only one event. In the year 1660 the frigate *Anne* of the Honorable East India Company was lying off this village when agents of Raja Singhe, King of Kandy, sought out her Captain, Robert Knox, and invited him and some of his men to come ashore and pay their respects. They foolishly obeyed and were speedily captured and sent inland. Captain Knox later died but son Robert Knox, Jr. survived twenty years as a prisoner and finally escaped. I have a first edition of his book, "*An Historical Relation to the Island of Ceylon in the East Indies*", printed by Richard Chiswell of London in 1681. In the town is an ancient Tamarind tree under which Knox talked with the King's envoys. Massive as is, it would not be standing today if it were not for the efforts of Christie, who twenty years ago when he was a forest officer had a brick well built to support the trunk. Towards evening a launch took us across the harbour to Trincomalee where we boarded the train for Colombo. John Perera cooked us a last supper and we drank a final toast to the jungles of the lower Mahaweli Ganga. *May they always remain as unspoiled as we found them. —Concluded.*

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FILM FOCUS

The Gandhi Film

FILM CRITICS across the world have used their pens to swing the pendulum of the Oscar winning

film "Gandhi", From fulsome praise to scathing criticism. Reportedly, this film is due to reach our shores shortly and let us constructively study these compliments, without much prejudice to the film which us received accolades and awards from many quarters. As in Lester James Pieris' film "Baddegama", it is not new for an outstanding film to receive thorough scrutiny and diverse viewpoints. And flacks have to be expected, and blind spots there could be in every work of art. *The main criticism of Gandhi is that he had been portrayed only as a freedom fighter without adequately surfacing his other human qualities.* Critic C. Anthony Louis contends that this has been an opportunity missed, for "the film is not about the great man, that Gandhi was or about the essence of his abiding greatness. It is not about his inner personality and conflicts. It is not about his true ideals and Idealism. It is not about his message to the world of today and of tomorrow. It is not about the true spirit and philosophy of the man. It is not about the constructive work that constituted the greater part of his life. It is not about his simple, but enormously farsighted theories of political economy. It is not about his heart bleeding concern for the poor and downtrodden of this world."

And in the context of today's violence in many countries, this critics comments appears very relevant as he expatiates further that "the Gandhi who is relevant to the world of today is Gandhi, the social revolutionary, the constructive worker, the educationist, the political economist, the true Spartan the apostle of peace and universal brotherhood, the advocate of non-violence—not as a means to an end, but as an end, a way of life, in itself and above all, Gandhi, the crusader against all forms of oppression, injustice and exploitation. We must realise that what Gandhi was primarily engaged in, and dedicated his whole life for, was not the struggle for India's political independence, but in the far more abiding cause of making Indians—and by example all of humanity—a better species of human beings, free and fearless in spirit and good of heart. That was his greatness. That was why even at the dawn, and in the immediate wake of the apparent struggle he led for nearly half a century. The man was so sad, so broken hearted. A truly relevant and meaningful film on him could thus have been made only based on the elements of that greatness".

Even that reputed critic Pauline Kael has referred to the film as a "schoolboy's Gandhi", and would have preferred that the Attenborough production carried the title "Gandhi—the Indian Freedom Fighter". Even so this column wonders whether all these noble qualities of the Mahatma could have been compressed in celluloid for a few hours viewing, unless produced in more parts than one. The cost would have been colossal and in crores of rupees—yet the effort would have been worthwhile and the returns would have been assured.

James N. Benedict

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Sept 26 - Oct 2

**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*—Aitha; *SM*—Silumina; *SLDP*—Sri Lankadipa; *JG*—Jnadina; *SU*—Sun; *DV*—Davasa; *DP*—Dinapathi; *CM*—Chinthamani; *WK*—Weekend; *RV*—Riviresa; *DK*—Dinakara; *EN*—Eelanadu; *IS*—Island; *DI*—Divaina; *IDPR*—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: Regulations under the Coast Conservation Act passed in 1981 in an effort to protect the country's beaches from environmental and development hazards have now been gazetted and the new law becomes effective on October 1. Over 50 of the 212 prisoners who broke jail at Batticaloa on Friday are back in custody, official sources said yesterday; some of them had been arrested while others had surrendered; the Tiger detainees who escaped are not among them. Developing countries have warned that any cutback in their loans from the International Monetary Fund would add new pressures to the world's already critical debt crisis. Exploding rockets and shells lit up the sky around Beirut late last night as Western and Arab nations stepped up their efforts to end the fighting—*DN*. The compilation of the lists of displaced workers and their status had brought to light many fraudulent acts by certain employers; it was discovered that most of these employers who are well known industrialists have not included almost half their worker force in the Employees Benefit Fund Scheme—*CDM*. All prisons in the country will have well trained riot squads strategically placed round the clock to prevent possible jailbreaks in future, Justice Ministry Secretary Dr. Ranjith Amarasinghe said yesterday. All citizens of the country regardless of race or religion will be protected; the law is the same for all and peace is for everyone; Hitler's policies will never succeed in this country; this was underlined by President J. R. Jayewardene when he addressed the Executive Committee of the UNP yesterday at the John de Silva Memorial Hall. Although there has been heavy rain in the country the Water Supply and Drainage Board will continue with the water cut as the water levels in the reservoirs have not shown any significant improvement—*SU*. A senior State Counsel flew to London on Saturday to consult the Clerk to the British House of Commons on conventions followed by the House in respect of interrogation of MPs. Over 24,000

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employees of factories damaged during the recent ethnic violence will not receive their salaries from this month as the employers have no revenue from these ventures from July 25. There has been a drop of 75.4 percent in tourist arrivals in August this year compared with the figures for the same month last year—*IS*. Roads are being widened in Kandy in the areas where buildings were subjected to the recent ethnic disturbances—*DP*.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: Despite a 4 percent increase in value of Sri Lanka's exports in SDR (special drawing rights) terms during the first half of this year, imports had grown by 8 percent resulting in a worsening of the trade balance. Five terrorist suspects, one carrying a Sterling sub-machine gun had led the Batticaloa jail back on Friday, police sources said; detectives confirmed that the SMG had been the only firearm which was used for the escape operation. The Soviet Union has invited American and Japanese officials to Sakhalin to collect "objects and documents" salvaged from the South Korean passenger airliner shot down by Soviet fighters on September 1.—*DN*. The Commissioner-General of Essential Services Mr. Bradman Weerakoon has recommended to President J. R. Jayewardene that food assistance to the refugees in the welfare centres should be continued for a further period of two months after the refugee families leave the welfare centres—*CDM*. As the number of re-arrested prisoners rose to 70 yesterday morning, government made arrangements to import weapons to arm the country's prison guards. The recent ethnic disturbances have caused a serious deterioration in medical services provided at state hospitals. The findings of the probe team that inquired into allegations against a Deputy Minister from Sabaragamuwa and an MP from the South will be conveyed to the United National Party's disciplinary committee which meets at Sri Kotha tomorrow. A master plan for the utilisation of areas and properties affected by the recent riots is being drawn up by the Urban Development Authority—*SU*. The Member of Parliament for Vaddukoddai, Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam during a brief visit to India last week conveyed to TULF President M. Sivasinghamparam who is now in India the opinion of a considerable section of the party's rank and file that the TULF leaders should return without delay so that decisions of vital importance to the future of the Tamil people could be taken as soon as possible. High Court Judge Tissa Bandaranayake yesterday ordered the Prison authorities to find out and report to him how the sixth suspect in the Killinochch bank robbery, Nagendraraja Murugesupillai who is reported to have died in the Colombo prison is also among the list of prisoners who had escaped from the Batticaloa jail. The new price of a kilo of Sugar is Rs. 12.65; earlier sugar was being sold

by the private traders at prices ranging from Rs. 12 to Rs. 12.50 a kilo—*IS*. An anonymous telephone call from London stated that the political prisoners who escaped from Batticaloa prison have gained residence in a foreign country.—*VK*.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28: Sarvodaya has invited the Lankan business community among others to a conference on national harmony and peace to be held at the BMICH on October 1 and 2; over 1,500 delegates are expected. Korean ambassador Min-Gil-Chung yesterday handed over a cheque for 50,000 US dollars to the Secretary to the President, at the President's office, as a contribution to the Relief Fund. Pakistan's opposition will step up its effort to attract popular support for its rebellion against the military regime on Wednesday and Thursday by transforming the six-week-old civil disobedience campaign into a general strike and election boycott—*DN*. The government spends over Rs. 4,000 million annually for agricultural products in rural areas; this vast sum of money is fed into the rural areas to assist small farmers to make use of modern technology; according to latest statistics there are over one million small farmers in the rural areas—*CDM*. The Prisons Department is taking steps to build a special remand prison in the vicinity of Panagoda for terrorist suspects and others who are classed as dangerous criminals. Government will introduce in Parliament shortly a White Paper containing all details, including political collusion about the July ethnic violence, Minister of Land, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Gamini Dissanayake said yesterday. Airport security authorities have tightened checks on outgoing passengers following the discovery of a thirty rounds of ammunition in a dustbin at the Katunayake International Airport on September 16—*SU*. The massive new three and a half million rupee building of the Museum of Natural History in Colombo which was completed in 1977, has been lying idle for the last six years. The hospitals in Colombo and the main provincial towns are now functioning with a shortage of nearly 40 doctors, who had been compelled to leave their stations following the recent ethnic disturbances. The investigators inquiring into the break out at the Batticaloa high-security prison are now trying to ascertain whether a sub machine gun was in fact actually used to immobilize prison authorities—*IS*. Passport application forms are now being sold on the pavements at Rs.5/- each.—*DP*.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29: Despite the surcharges imposed on big electricity consumers to recoup the cost of expensive fuel burned to produce thermal electricity in this year of low rainfall, the Ceylon Electricity Board had a deficit of Rs.780 million on its operating account during the first

