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CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

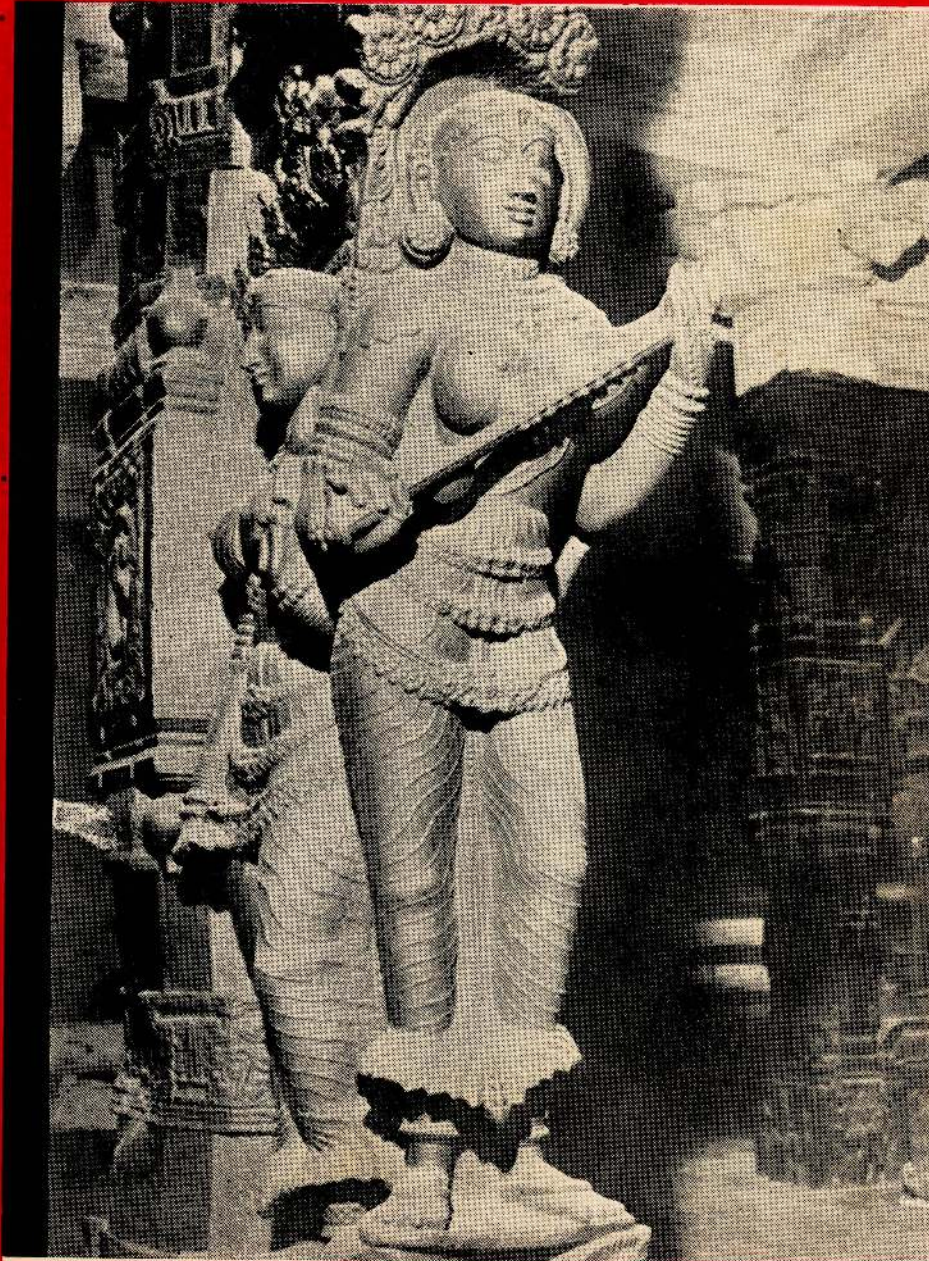
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An Ode to the Reader

*While proof-reading,
please be so good as
to note correctly what
words start with capital
letters, and what do not,
especially in those lines
marked with dashes in the
margin. Thank you!*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

★ On the Downward Drift in Ceylon's Economy

THIS IS FESTIVAL TIME in Hindu temples. From Kataragama in the South to Keerimalal in the North, from Koneswaram in the East to Muneswaram in the West, Hindu temples celebrate their annual festivals in this period. The picture we have on the cover depicts a figure in a Hindu temple. Hindus and Tamils have been associated with Ceylon,

or Sri Lanka, from the very beginning of its recorded history. Vijaya, the legendary founder of the Sinhala race, went to South India, to Madurai, to find wives for himself and his followers, and the Sinhala race obviously sprang from this union. The Hindu religion has deep roots in this country and there is no doubt that this long association between the two major races in this country will lead to the flowering of a new unity in the era of the Republic of Sri Lanka.