seven months of 1983. "What would be the fate of the stateless and other people of Indian Origin, scattered in Colombo and other areas, if a separate Eelam was created?", asked India's Defence Minister R. Venkataraman at a ceremony in South Madras last week. Gun battles broke out in the southern suburbs of Beirut last night on the second day of a fragile ceasefire between the army and anti-government forces—*DN*. Several persons who had fled to various parts of the island during the recent ethnic disturbances got the shock of their lives when they returned to their houses and found that the landlords had relet them; unscrupulous landlords who had long wanted to evict their tenants and relet their houses grabbed this opportunity when the tenants had left the houses—*CDM*. Allowance of Rs. 3,000 will be paid to every refugee family which leaves the welfare camps voluntarily, Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services W.M.A. Wijeratne Banda announced yesterday. Government will change the Constitution further to abort any attempt by the TULF to field candidates at any future by election or general elections with the objectives of attempting to send representatives to Parliament or hold position in the country's DCs if such an attempt was made in a manner that would seek to circumvent the requirement of the Sixth Amendment, a senior Minister said yesterday—*SU*. Sri Lanka is losing considerable foreign investment and business opportunities due to a paucity of authoritative and up to date information in Sri Lanka's Mission in London. The Ministry of Justice is considering the appointment of a commission to inquire into the jailbreak at Batticaloa and the massacre of 53 prisoners at Welikada remand prison. A group of terrorists had entered the Bank of Ceylon branch at Thambiluwil Akkarapattu and grabbed the guns of the security officers and had got away in a vehicle—*IS*.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30: Fiscal discipline imposed by the 1983 budget has helped keep government's recurrent expenditure below revenue, according to financial information now before Treasury planners busy with next year's budget. One hundred and eight of 217 prisoners who broke out of Batticaloa jail last week either surrendered or been arrested up to noon yesterday, police said; but none of the political prisoners had yet been arrested. The United States said yesterday the world would be disappointed by Soviet President Yuri Andropov's denunciation of President Reagan's new offer on limiting US-Soviet missiles in Europe—*DN*. The Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. Ronnie de Mel met Sheik Muhammead Abal-Khial, Minister of Finance of Saudi Arabia on Thursday; the two ministers both in Washington who had detailed discussions on future economic cooperation between Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia—*CDM*. One of the oldest train services in the country will be scrapped

from Monday; the Matara-Galle and Aluthgama-Galle services will be stopped due to uneconomical returns for the Railway, a Transport Ministry official said. The driver of a lorry which police suspect was used in the Batticoloa jail break yesterday surrendered to the Batticoloa police after police tentatively identified the lorry as belonging to an establishment known as the "Gandhi Govipola". Opposition leader and TULF General Secretary Appapillai Amirthalingham is expected to visit Washington on October 6 and 7—*SU*. The Criminal Investigation Department officials are conducting inquiries into whether some terrorists had communicated with prisoners at the Batticoloa prisons before the recent jail break. Two persons died on the spot yesterday in Pettah as a result of two storey building opposite the Keyman Gate which had been seen burnt during the recent ethnic violence collapsing. Rubber replanting has increased over the last three years both in the World Bank aided project areas of the districts of Kalutara, Ratnapura and Kegalle and the non-project areas as well. The Mayura group of companies is to be acquired by Government under the Business Acquisition Act—*IS*. It is understood that important government sources are of the view that the TULF should also be made to participate in the round table conference of all Parties to be held to settle the problems of the minority communities—*VK*.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1: The Ceylon Electricity Board has launched an intensified drive to collect its dues which now run into millions of rupees, an official spokesman said yesterday. The Frauds Bureau made eleven arrests yesterday in connection with a bus season ticket forgery racket suspected to have cost the SLCTB several lakhs of rupees over a number of months. Jaffna police is investigating a complaint that two men armed with a revolver had attempted to pressurise examinations staff at a GCE A level centre at Manipay to permit cheating at the examinations now going on. The International Monetary Fund after a week's deliberations that have done little to solve its liquidity crisis, now estimates it will need 13 billion dollars in new cash over the next three years—*DN*. Sri Lanka which said that it needed Rs. 2 billion to reconstruct factories damaged during the July problems has received the green-light from the World Bank to utilise US \$ 100 million to do the job—*CDM*. Police have traced the owner of the lorry, which was allegedly used by inmates of the Batticoloa Prison to escape. Northern security forces have discovered several bombs buried near the Vavuniya railway station. With the TULF Leadership of the Opposition in Parliament nearing its end political observers yesterday watched with interest what they described as a "flurry of activity" among the Sri Lanka Freedom Party's leadership to take up the position. Customs have stumbled on a racket involving the smuggling out of large amounts of silver from the country—*SU*. A probe

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has been launched into the activities of the Gandyam Movement in the Eastern Province following the Batticoloa prison jail break. The Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka will reduce the premium rate on new insurance policies covering riots from 300 percent to 150 percent. On the instructions of Mr. C. Rajadurai Minister of Regional Development, Mr. Ramalingam Secretary to the Ministry has called for a report from all Government Agents on Hindu Temples which were affected during the recent disturbances—*IS*. The Exchange Control permit for Rs. 500/- allowed to those who had wanted to leave the Island under the Sirima-Sasthri Pact prior to the recent communal disturbances will be valid till 20th October 1983—*DP*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2: Ministerial sources told the *Sunday Observer* that discussions were now going on between Sinhala and Tamil groups to work out a solution for national unity; these same sources said that all communities have their own problems which have to be considered. When the damaged areas of the Pettah are rebuilt every effort will be taken to see that the problems of traffic, congestion and pollution which existed earlier are eliminated. It is highly probable that the Tamil United Liberation Front will neither nominate a member for the Trincomalee seat nor will contest in the event of a by-election—*SO*. Sri Lanka time will be advanced by half an hour shortly if the Government accepts a proposal made to this effect by the Ministry of Power and Energy. Export Production Villages at Rajangana, Dambadeniya and Gonuwela have given birth to a new set of company shareholders adding appreciably to the economic upliftment of rural life. A combined Police and Army hunt for a garage owner named Masillamani of Batticoloa is under way in the Batticoloa district—*ST*. A statutory body is likely to be set up by the government to inquire into civilian complaints against the Police and the Armed Services. Government will shortly set up a Rural Industrial Development Corporation to mobilise both state and private sector resources to develop small industries—*WK*. Over 100,000 plantation workers, citizens of Sri Lanka as well as non-citizens who were displaced by the recent disturbances in the hill country are ready with packed baggages to find a new home in India before the Talaimannar-Rameshwaram ferry service is suspended on October 22; but they are unable to beat this deadline due to the alleged lethargy of the Immigration authorities in issuing them Emergency Certificates. The amendment to the SLFP constitution and the new programme of the party will be placed for ratification before a meeting of the ALL Island Working Committee which will be held at party headquarters at 10 a.m. today—*IS*.

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VOA EDITORIAL ON

Economic Recovery

Washington, October 3: After a long and painful recession, the global economic recovery now appears to be in full swing. According to economists at the International Monetary Fund, the nations of the world can expect an average growth of at least three percent as early as next year. But despite indications soon to be behind us, there is concern that the recovery is still in jeopardy. The problem is immense world debt—some 700,000 million dollars worth—owed by the developing countries to banks around the world. President Reagan observed in a speech this past week to the Board of Governors of the World and International Monetary Fund that "in the turbulent 1970s, too many of us, the United States included, forgot the principles that produced the basis for our mutual economic progress. We permitted our governments to overspend, overtax and over-regulate us. Now we must work in cooperation to bring our individual economies, and the world economy, back to more solid foundation." In other words, no single country can remain immune to the economic difficulties of its neighbours or the world. That's why the United States continues to oppose protectionism as a threat to the free exchange of goods and services between countries. And that's also why over the past three decades, the United States has provided more assistance to developing nations—130,000 million dollars worth—that any other country.

The problem of huge world debt can be solved, but if we are going to succeed the time has come for the nations of the world to work together toward a solution. Developed countries can help by their support of increased funding quotas for the International Monetary Fund as well as the World Bank's International Development Agency which lends money for worthy domestic assistance projects—roads, schools, sewers and housing—in developing countries. For their part, developing countries can help by scaling down development plans which are out of proportion with their own financial resources. Leadership and cooperation by all countries will make certain the 1980s are a decade of real growth. That's the best route to protecting the strength and sustenance of the current recovery.
—USIS.

Reagan's Offer at U.N.

United Nations, September 27: A White House fact sheet on President Reagan's September 26 address to the UN General Assembly points out that the United States is undertaking "A further initiative designed to move forward the negotiations on intermediate range nuclear forces in the hopes they can reach a successful conclusion". *The Fact Sheet*, which was issued by the White House in conjunction with Reagan's address, also says that "Unfortunately, the Soviet Union has not yet demonstrated comparable flexibility" in the INF negotiations.

Following is the text of the White House Fact Sheet. The United States is undertaking a further initiative designed to move forward the negotiations on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) in Geneva in the hope they can reach a successful conclusion. This initiative follows close and intensive consultations with NATO and other allies, including the Government of Japan, regarding the INF negotiations. These consultations included exchanges of correspondence between the President and his fellow heads of state and government, a series of meetings of the NATO special consultative group (the most recent of which took place on September 19, 1983 in Brussels), and bilateral consultations with the Government of Japan. The US initiative elaborates on the President's interim agreement proposal advanced last March in Geneva. This proposal calls for establishment of global equality between the United States and the Soviet Union in warheads in longer-range INF missiles. The President has made clear his willingness to reduce substantially the planned deployment of 572 Pershing II and ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCM) if the Soviets are willing to reduce their forces to achieve global equality. At the same time, the President has reaffirmed that the United States' goal remains total elimination of this entire category of nuclear weapons.

The President has made clear that an INF agreement must be consistent with certain criteria that reflect the minimum security requirements of the United States and its allies: (1) There can be no negotiation of or compensation for third country forces; (2) There must be global limits on LRINF missiles and no exportation of the security threat in Europe to other regions, such as the Far East; (3) There must be no adverse impact on NATO's conventional defense capability; (4) There must be measures for effective verification. The initiative, which Ambassador Nitze has presented to his Soviet counterpart in Geneva, is entirely consistent with these criteria and represents a major step towards reducing the areas of disagreement between the United

States and the Soviet Union in the negotiations. The initiative consists of the following elements.

Geographic Scope of an Agreement : In the context of an agreement providing for equal, global limits on LRINF missiles, the United States would be willing to consider a commitment not to offset the entire Soviet global LRINF missile deployment by US deployments of LRINF missiles in Europe. We would, of course, retain the right to deploy LRINF missiles elsewhere to reach the global ceilings. The security concerns of the United States and its friends and allies in Asia as well as Europe require that LRINF missiles be reduced and limited on a global basis, and that an INF Agreement not result in a transfer of the threat from Europe to Asia. This offer takes account of the Soviet view regarding limits systems in Europe while fulfilling our requirements for reductions and limitations on a global basis.

Composition of Nato LRINF Deterrent : The United States would assure the Soviet Union that, in the context of an agreement involving significant reductions from current Soviet and planned NATO deployment levels, the US would be prepared to apportion the reductions of Pershing II and Ground-Launched Cruise Missiles in an appropriate manner. The alliance has decided that a mixed force of ballistic and cruise missiles provides the best deterrent. Within that framework, this offer that any reductions under an agreement will include Pershing II ballistic missiles responds to expressions of concerns about the composition of the mix under an agreement.

Aircraft : The United States is prepared to consider proposals involving aircraft that are consistent with allied criteria for an INF agreement. Thus, Ambassador Nitze has been authorised to explore possible limitations on specific INF aircraft and to invite the Soviets to offer their views on how such limitations could be formulated within the framework of the President's criteria. As with the other elements of our initiative, this move responds to a major stated Soviet concern, while being consistent with the requirement that an INF Agreement not result in any weakening of the United States contribution to the conventional defence in Europe. At the same time, the United States continues to believe that the negotiations should continue to focus on LRINF missiles as the systems of greatest to both sides. The United States and its allies remain convinced that the best outcome for the INF negotiations would be complete elimination of all US and Soviet longer-range INF missiles. The initiatives announced today, however, mark another major effort to reach agreement in Geneva. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union has not yet demonstrated comparable flexibility. Each Soviet proposal tabled since the negoti-

ations began in 1981 would have the same basic outcome: the prohibition of any NATO LRINF deployments while the Soviet Union retained a substantial in LRINF missiles. We hope that the Soviet Union will negotiate seriously to reach an equitable agreement that respects the legitimate security concerns of both sides—US/S.



ANDROPOV'S

Rejoinder To Reagan

Moscow, September 28:

The following are excerpts of Yuri Andropov's statement on arms negotiations and other matters. The Soviet leadership deems it necessary to make known to Soviet people, other peoples and all those who are responsible for shaping the policy of states its assessment of the course pursued in international affairs by the present U. S. Administration. To speak briefly, this is a militarist course which poses a grave threat to peace. Its essence is to try and assure for the United States domineering positions in the world without reckoning with the interests of other states and peoples. . . . Precisely these aims are served by the unprecedented build up of the US military potential, large-scale programmes of manufacturing weapons of all types—nuclear, chemical and conventional. Now it plans to spread the unrestricted arms race into outer space too. . . . Peoples judge about the policy of a government first of all by its actions. *That is why the US President in his grandiloquent speech from the United Nations rostrum declares about commitment to the cause of peace, self-determination and sovereign of peoples, but these mere declarations can convince no one.* Even if someone had any illusions as to the possible evolution for the better in the policy of the present American administration, the latest developments have finally dispelled them. For the sake of its imperial ambitions, it goes so far that one begins to doubt whether Washington has any brakes at all preventing it from crossing the mark before which any sober-minded person must stop. . . .

We proceed from the premise that mankind is not doomed to destruction. The arms race can and must be terminated. Mankind deserves a better fate than living in a conflict-torn world, suffocating under the burden of deadly weapons. By advancing far-reaching proposals on limitations and reductions of nuclear armaments, both strategic and medium-range in Europe, we show our concern not only for the security of the USSR, The States of the socialist community, but also for the security of all other countries. As to the US policy, its growing militarisation is

manifested among other things in the unwillingness to conduct serious talks of any kind, to come to agreement on questions of curbing the arms race.

The Soviet-American talks on the burning problem—reduction of nuclear armaments in Europe—have been going on for two years now. The position of the Soviet side is directed at finding mutually acceptable solutions on a fair, just basis, solutions which do not infringe anyone's legitimate interests. At the same time, these two years made it clear that our partners in the talks at Geneva are not at all there to reach an accord. Their task is different—to play for time and then start the deployment in Western Europe of ballistic Pershing 2 and long-range cruise missiles. They do not even try to conceal this. All they do is prattle about some flexibility of the United States at the Geneva talks. Another portion of such "flexibility" has just materialised. And the deception contained in it has become clear this time as well. To leave aside details, the essence of the so-called new move in the US position, billed as superb, is reduced to the proposal to agree as before, on how many Soviet medium-range missiles should be reduced and how many new American missiles should be deployed in Europe in addition to the nuclear potential already possessed by NATO

In brief, it is suggested that we talk on how to help the NATO bloc to its advantage the balance of medium-range nuclear systems in the European zone. And this move is presented brazenly as something new. The operation on stationing these American nuclear missiles in Europe is seen from Washington's control, room as simple in their-extreme and maximally advantageous for the United States—advantageous at the expense of Europe. The US European allies are regarded as hostages. This is a frank, but cynical policy. But here is what is not really clear; does this thought occur to those European political figures who, disregarding the interests of their peoples and the interests of peace, help implement the ambitions militarist plans of the US administration?

There should be no room here for reticence. It, contrary to the will of the majority of people in Western European countries, American nuclear missiles appear in the European continent, this will be a step against peace of principled character on the part of the US leaders and leaders of other NATO countries who act as one with them. We do not see either that the American side is willing to handle in earnest the problem of limiting and reducing strategic armaments. They in the American capital are now busy launching the production of ever new systems of these armaments as well. They are to be followed shortly by such types of weapons which may radically alter the notions of strategic stability and the very possibility of effective limitation and reduction of nuclear arms.

No one should mistake the Soviet Union's goodwill and desire to come to agreement for a sign of weakness. The Soviet Union will be able to make a proper response to any attempt to disrupt the existing military-strategic balance, and its words and deeds will not be at variance. *Никто не может быть принципіальными оппонентами в конкуренции в производстве и накоплении вооружений массового уничтожения. Это не наш путь. Оно не может привести к решению любой проблемы, стоящей перед человечеством, т.е. экономическому развитию государств, сохранению окружающей среды, созданию хотя бы элементарных условий для жизни людей, их питания, здоровья и образования. Освобождение материальных ресурсов, бессознательно растраченных на гонимую вооруженную гонимую расу и раскрытие неисчерпаемых творческих возможностей человека — это то, что должно определять политику государств на пороге 20-го и 21-го столетий. Чтобы реализовать все это, необходимо, чтобы силы милитаризма были проверены, а мир не был брошен в пропасть. Все народы, каждый житель нашей планеты должны осознать неизбежную опасность — реализовать в целях не для достижения усилий в борьбе за собственное выживание.*

Mankind has not lost, nor can it lose its reason. This is manifested with great vigour in the scope of the anti-missile, anti-war, movements, having mounted in the European and other continents, the movement which draws people of different social, political and religious affiliation. All who raise today their voice against the senseless race of armaments and in defence of peace can be sure that the policy of the Soviet Union, other socialist countries is directed at attaining precisely these aims. The USSR wishes to live in peace with all countries, including the United States. It does not nurture aggressive plans, does not impose the arms race on anyone, does not impose its social orders on anyone. Our aspirations and survivings are implemented in concrete proposals directed at effecting a decisive turn for the better in the world situation. The Soviet Union will continue to do everything possible to uphold peace on earth. . . . —APN

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

By

IVAN PERIES

at

32/4, Barnes Place,
Colombo 7,

13th to 21st October, 1983

from 9.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

ADMISSION FREE

TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 15, 1983



SRI LANKA AND

The World Food Day

In 1974 the World Food Conference declared that by 1984, "no child, woman or man should go to bed hungry, and no human being's physical or mental potential should be stunted by malnutrition". In 1981, five years later, still concerned with the unsatisfactory food situation, the FAO decided to establish an annual "World Food Day" on 16th October to focus attention on food production at the global, regional and national levels. A recent survey conducted by FAO and UNFPA indicates that the entire cultivable lands in the developing world—three to four times the present cultivated area—would be barely able to support the expected population for the year 2,000 at subsistence levels of farming. A grim warning! FAO has often been called a "Jeremiah" for reminding us that there is not enough food in the world. Certainly it has had ominous things to say about population increase and food production. But it has never erred on the side of complacency. The surveys and studies it conducts can help nations to face up to the limits of their land resources and to plan food production and population policies accordingly.

In Sri Lanka, where food production and population policies have gone hand in hand, there has been a noticeable improvement in growth rates. Population has declined from 2.8 to 1.7 and the annual growth rate has increased from 3% to 6%. Yet despite these favourable trends we appear to be still deficient in the principle foods as indicated in Table 1.

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Table 1 : Annual Requirements, Production and Shortfalls, 1985 (000. long tons)

Items	Requirement	Local production
1. Rice	1,468	1,375
2. Wheat flour, bread	469	600
3. Pulses	89	74
4. Vegetables	564	540
5. Yams, Tubers	160	700
6. Coconut	511	906
7. Meat, Fish Eggs	365	293
8. Sugar	324	150
9. Milk, Milk Foods	264	257

Items	Shortfalls surplus	Imports 1980
1. Rice	- 93	185
2. Wheat flour, bread	+ 131	411
3. Pulses	- 15	22
4. Vegetables	+ 24	17
5. Yams, Tubers	+ 540	11
6. Coconut	+ 395	-
7. Meat, Fish Eggs	- 72	22
8. Sugar	- 174	204
9. Milk, Milk Foods	- 7	21

Notes: (a) Production indicates quantities available for consumption; (b) 1980 imports have been obtained from Food Balance Sheet 1980; (c) Requirements calculated on 1980 prices; (d) Total coconut production includes quantities for export; (3) Self-sufficiency in wheat flour from 600,000 tons supplied by Prima Complex annually. Source: Marga Quarterly Journal, Vol. 6, No. 4, 1982.