PERHAPS the greatest problem confronting this country is the problem of national unity though very grave attempts are being made to play it down. The problem must be faced squarely, and solutions found in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation. Radical and left-wing pundits quite correctly point out that the roots of the tensions on the communal front are embedded in the economic uncertainty and weakness of the country. The economy of this country has been faltering ever since the thirties when the Great Depression hit the world.

Tribune columnist *Fertinax* has been dipping into the recent IMF Report to point to

some uneasy trends in our economy. This week, we feel tempted to do the same because the IMF summary on the "downward drift" of Ceylon's economy is one of the best we have seen for a long time. Readers of *Tribune* will find what we cite most revealing and in many matters what the IMF now says is no different from what *Tribune* has said over the years—though the jargon and idiom of the IMF Report is different from that of *Tribune's*. What ultimately matters is not the language but the content.

This is what the IMF stated:

TO UNDERSTAND why Ceylon's real per capita income has been stagnating at least since 1960 - with no perceptible change in trend during that period—one must briefly examine the peculiar nature of Ceylon's economy, and how it has evolved. Discoveries of rich hoards of Roman coins witness the importance of foreign trade to Ceylon as long as 1,800 years ago. Spices were produced for export since time immemorial; coffee was introduced by the British in the early 19th century, cinchona after the coffee blight, tea in the 1870's and then rubber. Even coconut, a traditional domestic crop, took on an export orientation in the 19th century, and partly a plantation structure. The export sector was reinforced by the role of Colombo as a coaling station on the Far Eastern route, and by Ceylon's place in the British Empire, which provided duty-free

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imports of rice from Burma, fish and vegetables from India, industrial products from India and Britain. By the early 1930's Ceylon was a free-trade economist's dream of the open economy, sustaining a relatively high standard of living by producing very largely for export and importing most goods and all investment goods.

This situation was not much changed by the second world war. It was strengthened by the high prices commanded by Ceylon's exports immediately after the war, and even more so in the early 1950's. Export prices and terms of trade reached their highest mark in 1950 and were almost as good again, in 1955. Then began a decline, at first with reverses, then fairly steady. Throughout the 1960's there were only two years in which overall export prices improve enough to reverse even the previous year's decline.

AFTER THE WAR, standards of living, already quite high, relative to those in the region, were further raised by a general commitment to welfare state principles. Subsidised housing, free health and education services had long been granted by large tea and rubber estates to their work force, largely imported from South India. It seemed normal to extend them to the full population after independence. This was easily done, and easily financed out of taxes resting largely on exports. This appeared particularly proper at a time when export prices were

visibly buoyant. In fact, despite these welfare practices, Ceylon managed to accumulate an aggregate trade surplus of almost \$ 300 million in the six years 1950 - 1955. Yet the taxes do not appear to have weighed too heavily on the export sector, precisely because of the buoyancy of prices: the overall volume of exports was 14 percent above the pre-war level in 1948, and increased at an average annual rate of almost 4 percent thereafter until 1955. All categories contributed to this growth, but a major contribution came from coconut products; in 1955 their export volume was 60 percent above the 1948 level—and also 60 percent above the 1970 level.

The overall export value never again reached the 1955 peak. The decline in tea and rubber prices more than offset the slow rise in the quantities exported; the fall in volume of coconut exports more than offset the modest rise in dollar price. Yet the social services remained in a substantially unchanged form, grudgingly reduced in per capita terms only under the irresistible force of circumstances, but increased in the aggregate by the pressure of population growth. Malaria, scourge of the island ever since it was dotted with 12,000 ruined irrigation tanks by the destruction of the old kingdoms in the XIII century, has been much reduced. A striking illustration of the population problem comes from an excellent early post-war geo-

graphy book. Speculating on the danger of population growth outpacing the growth of resources, the author notes that at the existing growth rate Ceylon's population might reach 13 million by the end of the century. In fact, that figure too will be reached in 1972.