CLEARLY, THERE IS A NEED to boost the production of rice, pulses, sugar, meat, fish, eggs and milk to meet the calorie and protein requirements of the large majority of the population. In this overview of the local food production scenario we shall confine our attention primarily to rice and pulses with a passing reference to potato and the popular condiments dry chilli and shallot (which fall within the purview of the Department of Agriculture) and highlight the technological developments that are envisaged to increase and stabilise their production.—*Research Highlights. —To be continued.*

RUBBER

Outlook - 1983

THE YEAR 1982 WITNESSED a drastic slump in prices of all commodities, including Natural Rubber, traded in world Markets. The IMF commodity index prices for all commodities fell by almost 12 percent last year highlighting the continuation of the decline of commodity prices since 1980. The continuing recession has adversely affected the demand from the developed nations for Natural Rubber. Even if there is a moderate upsurge in world economic activity as was expected in the first half of 1983, the resulting increased demand could easily be met through excess production and massive stockpiles built up in earlier years. This will leave prices at relatively low levels. To add to the woes, the export-import economies of Third World countries are feeling the adverse effects of falling export volumes and the relatively high interest rates on their foreign debts. As is generally known, the reason for the slump in rubber prices is largely attributed to the recession in the world tyre industry which is adversely affected by the slow moving automotive industry which is addition is also under-going a change in technology, prolonging the life cycle of tyre usage.

Innovative advances continue in tyre design and construction in order to obtain an improved balance of properties, such as strength, grip and wear. Such new generation tyres are bound to make an impact in the near future. During the year 1982, there were several closures of tyre factories the world over, highlighting the malaise of the Rubber industry. However, despite the gloom there are silver linings. A significant upturn is expected during 1983 in the American Automobile industry and during the first half of 1983 the demand for rubber has shown a significant increase with greater purchases from United States and a continuing and growing interest from Japan, China and the Soviet Union. The indications are that the up-turn expected in the United States will gradually result in greater demand for Natural Rubber, but it is important to bear in mind certain realists which act as constructions. Interest rates appear to fluctuate and are still maintained at high levels, not for monetary reasons but now mainly for fiscal purposes in order to counter the growing budget deficits in developed countries, specially the United States for America. Further it is also to be expected that while the implementation of the provisions of the Natural Rubber Agreement in 1982 played an important role in maintaining prices levels higher than what might have been expected in a market in deep recession, INRO can to a certain extent restrain the level of prices upwards, at a time when demand increases fast, due to operation of the buffer stock scheme.

THE LONG TERM OUTLOOK remain sanguine and rosy for the International Rubber Industry. The relevant statistics point to world demand for all rubber, growing from the present 11.8 million tonnes to 16.5 million tonnes in the '80's and 27.5 million tonnes by the year 2,000, depending on expectations of future global economic growth. From this quantity, the demand for Natural Rubber is expected to rise from 3.67 million tonnes in 1982 to at least double this volume before the end of the century. Hence, all ANRPC (Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries) must give the highest priority in their development plans for the rapid expansion of production programmes in order to cater for the anticipated growth in demand for Natural Rubber. Admittedly, in the present situation, Natural Rubber Producers are confronted with several dilemmas. Although market potential for the future is considerably greater, the present depression makes it difficult to generate and sustain the enthusiasm and endeavour needed, if ambitious planting programmes are to be implemented. Since 1980, the output remains stagnant but if there had been planned growth it is obvious that the effect on prices could have been un-imaginably adverse.

In such a situation planning becomes hazardous and calls for a special kind of faith to fulfil costly development programmes. Nevertheless despite trying circumstances complicated further by the adverse inflationary effects in recent years on producer countries, it is imperative that Natural Rubber producing countries of Asia and the Third World should press ahead with developments in the Natural Rubber Industry in order to achieve a higher output. Every endeavour should also be made to develop new uses in Natural Rubber. Synthetic Rubber with a few exceptions are maintaining their market position with plant expansion and new products entering the field. Chemically Modified Synthetic Rubber (SBR) are striving to gain ascendancy in the tyre field by producing fuel saving tyres. To counteract such competition, it is encouraging to note that developments are taking in the growing uses of Natural Rubber in a wide range of applications specially in novel products for oil rigs and pipe lines. Advanced technology must be exploited to satisfy product requirements.

SRI LANKA'S RUBBER INDUSTRY and Trade may face several challenges but it is important to ensure that priority is given all Governmental plans for increased production through properly integrated planting and manufacturing programmes aimed at greater yields from replanted areas, as well as higher prices through improved manufacture, irrespective of global consumption patterns, the Sri Lankan Rubber Industry and Trade have had no difficulty in exporting most of the rubber produced. The exporters would welcome increased production

and it is encouraging to note the progress of the accelerated replanting programmes launched by the Government in recent years. The Rubber Industry in Sri Lanka being dominated by small-holders, special attention must be given to their problems. It is disheartening to note that small-holders still collect only the bare residue of profit margins after a substantial percentage of the price is siphoned off. Marketing methods must be improved and in order to compensate small holder adequately, steps must be taken to ensure that their rubber is sold through the Public Auctions since a large percentage of such sheet rubber by-passes the Colombo Auctions at present Small-holders will then be more conversant with marketing arrangements and opportunities and they could also receive the benefit of advice from reputed Brokers in order to overcome defects in the manufacture of their rubber.

In this manner better quality rubber can be exported from Sri Lanka resulting in an increase in Foreign Exchange earnings whilst small-holders will benefit from premium prices for higher quality rubber. 1982 also witnessed a satisfactory demand for rubber from local consumers which resulted in a boost in prices for the grades consumed. Several new rubber based industries have been established both in the Free Trade Zone and outside with rubber thread, footwear to manufacture, gloves and rubber components being prominent. The Sri Lanka Tyre Corporation has expanded production and have exported solid rubber tyres to international markets. Further, the entry of this Corporation into the sheet market from the last quarter in 1982 has helped to improve prices at the local auctions. However, more can be achieved with better market promotion work. We produce the purest and water-white crepe rubber which is in great demands as a specialist rubber. But the full potential of such markets has yet to be exploited.

With adequate market intelligence and promotion work, we can introduce slight modifications in the quality, price and packing requirements of all rubber shipped from our country in order to conform to changed in consumption patterns in overseas markets. The assistance received from the Rubber Research Institute to meet such demands has been of great value. The Export Development Board has played useful role in offering incentives to small-holders in order to carry our rehabilitation schemes for improved manufacture through the provision of machinery and other equipment. Training programmes for smallholders in sorting and grading of sheet rubber is under way. All this sugeres well fro the future of this important industry which deserves the maximum assistance of both the Governmental authorities and the private Sector.

—Forbes & Walker Ltd.

Incentive Payments

Proposals for incentives prepared by a Committee representing the two Corporations and the Management Consultants

THE PRINCIPLE OF AN UNIFORM GROUP INCENTIVE applicable to all grades of workers and staff was considered difficult to implement for reasons, such as difficulty in deciding on a simple target of performance which will ensure ability to pay and also be in conformity with the overall objective of the Corporations. It was therefore decided that separate incentives should be provided for different categories of staff and workers and for this purpose it was decided to group them as follows:— *Estates*: (i) Daily paid workers; (ii) Monthly paid factory staff; (iii) Other monthly paid staff and executive staff; (iv) Regional Board staff; (v) Central Office staff.

Proposal 1:—State Sector attendance related bonus scheme. Existing scheme of State Sector attendance related bonus applicable to all workers and staff should continue as a minimum payment to ensure attendance and output. *Proposal 2:—Daily paid workers' incentive schemes.* All daily paid workers should continue to be paid the present incentives related to production or the type of job allocated. The present rate of incentive payment for plucking, tapping and such crop harvesting activities are inadequate in relation to the basic wages. Therefore, there is a need to increase these rates to more realistic levels in order to increase productivity. Similarly the extra rates paid for sundry jobs were last revised over a decade ago, when the wage rates were between Rs. 2/- to Rs. 3/- per day. These too should be raised realistic levels to make the tasks more attractive.

Proposal 3: Factory Staff incentive payment scheme. Both Corporations operate incentive schemes for all monthly paid factory staff which takes into account many quality related factors. The schemes will continue to operate but some changes will be made to ensure uniformity. The present upper limits fixed would also need revision to make the incentive more attractive. Generally the payment should be so computed that the annual maximum a person could earn would be equal to approximately 4 months' salary. Commission schemes which are personal to some factory staff will continue until these employees retire and they will not participate in this general factory staff incentive payment scheme.

Proposal 4:—Performance incentive. Plantation executive and monthly paid staff other than factory staff on each estate should be paid a performance

incentive computed on a points system, which takes into consideration the following:— (1) Improvement in yield per hectare; 2. Improvement in net sale average; 3. Reduction in cost of production; 4. Improvement in net profit per kilo or other unit of production; 5. Improvement in profit per hectare; 6. The absolute amount of profit earned per hectare for that year.

For each of the first five factors listed above, an estate's performance will be compared with the average of its own performance in the last 3 years to determine the extent of favourable or adverse trends. The sixth factor will be assessed on the basis of the relative performance of the estates in the region for that year without comparing the performance with prior years. Points will then be allocated on a scale of 0 - 100 for estates in each agro-climatic region with the worst performer being given 0 points and the best performer being given 100 points. Points awarded for the different factors are then averaged with the different factors being suitably weighted. The average is then used to rank the performance of each estate in the respective regions. Those estates earning more than a certain number of minimum points to be fixed annually having regard to the availability of resources will qualify for the performance incentive. In fixing the minimum points to qualify, the Boards will ensure that at least 50% of the estates in each agro-climatic region will earn the incentive. The points will be calculated on a cumulative basis each month but the payment will be made at the end of a year. The amount to be paid for each point earned will be stratified taking into account the size of the estates. Performance incentive payments will be worked out for each estate on the basis set out above, which will then be distributed in proportion to the annual salary (excluding payment for overtime, Sunday and other holiday work) earned by each member of the staff entitled to it. The maximum payment will however be restricted to 4 months' salary.

In determining the payment to Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents, Regional Boards will take into account standard of maintenance of the property, quality of work, control over expenditure, industrial harmony and personal leadership and make appropriate reductions where necessary. The reasons for making any reductions should be notified to the employee concerned. Similarly the Superintendent of each estate will assess the performance of each member of his executive staff and where necessary, make appropriate reductions in the bonus earned by any member of his staff after obtaining the approval of his Regional Director. Detailed proposals in respect of incentive payments to Regional and Central Board staff will be submitted later. —*To be concluded.*

TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 15, 1983

ARTIFICIAL FERTILISER

From the Seabed

A new outlet is opening up for marine mining: phosphate one for use as an artificial fertilizer. The "Sonne" a German natural resource research ship, reconnoitred phosphorite deposits on New Zealand's Chatham Ridge in the Pacific. The exploratory trip was funded by the Federal Institute of Geosciences and Natural Resources in Hanover, the New Zealand Science Council, and two firms. The deposits estimated at roughly 15 million tons (metric), are between 300 and 400 metres down, in some cases as rolling nuggets, buried in about half a metre of deep-sea mud, and in others in the form of a fairly large integral crust. The nuggets contain about 20 per cent phosphoric acid, which puts them amongst the very poor phosphorus ores, which constitutes an advantage in that they can be used as a fertilizer without any chemical dressing. The only step necessary is to crush and grind them.—*German Research Service.*

* * *

GERMAN RESEARCH

Kohomba Tree

By Hans Olfen in *Nurnberger Nachrichten*

THE NEEM TREE (*Margosa, Kohomba, Vembu*) an unpretentious member of the mahogany family that grows widely in Africa and Asia, has a range of unusual properties that make it promising prospect for developing countries. *Azadirachta Indica* is its botanical name. It is useful because its wood is fireproof, and impervious to the depredations of termites and its leaves can be used as cattle fodder. Agents refined from its seed can also be harnessed to fight many pests, while neem oil, although inedible, can be used to lubricate engines and to make soap. The waste that is left over after the oil has been pressed out of the seed is an effective fertiliser that has a devastating effect on pests.

Small wonder the neem tree has twice been the subject of international scientific conferences held by Giessen University department of phytopathology and applied zoology and financed by the Bonn Government agency that supervises technical cooperation with the Third World. Professor Heinz Schmutterer outlines in the Giessen University magazine what is so important about using vegetable insecticides in developing countries in particular. According to extremely conservative WHO estimate there are about 5,000 fatalities a year in Third World countries due to misuses of chemical insecticides. The number of lesslethal cases of poisoning is probably substantially higher, and the level of environmental pollution is high too.

What small farmers in the Third World particularly need is an insecticide made simply and inexpensively from plants that can be easily grown. It must control as many pests as possible yet be harmless for humans and other warm-blooded animals. It was shown in 1972 that the effective agents in neem seed prevent insects from shedding their skin or impair their development in other ways. Professor Schmutterer says Neem substances are effective in dealing with locusts, caterpillars, beetle larvae, bugs, cicadas, gnat young, threadworms that live on plant roots and pests that seriously rabage grain stores. They have proved more effective than artificial substances in coping with the cabbage moth and a West African seed beetle.

He notes with amazement that neem extract seems not only not to harm the natural enemies of rice and tobacco pest; it can even enhance crop vitality. Fertiliser consisting of waste from neem seed pressings has been found by the International Rice Research Centre in the Philippines to boost yield by up to 1.3 tonnes per hectare. This was partly due to the active substances temporarily decimating the number of ostracods that live in the rice fields when they are under water. The algae that these little crabs normally eat flourished accordingly. When they died they produced enriched nitrogen that functioned as fertiliser for the rice plants.—*German Tribune, 21/8/83.*

* * *

WITH SONAR TECHNIQUE

Better View of Seabed

An all-seeing electronic eye which gives a clearer and more accurate picture of the seabed and anything on it than any other available device is manufactured by an Aberdeen (Scotland) firm. The high-resolution sonar is able to scan for subsea features at depths down to 750 metres. *Sonar*—the radiation of sound pulses through water and the collection and display of the reflected echoes as a sort of underwater radar—has been around for a long time. But knowing the limitations of underwater TV which is badly affected by the state of the water, the company felt that it could do more with sonar as it is not at all sensitive to the degree of visibility.

One of the principal requirements of the design was that it be as small and as light as possible. "Sonar vision" turned out to be remarkably compact—only 335 mm high, 200 mm in diameter and weighing 10 kg—and it can be mounted easily on a remotely controlled subsea vehicle or placed on the seabed on the end of a drill string. It can operate at depths greater than 600 metres and the company is working on a version which can go very much deeper. Using

the scanning head, the operator on the surface sees the picture on a high-definition TV screen. He can control the scanning area and the range. In addition, the display and control unit can be linked to a standard video recorder so that tapes can be made of any operation. The sonar-derived information is stored by a solid-state memory before being passed on, under the control of a microprocessor, to the video monitor as a flicker-free picture—*British Industrial News*.



AUSTRALIA

Cassava Research

A team of researchers at the University of Queensland is working on a project to breed a cassava (manioc) variety resistant to herbicides and disease and tolerant to cold. The project involves manipulation of the genes to produce a variation of the basic plant more suited to a particular purpose. Resistance to herbicides would make weed control more simple, so the research is trying to modify the plant's biochemistry so that it produces enzymes to break down chemicals normally applied to kill weeds. The team is setting up in-vitro (test tube) cultures from cassava plants in a hormone-enriched medium, which allows cells in a small piece of the plant's leaf to divide. From this, as a result of hormonal manipulation and other techniques, it is possible to regenerate a whole plant with different genetic characteristics. The process is known as somaclonal variation.—*Agricultural Newsletter—Australian Information Service*.

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BMICH
Baudhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 7.
22nd August, 1983.

RECONCILIATION, REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION AND THE PEOPLE

SARVODAYA DECLARATION—2

Symptoms Of Centrel Degeneration In Our Society

This is the second instalment of the People's Declaration for National Peace and Harmony adopted at the Sarvodaya-Sponsored Conference at the BMICH on October 1 and 2.

While we accept the fact that, the Stability, Peace and Progress of a Society rest on the degree of understanding, respect and the daily adherence of its members, to its Value Systems, upon which, the Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Social, Economic and Political Sectors of that Society are based, and that our Society gradually declined in all these sectors in the Post World War II and that this degeneration reached its climax in July erupting into criminal incidents which may have been due to political conflicts, the emergence of communal ideas, or any other causes, and having realised that these incidents have shattered the very foundation of our social fabric, revealing;

- Firstly* :—the existence of a number of groupings in our society, numerically very small but yet very powerful, who neither pay any heed to, nor observe what we as a cultured people have commonly upheld for thousands of years, as Good and Evil, Moral and Immoral, Right and Wrong, Just and Unjust, Fair, and Foul, Human and Inhuman, and that
- Secondly* :—their solution to Political, economic, Social or any other problem is beyond the realms of the accepted Law of the land and is only through Violence and Thuggery, and that
- Thirdly* :—they pay not even the scant respect for animal or even human life, and that
- Fourthly* :—they derive great mental satisfaction consciously or unconsciously by destroying private and public property, and that
- Fifthly* :—faced with them, even the religious leaders, the custodians of Value Systems in our Society, have become ineffective, and that
- Sixthly* :—some politicians and some who wealth, power and position, being guided by narrow,

political and economic gains, shield and protect these lawless elements, ignoring the damage and destruction they cause to established norms, human lives and the nation as a whole, and that

Seventhly—the weakening of the efficiency and power of the Police, to safeguard Law and Order in such a situation, and that

Eighthly—even the Law Courts and Prisons, administering and enforcing Law becoming unsafe, and that

Ninthly—the weakening of the discipline and morale of the Police and the Armed Forces to come forward during a national calamity, whatever the causes may be, and that

Tenthly—the feeling of doubt and fear, the Law abiding respectful people have to come forward to generate and provide People's Power, essential to protect the Value System and the enforcement of Law and Order, when these Lawless elements take over, dis-respecting Value Systems, and violating the State Law, and that

Eleventhly—the incapability of the Political leaders, the strongest section in modern society, to provide undivided, united leadership to the people even during a common national calamity, and that

Twelfthly—as a result of all these, even foreign powers showing undue concern in internal problems, causing a threat to National Sovereignty, and hence, we believe that an understanding of these symptoms of common degeneration, by all communities living in our country, be they Sinhala, Tamil, Moor, Malay, Burgher or any other is of utmost importance at this historic moment.