FALLING EXPORT PRICES, an extensive welfare system, a fast growing population, an open economy—the dilemma was truly perceived only about 1960. In that year, the value added in the commodity producing sectors of the economy amounted to Rs. 3.2 billion current market prices; the value of exports was Rs. 1.83 billion. At prices which even then inadequately reflected the value of exports to the economy (notably because they do not take into account the taxes borne by them, and the imports they finance), export earnings amounted to 57 percent of total value added in commodity production. Correcting for the undervaluation of exports, the ratio was of the order of two-thirds.

For a country with Ceylon's economic structure, commodity production is the real stuff of growth. Other sectors cannot become driving forces notwithstanding the very special cases of tourism, banking or shipping, in some very special countries. Given the decline in dollar export value, the other commodity sectors would have had to grow at an annual rate of more than

8 percent merely to keep the value of commodity production per capita constant. This did not happen; and the value of per capita commodity production slowly declined throughout the 1960's.

THOUGH intuitively evident to those familiar with Ceylon, this stagnation is obvious to an unusually large degree by the published national income series, in which GDP at constant prices increased at an average rate of 4.5 percent from 1960 to 1970. Despite annual fluctuations—in particular a dip in 1965 which exaggerates the growth of the following period and depresses that of the preceding years—there was no marked change in that trend in the course of the period. The production of commodities (i.e. not including services, construction and utilities) increased at a slightly lower rate than GDP, to which it contributed about 50 percent. The contribution of the exports sector was undervalued throughout the period. For instance, one dollar's worth of coconut exports now brings in imports which, after payments of FEEC and customs duties, are worth rather more than Rs. 10, on the average. This is the true measure of the coconut sector's contribution to GDP.

Yet the factors actually engaged in production get only the so-called official rate, minus an export tax: less than Rs. 5 per dollar and this is their contribution to GDP, as

recorded in the official series. We have corrected for this undervaluation.

Because the export sector's production grew more slowly than the average, the correction reduces the growth rate of GDP at constant prices to an average rate of about 4 percent and that of commodities to about 3.5 percent. These rough adjustments greatly improve the national accounts although they undoubtedly leave much to be desired.

SHORTLY after the 1967 devaluation of the rupee from 4.76 to 5.95 per US dollar, a Foreign Exchange Entitlements Certificate (FEEC) scheme was introduced under which certain sales of foreign exchange earn such certificates, and certain buyers of foreign exchange also must buy FEECs. The FEECs now amounts to 55 percent, thus bringing the exchange rate to 9.2 rupees per dollar. The FEEC rate has progressively been extended to most import categories, now excluding only a few, the most important of which is food-grain. In this report, the equivalence of Ceylonese prices to imports is calculated at the FEEC rate. In correcting the national account series for the undervaluation of exports, we have used a rate of Rs. 10 per dollar, thus taking into account the fact that the imports paid for by export earnings also bear a custom duty and sell for at least that price unless they are effected by the Government

and bear an overt or hidden subsidy.

This treatment may result in a partial overvaluation of the GNP contribution of export sectors for the years prior to 1965; though there cannot be much doubt that imports were scarce throughout the 1960's, that their real value—and therefore the real value of exports—were much higher than indicated by official exchange rates.

However, prices did not remain constant. The erosion of

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export values absorbed about half the officially indicated increase in commodity production annually. With population growing at about 2.3 per cent throughout the period, there was a slow downward drift of per capita commodity production in 1959 prices, from about Rs. 500 to about Rs. 470, while GDP per capita was rising marginally, from about Rs. 830 to about Rs. 860. In current prices, GDP and commodity production per capita were very roughly \$110 and \$60 respectively in 1970. Taking into account the rise in the dollar price of imports would further reduce the real income growth of the sixties.

And so the story goes on. It is not a bright picture. But knowing the facts in realistic terms helps a great deal to find solutions.

IT
PAYS
TO
ADVERTISE
IN
TRIBUNE
★
IT
REACHES
THE
PEOPLE
WHO
MATTER

AGRICULTURE

Ceylon's Meat Supply:
Mango Cultivation:
Aquatic Weeds:
Eggs: Rice Dryer:

This week we publish the concluding part of the paper by Mr. R. H. de Mel on the question of Meat Supply. One of the most difficult and ticklish problems facing this country is the difficulty about getting adequate supplies of meat. Mr. de Mel has various suggestions of a constructive nature and it will be interesting if our readers send us their views on this matter.