CAUSES OF DEGENERATION

Destruction of the Value System

We believe that,

foremost among the factors causing this degeneration in the destruction of the Value System which sustained for centuries past the main civilising force of the society, and that this Value System was founded on the ancient Hindu-Buddhist Code of Ethics, epitomising respect for life, in particular, human life, and that

these ethics got stabilised in society during the heyday of our civilisation especially when Buddhism exerted its maximum influence, crystallising itself into the observance of five precepts, viz, the abstinence from Killing, Stealing Sexual Misconduct, Lying and Consumption of Intoxicants, and that in essence, the teachings in Christianity and Islam, which later got added to our Society, were not intrinsically contradictory to the Value System of observing these five precepts, and while Pali and Sanskrit Languages

which fostered the Sinhala and Tamil Languages enriched these values, which in turn nurtured all social, economic, and political Corporations man had established with man and nature, and that, with the advent of the Western Imperialists this spiritual culture got weakened, and the Agricultural Economy collapsed, giving way to a Commercial Culture and hence, with spirituality being gradually showed aside, a society totally partial towards commercial values was established. and that, with the pride of place being given to English Language, a derivative of Greek and Latin to facilitate these Commercial aspirations, the source languages which spiritually nurtured the majority of Sinhala Tamil community, gradually dried up and the community life too, assuming the nature of an empty reservoir, where all fountain sources were exhausted, was exposed to an infusion of foreign ideas, habits, material life styles, and as a consequence, in as much the general Sinhala, Tamil public of the post-independence era, who thought and worked in local languages, got psychologically distanced from one another

a minority of Sinhala and Tamil nurtured in Western Values and Life styles, got closely knit together through the medium of English yet, however getting further alienated from the afore-mentioned general public, both Sinhala and Tamil speaking, and as a result, the hitherto life style of the Common Sinhala Tamil Community which was founded on the observance of the five precepts of which, the respect for human life was the Corner Stone has transformed further, leaning towards the aspirations of a west-oriented privileged few, enjoying wealth, position and power and hence our Value System got destroyed as stated above.

DISCREPANCY IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

While maintaining that, the progress of a Value System receiving nourishment from generation to generation is dependent on the educational system, and that, as it was on a spiritual-moral value based foundation that our traditional educational system supplied the knowledge and training to the younger generation essential to pursue economic political, cultural and social life, and that, since society got leaned towards a commercial culture all aspects of education, viz., the field of education methods of education, the texts used, Teacher-Pupil relationship, the psychological and physical environment where education was imparted, the relationship between the educational institutes and society, the Parent-Teacher-Pupil relationship in the educational

process, the quality of integration of pupils of different racial and religious stocks, as a cohesive group of citizens of one nation, all assumed characteristics of a competitive commercial form, and that, the close contact between spiritual leadership and education was weakened, and for this purpose, the religious places which were the centres of education, and the influence of the monks who supplied their leadership were formally destroyed.

we must state that, the discrepancy in our educational system was a main factor contributing to general national degeneration and to the alienation of the Sinhala-Tamil communities from each other.

LOSING FEAR AND SHAME TO VIOLATE STATE LAW AND SOCIAL NORMS

We declare our acceptance of the fact that because of the value based educational system, aimed at man's personality development to the fullest the members of families, villages, cities, and as a nation, had a sense of shame and fear to commit acts immoral and illegal, and that, these sentiments of fear, due to awareness of punishment for violation of the State Law, and Shame, due to awareness of ostracism for violation of Moral Laws, wielded tremendous power as social forces and that, during the last few decades and in particular, since regaining independence, this situation changed, and the people, commonly developed a feeling, that using, wealth, power and position, some could freely violate State Law and that using intimidation they could still live high, violating Moral Law, though being secretly despised by society and the resultant erosion of the sense of fear and shame to break the State and Moral Law in public life, paved way for the emergence of group of anti-social, fearless and shameless elements in our society. —*To be continued.*

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LETTER

Why this Feeling?

Sir

At the outset let me stridently ask your pardon and that of others who are concerned if I, in my indecent hurry to give expression to my feelings happen to hurt your and their sensibilities in howsoever small a measure. I wish to make it clear that it is not my intention to wound any person's susceptibilities; for it is not in my way of life to do so. I want to be in perfect harmony with the several happenings and events and occurrences that surround me.

Last night (20/9/83), I was watching with genuine interest, pride, and true satisfaction, and a feeling of achievement two Rupavahini programmes: one, the Jayawardanegama Housing Project in the Kaduwela electorate; the other Gramodhaya Mandalana—village Reawakening project in the Moneragala District. Both were soul-elevating programmes, I admit: *splendidly planned and splendidly executed*. Several of our top ranking leaders were there—His Excellency the President, Hon. the Prime Minister, Hon. Anandatissa de Alwis and several other VIPP and a festive crowd of village and townsfolk: all and sundry, gaily decked and bejewelled, in a hilarious mood.

What with the colour-splashed splendour of the occasions, some of them solidly meaningful, the houses grandly built and gaudily deployed all over the landscape markedly denuded of umbrageous trees and other luscious vegetation? What with the successful go-getters who paraded with beaming smiles and uproarious laughter? What with the beating of tom-toms, and the blare of bands, and the acrobatic performance of Kandyan dancers and the colourful goose steps of school girls marching with an air of aplomb?

*"What men or gods are these?
What maiden loth?
What mad pursuit?
What struggle to escape?
What pipes and timbrels?
What wild ecstasy?"*

What a splendid exposition of man's intentions efforts, aspirations, achievements? It was altogether a happy event. And, everyone in this Isle of splendour and fun, ought to be happy. I was brimfull of exhilaration. That was my natural, instinctive feeling on such festive occasions.

Most of the creative aspect of it, especially the flowery Township of Jayawardanegama, was done with IMF funds. But yet—after all I am human and have my human foibles—I developed a feeling of wicked revulsion welling, as it were, in some secret cranny of my being—though I own I have, been so carefully nurtured, and amiably and gently brought up. It was the feeling of green-eyed jealousy. Despite the good breeding and sound education—this is no boast—that my society has given me. I felt a lurking qualm, a momentary dejection: low spirits, not becoming, of course, of a truly-bred son of Sri Lanka. I was gravelled.

Why this qualm? I asked myself. This green eye? Perhaps it is quite natural. This grandiose village-awakening endeavour, and town-building programme set against the backdrop of the dull, drab, barren village development projects so far undertaken in the Batticaloa District, do naturally seed in me

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a feeling of envy and jealousy, and make me think justice is not even-handed, since I see here before me only a half done court-house complex, an incomplete (ever since 1980) Valayiravu Bridge, an nascent UDA Town restructuring programme and a dead-born secretariat.

I ask for justice, and seek the State's aid, and that on an even keel.

K. Kanapathipillai

Batticoloa,
3.10.1983.

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ENVIRONMENT

Frogs Monitor Pollution

An Australian scientist believes frogs may be one of the most important and sensitive early warning systems for environmental pollution. The highest form of animal life which lays unprotected eggs in fresh water, frogs develop abnormalities due to pollution at concentrations far below the fatal level. Mr. Michael Tyler, a senior lecturer at the University of Adelaide, and an authority on frogs, is studying the relationship between environmental disturbance by pollution and the incidence of skeletal abnormalities in frogs. The value of the frog as a subject in toxicity studies lies not only in the fact that it is one of the higher forms of animal life but that its eggs and tadpoles are exposed to all pollutants present in the water in which they live. Both eggs and tadpoles are undergoing complex cell division and elaborate growth processes during this aquatic life, and certain chemicals interfere with these processes to cause physical abnormalities.

Mr. Tyler said almost all abnormalities in adult frogs could be traced to events that had taken place while they were tadpoles. Land clearance, mining wastes, application of fertilizers, weed control and radioactive waste, might have affected normal growth. Run-off from highways, over zealous spraying of insecticides to protect golf courses from Lawn beetles, indiscriminate use of agricultural chemicals and the discharging of industrial waste were potential causes of physical abnormalities. Abnormalities occur naturally in any frog population. Mr. Tyler's initial problem has been to determine when abnormalities have been raised to an unacceptable level by pollutants. As a result of studies based on early collections of frogs overseas (made before the advent of modern insecticides and other pollutants) together with observations made in Australia and abroad of frog populations far from human habitation, he has reached the conclusion that natural abnormality is somewhere between 0.5 per cent and 1.2 per cent. A percentage beyond that therefore may indicate aquatic pollution.

"We are aware that certain insecticides herbicides heavy metals, ionising radiation, laser beams and even the aflatoxins produced by fungi can interfere with normal tadpole limb growth and reproduce abnormalities," Mr. Tyler said. Although nothing could be deduced from the occasional abnormality encountered during a field survey, he added, there was probably a common cause when the same type of abnormality occurred frequently in a population. "One day it may be possible to suggest the nature of contaminants in an area just from examination of the abnormal frogs," he said. "This activity is not manipulation of animals for human benefit but rather it is a joint interest. The fact of the situation is that abnormal animals exist now. What we lack is sufficient data to exploit this unique environmental monitoring system."

Michael Tyler wants to collect all possible data so that communities can be made aware early when they are changing their environment, thus allowing them to decide whether to accept the change or resist it. Some of the more gross deformities in frogs brought about by pollutant chemicals in water result in animals with additional limbs, but minor limb abnormalities occur much more frequently and are not so obvious. These include fusion of two digits to form one broad one, reduction of the length of one or more toes or the complete limb, and the presence of additional digits. Some of the minor abnormalities are lethal. For example loss of the shovel-like tubercle under the foot of the burrowing frog could prevent it from burrowing into the ground to seek protection from the sun. Such abnormalities are common in some young frogs but rare in adults indicating that few of these young ones survived to adult state.—Australian Information Service.



SPOTLIGHT

National Olympic Committee

ROY DE SILVA former Kingswoodian and Sri Lanka hockey cap is the new President of the National Olympic Committee. Earlier there was to be a contest between De Silva and D. I. G., A. Navaratnam.

But the DIG withdrew for reasons known only to himself and Roy de Silva was elected uncontested. The run up to the meeting was strewn with allegations and counter allegations against the parties contesting, especially where the post of the Secretary was concerned. In the end it was Prema D. Pinnawala who won quite convincingly. Pinnawala was contested by a former Sri Lankan swimming champion and Director of Sports (Technical) Hallam Pereira. Pereira's nomination was the talking point in sports circles. Sportsmen, sportswomen and sports enthusiasts were questioning the nomination: How come that Pereira is contesting when he is a member of the Ministry of Sports? They also alleged that he has been paid by the NASSU for training some of their swimmers. Allegations were also made that if Pereira was elected, the National Olympic Committee faced the prospect of being rubbed off the pool of the World Governing Body. However, throwing caution to the winds, Pereira contested as secretary, but had to concede victory to Pinnawala.

Anyway everything happens for the good and we hope the parties concerned, that is the members of the Ministry of Sports and the new office bearers, will get together and work for the welfare and development of the sports in Sri Lanka, forgetting whatever differences there may be. Office-bearers will come and go, but it must be remembered that the game must go on for ever. The new President, Roy de Silva, has been in the centre of things, where sport is concerned in Sri Lanka and he knows the pitfalls that surround him. He has been President of the Sri Lanka Hockey Federation and the tremendous work he has done to give this game its rightful place is well known to every one. He is of the no nonsense type and sportsmen and sports women can be assured of having at the helm one who will always act without fear of favour. Incidentally Roy de Silva is the Chairman of the Ceylon Oils and Fats Corporation. De Silva during his time was an outstanding sportsman at Kingswood and preferred to stick to the game of hockey and participated in several hockey nationals. Later he donned Sri Lanka colours at hockey.

Everytime officials are elected to sports bodies, they scream out loud that they will sacrifice even personal glory to work for the betterment of the game and the participants. But as time goes on they tend to forget their obligations and we hear the same old story—games going down the drain, officials only interested in self and winning their way to foreign climes, for conferences, meetings and so on. Sri Lanka's sport is at a crucial point with several contests and tournaments to be figured in before the Los Angeles Olympics next year. We hope the new office bearers have by now made up their minds as to the sport we are going to take in the next Olympics and immediately set down guidelines for these sportsmen and sportswomen and immediately put them through

serious training. Let us not after the games make the same excuse that we would have done well had we had the facilities for training, or that we should have trained for a longer period etc. These are the standard excuses trotted out over the years when our sportsmen or sportswomen fail. We hope the new office bearers will make these statements a thing of the past.

At the National Olympic Committee meeting held at the Ministry of Sport recently, the following were also elected to office: Four Vice Presidents—Daya Tennekoon, Lionel Jirasinghe, Thomas de Silva and H. M. Gunaratne. Six contested the four posts as Vice Presidents. Assistant Secretary Asoka Jayasinghe and Treasurer M. D. J. Weerasinghe were uncontested. Daya Tennakoon one of the Vice Presidents is also the President of the Cycling Association of Sri Lanka and he has made tremendous amount of self sacrifice to work for the improvement of the sport.

THE FINALISTS in the Under 25 Bristol Trophy Cricket Tournament has been found. They are the Bloomfielders and the Nondescripts. Both Bloomfield and Nondescripts had easy victories in the semi-finals beating the Tamil Union and the Police respectively. This is the second time that these two teams will contest the final. In a repeat final of last year the Nondescripts got the better of the Bloomfielders. However this year the Bloomfielders are a better balanced side and are determined to turn the tables on their opponents. The two semi-finals were one-sided and the reigning champions the Nondescripts had the distinction of running up the highest total in this tourney—300 in just 45 overs—and also had the honour of providing the first centurian in Ravi Ratnayake who made a dashing 116 in only 137 deliveries, Opener Amal Silva missed a well deserved century by just eight runs. The NCC opens Amal Silva and Ravi Ratnayake also put up a record partnership of 212 for the first wicket, which will we are sure stand for many years to come.

True the Police were no match for the NCC but they must be admired for their courage and determination for doing marvellously well during the tourney and up to the semi-final for the first time. May be their cricketers were overawed by the occasion. The Police's success in entering the final round was partly due to their energetic coach Lal Ratnayake. Ratnayake too was a former promising cricketer and boxer and Police sport will be well served with Ratnayake to guide them. Lal's son Mohan is turning out into being a stylish opener. Playing for St. Joseph's the youngster has notched up several good scores. At the time of writing, the final is expected to be played on October 8 and with both teams equally balanced in all departments of the game the final outcome could be anybody's guess. However, ALLROUNDER puts his money on

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the Reid Avenue Club. Bloomfield in their semi-final against the Tamils obtained victory for the loss of one wicket and knocked out any chances the Tamils had of making it to the final. On four occasions they have entered the semi-final only to lose. The Tamils problems were started by a fiery spell of fast bowling by Sri Lankan World Cup player Vinodhan John. He had the fantastic figure of 5 for nine and the Tamils never rally recovered. When Bloomfield batted little opener Devaka Mahanama lived up to his consistency with the bat and sprayed the ball to all corners of the field to rattle up a grand unbeaten half century.

ON TO THE FOREIGN SCENE. Once again the Second Test between arch rivals India and Pakistan went the way of the First Test—a draw—and the only point of interest would Gavaskar score a century and equal Sir Donald Bradman's record of 29 Test centuries was not to be. Gavaskar failed to perform this record equalling task. There is one more Test against the Pakistanis and Five Tests later against the West Indies for Gavaskar to equal this record and break it. It is certain that he will achieve this mark and better it before the series of Tests against Pakistan and West Indies are over. In the drawn Second Test left hander Wasim Raja came into his true form to slam a hundred after quite a while. His poor form in the World Cup nearly kept him out of the tour squad. But with this classic certury he has justified his selection. In this game Indian opener Anshuman Gaekwad hammered a double hundred to become the seventh Indian to score a double century in a Test match. He played a patient innings to score 201 in 10 hours 40 minutes.

In the meantime, it was apparent that the South Africans have not stopped their campaign to recruit players to play in apartheid South Africa. Their latest acquisition is West Indies opener Faoud Bacchus. Discarded by the West Indies for their tour of India Bacchus signed a contract to play in South Africa according to the West Indies Board of Control for Cricket. Bacchus 29 years old had been appointed captain of the young West Indies team to tour Zimbabwe next month. He also led the West Indies to Zimbabwe in 1981. Bacchus played in 19 Tests for the West Indies and captained Guyana last year. He was hailed as one of the great West Indies batsman after a double hundred against India in 1979. His poor form against the Australians was the cause of his being kept out of the West Indies team now touring India. The West Indies Board selected Timur Mohammed as the new Captain and Bacchus' place will be taken by Shana Julier.

ALLROUNDER



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SPORTS CHRONICLE

Sept. 25 - Oct. 2

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: Current table leaders in Group C of the Bristol Trophy under 25 cricket tournament—defending champions NCC scored an early win in their tournament game against Galle CC by 8 wickets at Maitland Place yesterday: Galle CC 94 in 48.3 overs and NCC 95 for 2 wickets in 19.5 overs. Panadura Sports Club maintained their lead on top of group D of the Bristol Trophy under 25 cricket tournament when they scored an easy 9 wicket win over Air Force at the Panadura Esplanade yesterday: Air Force 62 in 33.2 overs and Panadura 63 for 1 wicket in 11.5 overs. Moors Sports Club scored their second win in the Bristol Trophy under 25 cricket tournament in three matches played when they beat Negombo Cricket Club by 163 runs in Group B of the tournament on the University Grounds at Thurstan Road yesterday: Moors SC 225 and Negombo CC 52. SSC stayed in the running for a semi final berth the Bristol Trophy under 25 Cricket Tournament when they beat BRC by 3 wickets at Havelock Park yesterday: BRC 147 for 9 in 50 overs and SSC 148 for 7 in 21.4 overs. Moratuwa Sports Club made 94 off 28 overs while Kurunegala Youth Cricket Club made 95 for 7 wickets off 26.3 overs. Police scored their successive win in the Bristol Trophy under 25 cricket tournament when they beat Colts CC by 7 wickets at Havelock Park yesterday: Colts CC 113 for 8 in 30 overs; Police 114 for 4 in 27.2 overs.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: Bloomfield was the first team to enter the semi-finals of the Bristol Trophy under 25 cricket tournament, when they beat Kurunegala Sports Club by 131 runs in their last group B match at Reid Avenue on Saturday: Bloomfield 198 for 6 in 50 overs and Kurunegala SC 67 in 42.3 overs.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: Aslams beat Moosajees by 23 runs in a cricket match played at Nalanda grounds: Aslams 108 and Moosajees 85. St. John's Panadura crushed Ananda C by 5 wickets in the Schools under 15 Division 3 cricket finals at the Esplanade yesterday to win their first ever Junior Cricket Title: Ananda C 33 for 6 continued 35 all out and St. Johns Panadura 98 for 5. Despite the strong monsoonal winds Prabath de Silva romped home easily in the 22 mile Annual Club Time Trial conducted by the Winged Wheel Cycle Club and held on Sunday in connection with the visit to Sri Lanka after 25 years of founder-member and pioneer

cyclist of the Winged Wheelers, Allan Brace. Sweden's Mats Willander won his sixth tennis Grand Prix this year when he beat compatriot Henrik Sundstorm 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the final of the Geneva tournament on Sunday. Ival Lendl beat John McEnroe 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 tonight to win the 265,000 dollar Transamerica Open Tennis Championship; the hard-hitting Czechoslovak jumped in with a second set comeback when his American rival appeared to lose his winning touch.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28: RCGC champion Maithri Samarasinghe and Gerge Gomes will meet veteran Chrisso Abeywardene and Dr. D. W. Jayasinghe in the Final of the Sir Ernest Fernando Trophy Foursome Match Play Competition of the Royal Colombo Golf Club; in the semifinals at the Ridgeways, Samarasinghe and Gomes beat P. C. Rajapakse and J. C. Wickremasinghe 7 and 6 at the 12th. While Dr. Jayasinghe and Chrisso Abeywardene edged out Dian Jayasuriya and Lance Abeysekera 3 and 2 at the 16th hole. Australia II won the America's Cup and ended a 132-year US domination of the event by beating defending 12-metre yacht Liberty in the final race on Monday. Japanese Pro Tatsuko Osaka defeated Taiwan's top pro Tu-A-Yu in a Sudden-Death Playoff to win the 25 million yen (105,166 dollars) Japan LPGA Gold Championships at Shiga, on Sunday.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29: N. C. C. School of Cricket beat SSC School of Cricket by 6 wickets in their match played at S. Thomas College Junior Grounds at Mount Lavinia: SSC 115 and NCC 169 for 4. Singer Sports Club scored an easy 8 wicket win over C. W. Mackies in their Mercantile F Division cricket match played at the Health grounds, Castle Street. It was Singer's second victory as they earlier beat United Electricals SC. C. W. Mackies 78 and Singer SC 81 for 2. Renown SC beat Young Eagles SC by 10 goals to two in a Colombo Football League Silver Cup soccer match played at Campbell Park yesterday. Saunders thrashed Cooray Park by six goals to nil in a FA cup Second Round soccer match played at the Sports Ministry grounds yesterday.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30: Top seedey Sylvia Hanika of West Germany overcame a second-set lapse to beat unseeded American Pam Gasale 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 in a 150,000 dollar woman's tennis tournament. Anshuman Gaekwad scored the first double century by an Indian against old rivals Pakistan before their second test fizzled out to a draw at Jullunder yesterday; batting for nearly 11 hours, opening Gaekwad scored 201 out of an Indian total of 374 in reply to Pakistan's first innings of 337; with only the last hour's play remaining, Pakistan ended