We have also published a number of smaller articles on topics of great agricultural interest: The Biological Control of Aquatic weeds, on poultry, i.e. inducing hens to lay more eggs, and on mango cultivation. We have also a short piece about a British made rice dryer to help overcome harvesting problems.

Editor.

CEYLON'S MOST URGENT NEED — 2

On Cattle, Goats & Sheep

by R. H. de Mel,
Chairman,
Live Stock Development Board

TO TURN to other areas where the production of slau-

ghter stock may be increased, the potential of the coconut triangle has long been pointed out. It is now well known that excellent pastures can be established by growing *Bracharia milliformis* under the coconut palms, without detriment to the yield of the palms. Indeed, current thinking is that growing grass is actually beneficial to the coconut, as a result of the increased water holding capacity of the soil. The number of cattle in the coconut area is only second to that of the Dry Zone, and under the shade of the palms it is possible to cross breed the Indian type of stock on the coconut estates with larger European breeds, and the resulting cross breeds have been found to make very substantial weight gains.

Indeed, rotational breeding, using two large European breeds and a large Indian breed such as the Harijana, may produce highly economic beef animals. Weights of 800 to 1,200 lb. in three years have been recorded at the first cross, and the second cross may prove even quicker growing on account of the higher milk yield of the crossbred dams. The growing of pasture is relatively inexpensive under coconut, but the conserving of

bedder for the dry seasons has to be done, though on a smaller scale than in the Dry Zone as most coconut areas receive both monsoons.

A major difficulty is that many coconut estates need a good deal of work, such as filling of vacancies, including those resulting from the removal of dud palms, and some need under planting. As cattle relish the leaves of young palms, it is not possible to introduce cattle into fields containing young palms, unless these are fenced individually, which may be prohibitively expensive if the numbers per acre are high. Besides, the first duty of a coconut grower is to make his coconut as productive as he can, by cultivation, fertilizing and filling vacancies, and until he has done so, he should not be distracted from his main task. After all, an inefficient coconut grower is unlikely to be an efficient stock breeder.

Reference must also be made to the somewhat unsettled conditions that are likely to prevail in the coconut estates that will be affected by the proposed Land Reform Act for some years until the tenancy is finalised. It is rather unlikely that stock breeding will make much headway under these conditions, and its introduction on a large scale cannot therefore be expected for several years.

THERE REMAINS another area of great potential, the development of which will pro-

bably be hastened by the Land Reform Act. This is the lower-mid-country area, between, 1,500 ft and 3,000 ft. elevation where many estates planted in tea have now virtually been abandoned. It would hardly be possible to replant some of these badly eroded hillsides with colonel tea, and grass is the obvious crop for these rather wet areas, which are really too wet for tea.

On these estates, Pusa Giant Napier, grown on the contour, can rehabilitate the land, while at the same time maintaining four milking cows per acre. The climate is ideal for the European breeds, and the production of beef animals could probably be two per acre per annum, of a weight of almost 1,000 lbs each when 2½ years old, so that at the present high price that could be paid for slaughter stock, and the even higher price that quality stock could fetch, the gross income per acre would be higher than was ever attained by the tea in this area.

The fertilizer requirement would be much the same as for tea, while the labour requirement would be less, though much of the grass on the steep slopes would have to be cut by hand. It should prove profitable, and a fair sized experiment would test the possibilities.

There would be no problem regarding the stock, as bull calves of the Friesian and Ayrshire breeds could be obtained from Ambawela and Bopatalawa, and if the project ex-

nds beyond the capacity of these farms, the culled cows with one or two damaged quarters could be bred with Beef Bulls to provide the steers, and the heifer calves would remain as nurse cows for their own calves and other bull calves bought in from dairymen.

The proposed expansion of the dairy industry would provide an increased supply of bull calves for this type of project. Indeed, it has been said that if milk production is adequately developed, the meat problem will automatically be solved, and certainly the availability of large numbers of bull calves will be very helpful.

FINALLY, there is the problem of *marketing facilities*, which is possibly the most difficult of all. A recent survey made daily over a period of one month at one of the larger Municipal slaughter houses, showed that the sale value of the meat, offals and hide was high enough to permit the payment of about Rs. 1/- per lb. liveweight. If this price, or anything near it is paid to the producer, it will certainly be a very great incentive and would enable the breeder to adopt the sound practices referred to earlier. This could be achieved by offering to pay this rate of Rs. 1/- per lb for all animals delivered at the major slaughter houses, and also to pay the same rate, less cost of transporting and handling, at Stock Purchasing Centres established near Railway Stations in the main producing area in the

Dry Zone and anywhere else where cattle can be purchased.