the match on 16 for no wicket: Pakistan First Innings 337 and India First Innings 374.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1: Nagoda Sports Club, Kalutara emerged champions of the first ever six-a-side knockout softball cricket tournament conducted at Kalutara when they beat Panadura Super Stars Sports Club in the final by 16 runs. The winners were awarded the Manilal Fernando challenge cup and the runners up the Dharmasiri Gunawardena cup. Trinity boosted by their ninth wicket pair Mevan Balalle and S. C. S. Jayawardene held the upper hand on the opening day of their third term first XI cricket match against St. Sylvesters at Asgiriya yesterday; the two of them put on 52 to swell their score to 160; Ballalle made 52 with six fours and Jayawardene 17; Trinity 160 and St. Sylvesters 32 for 7 at close. Australia's John Fitzgerald produced a marvellous fightback against France's Henri Leconte to tie the Davis Cup semi-final series at 1-1 after the first day of the opening singles matches at Sydney yesterday. Yannick Noah proved that he is a grass court competitor with a brilliant 6-4, 10-8, 6-3 victory to give France a 1-0 lead after the first match in the best of the five series. India took a 2-0 lead over Japan in the Eastern Zone Davis Cup final at Tokyo yesterday. Ecuador lead Brazil 2-0 after winning the opening singles in their Davis Cup American Zone tennis final yesterday.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2: Third seed Vijitha de Silva pulled off a good win when he defeated former National Champion Ravi Kuruppu 15-3, 1-15, 15-7 in the men's single quarter final round of the Western Province Badminton Tournament at the Indoor Stadium yesterday. Young United Sports Club held Victory Sports Club to a 2 all draw in the second round match of the Silver Cup Football Tournament match played at the Campbell Park yesterday; at the lemons the score read 2-1 in favour of Victory. CR and FC beat a Dickoya invitation XV by 36 points (2 goals and 6 tries) to 6 (2 penalties) in their rugby football match at Darawella yesterday. YMBA Judo Club, Fort retained the coveted Kannamaru Challenge Trophy when they collected a total of 28 points to win the Novices Judo Championships 1983 conducted by the Sri Lanka Judo Association at the Central YMCA yesterday.

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TENDER NOTICE

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

TENDERS will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Superintending Engineers' Office (Central Division) Department of Buildings, Kandy upto 10.00 a.m. on 19.10.1983 from Suppliers for the supply and placing in position of the following materials at the Water Supply Treatment Plant at Hantana New Town Development, Kandy.

The complete supply and placement should be finalised within one (01) month from the award of tender.

- (1) *120.00 Cubes*: Clean sand free from clay, vegetation and other extraneous matter, effective size 0.3 mm (U.S. standard sieve size No. 50) coefficient of uniformity not to exceed 2.5 supplied and placed in position in the slow sand filter chambers to the approval of the Resident Engineer, Department of Buildings, Hantana Housing Scheme, Kandy.

The successful tenderer should make available a test certificate from an approved Soil Laboratory regarding the conformity of the materials supplied. Suppliers are required to supply a sample of the proposed materials to be supplied to the Chairman, Tender Board, Superintending Engineer's Office, Department of Buildings, Kandy, together with the tender. The Department reserves the right to request for test certificate during supply, if it so wishes.

- (2) *7.50 Cubes*: Clean coarse sand free from clay, vegetation and other extraneous matter, effective size 1.5 mm to 1.0 mm supplied and placed in position in the slow sand filter chambers to the approval of the Resident Engineer, Department of Buildings, Hantana Housing Scheme, Kandy.

Suppliers are required to supply a sample of the proposed material to be supplied to the Chairman, Tender Board, Superintending Engineer's Office, Department of Buildings, Kandy, together with the tender.

Prospective suppliers are advised in their own interest to visit the site and satisfy themselves regarding transport and access facilities available.

A non-refundable tender deposit of Rs. 250/- should be made in respect of this tender either at the Department of Buildings Head Office, Colombo 01 or at any Kachcheri outside Colombo or at District Engineer's Office, Kandy (South) Department of Buildings, in the name of the Contractor and produce before 4.15 p.m. on 18.10.14 for issue of Tender Forms. Tender forms could be obtained from Resident Engineer's Office, Department of Buildings, Hantana Housing Scheme, Kandy.

K. C. Samaraweera
DIRECTOR BUILDINGS

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
P.O. BOX 504,
COLOMBO 1. 1983.10.06.

CONFIDENTIALLY

A. G. on SLSPC

IS IT NOT A FACT that the economic future of this country depends largely on the plantations? That a great deal has been said in recent times about what the plantations are doing to help the country? That a new scheme of incentive payments have been formulated and the salaries of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents have been brought up to current standards? That in the meantime *Tribune* has, a few days ago, read what purports to be a report of the Auditor General's Department on the accounts of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1980? (Ref. No. C-29A/1/6/(80) of 20.5.82)? That as far as we can ascertain this is the latest set of accounts that have been reported on by the Auditor General (A.G.)? That if there is any later report, *Tribune* will be happy to receive a copy? That the Auditor General's Report is a public document? That the report reads: "The audit of the accounts of the Sri Lanka Plantations Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1980 was carried out under my directions in pursuance of Section 153 (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with Section (13) (1) of the Finance Act No. 38 of 1971. A more detailed report in terms of Section 13 (7) of the Finance Act was furnished to the Chairman on 20th December 1981 and 13th January 1982". in carrying out this audit I was assisted by a number of firms of auditors in public practice. Audit opinion comments and findings in this report are based on a review of the financial statements presented to audit and substantive tests of samples of transactions. The scope and extent of such review and tests was such as to enable as wide an audit coverage as possible within the limitations of staff, resources and time available to be. Section 13 (3) and Section 13 (4) of the Finance Act No. 38 of 1971 gives discretionary powers to the Auditor General to determine the scope and extent of the audit. Independent checks had not been carried out to ascertain whether the Amalgamated Accounts have been prepared taking into consideration all plantations owned and managed by the Corporation. In respect of the four newly created Corporations referred to above separate reports under Sections 13 (7)(a) and 14 (2) of the Finance Act No. 38 of 1971 for the period 1st April 1980 to 31st December 1980, had already been furnished to the respective Chairman. Although the Amalgamated Accounts of the Corporation were rendered to me for audit on 30th April 1981 adjustments were made subsequently in the Balance Sheet of the Amalgamated Accounts of the Corporation in respect of fixed assets and in the Profit and Loss Appropriation Account and these amendments were given on 13th July 1981. Due to this and for the following reasons given by the firms of auditors who assisted me in the audit the work

could not be completed in time: (a) Trial balance, Accounts and Schedules of Current Assets and current liabilities were handed over for audit only on 22nd August 1981; (b) Bank Reconciliation Statements were not readily available; (c) Accounts file relating to the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation was made available only on 17th August 1981; (d) Information and explanations were not readily available and on most days considerable time had to be spent waiting for documents; (e) Considerable time was spent on calculating management fees due, owing to the lack of adequate internal controls and internal checks. The Accounts of the Head Office which formed part of the Amalgamated Accounts of the Corporation were received by me on 15th May 1981. This should have also been rendered to me on or before 30th April 1981. Working and Profit and Loss Accounts for individual Plantations have been given to the private auditors assisting me in the audit. However, copies of these have not been furnished to me by the Corporation unlike in the past. The Corporation has not prepared individual Balance Sheets. The balance sheet prepared at estate level for each plantation reflects only the current assets and current liabilities. *In view of my comments in paragraph 2.6 of my report, I am of opinion that the accounts presented have not been prepared on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding years. Further, the accounts do not reflect the financial position as at December 31, 1980 nor the financial result for the period under review and also show a distorted picture of a favourable working capital position of Rs. 310,336,625 whereas the accounts should show a Working Capital Deficit of Rs. 170,075,077.* In particular attention is drawn to the following unsatisfactory features: (1) Gross understatement of fixed assets; (2) Absence of fixed assets control; (3) Inadequacy of fixed assets records and absence of annual survey of assets; (4) Inadequate depreciation charge; (5) Non-reconciliation of crop harvested with disposal records. Unsatisfactory accounting with regard to London Sales; (6) Unreliable—Cash and Bank balance and (7) Uncleared suspense accounts as at the Balance Sheet date with debit balance amounting to Rs. 67.7 million and credit balances amounting to Rs. 141.6 million. According to the accounts, the working of the Corporation resulted in a nett loss of Rs. 27,553,555 for the year ended December 31, 1980 as compared with a nett loss of Rs. 71,987, 219 for the previous year. That "TRIBUNE" has only extracted a few excerpts from the AG's report? That we shall use further extracts as we go along? That in the meantime, the public will be interested to know what corrective action has been taken by the Government to eliminate the shortcomings pointed out by the A.G.; and whether the persons responsible for them are still in charge or whether they been replaced? That "TRIBUNE" will have more in the coming weeks?

TENDER NOTICE

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

Tenders for Construction of One No Medical Officer's Quarters (Grade V Amended Type Stage I) at Hospital, Mannar, will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Superintending Engineer's Office, Department of Buildings, Jaffna, upto 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 19.10.83

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

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

K. C. Samaraweera.

Director of Buildings

**DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
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