The availability of sufficient numbers of animals yielding beef of superior quality would make it possible to pay a premium price for young, well fleshed cattle, of good size and conformation, and this beef could be marketed at appropriate prices through special licensed dealers. The Price Control Orders could quite easily be amended to permit this.

At present the *hides* of beef animals are badly damaged by careless flaying, and it has been pointed out by a visiting expert that the damage results in a loss of about Rs. 4 million per annum, and as the bulk of the hides are exported, this is a foreign exchange loss. The prevention of this waste by mechanised flaying in a few adequately equipped abattoirs would probably pay for the cost of these abattoirs within a year, apart from the advantages of hygienic meat dressing and handling. Therefore, this saving, would become available for providing additional services or higher prices to the producer.

It would be as well to refer to the limitations to these projects. As regards the Dry Zone pastures, these will increasingly be encroached upon by the requirements of agriculture, so that ultimately the remaining areas that are not very well suited to the growing of crops will have to be developed as planted pastures, with *Bracharia brizantha* or a better grass if one emerges. This will certainly maintain production, but

at a rather higher cost, unless of course the greater efficiency offsets the additional costs.

The coconut estates are only 400,000 acres in extent, and as these are in heavily populated areas, the demand for living space will make inroads into the extent available for pastures. Apart from this, there are other crops suitable for intercropping with coconut, and it is the most profitable intercrop that will expand.

COMING FINALLY to mutton, goat farming in the Dry Zone can be developed by the importation of suitable breeding stock from India. A major difficulty experienced in the past was that these imported goats were very prone to spinal paralysis. Although a drug to counter this is available, the rearing of the pure imported breeds has not proved successful, so that production cannot be increased by this means alone. The cross between the imported males and the local females is immune from the disease, so that improved stock can result.

With the expansion of agriculture in the Dry Zone, the bush pasture on which the goat feeds will be reduced, and replacement by grass pastures to make more intensive use of the available land will not assist the goat. Possibly shrub pastures may be the answer, with plantations of *leucaena glauca* and other small trees relished

by goats. Sheep breeding appears more likely to succeed on a fair scale. Sheep are grazing animals, and animals imported from South India have taken very readily to the *Bracharia milliformis* pastures under coconut, and sheep are not interested in coconut leaves. The carrying capacity is quite high as five ewes and their lambs can be kept per acre.

The whole city of Colombo the major consuming area, was amply supplied with mutton prior to 1966 by the importation of 25,000 slaughter sheep and goats. This means that 5,000 acres of coconut estates pasture would be capable of supplying the entire Colombo market. A few thousand acres more would supply the whole country's needs. It is obviously more profitable than beef production, as the same feed, with much the same conversion factor, produces meat that fetches twice the price of beef. But, unfortunately, it is not as simple as it seems.

Sheep are liable to intestinal parasites; but effective drugs are available and seasonal breeding has been found to simplify the control of the parasites. But there is also the nasal bot fly, which gives rise to a high rate of mortality among lambs. This is proving rather more difficult to control, but if and when it can be controlled, profitable sheep breeding should be possible, and the mutton supply thereby assured.

FINALLY, there is a major problem to which a solution

CULTIVATION

Mango

must be found, or else all efforts to promote cattle breeding would be nullified. This is the problem of illicit slaughter. Recorded slaughter in recent years has been about 225 000 animals per year, and a recent survey has confirmed the correctness of this figure.

But a survey of the hides purchased by the ten leading bark tanners disclose that about 382,000 hides have been purchased by them. If this is correct, then about 150,000 animals have been slaughtered illicitly.

The figures relating to buffaloes are particularly significant; for whereas the recorded figure is of the order of 6,000 only, the number of buffaloes hides amounts to over 63,000. A possible remedy is the regulation of the tanneries, that will make the hides of illicitly slaughtered animals unsaleable, and so take some of the profit out of the trade.

Regular branding is to be organized, which will make it easier to dispose of cattle in accordance with the law, particularly as Purchasing Centres are to be set up. The imposition of deterrent penalties on persons found guilty of this practice should help a great deal, and handsome rewards for those giving information leading to the conviction of such persons should help in the detection.

If these steps are taken, then the national herd could be built up, and the meat supply assured.

MANGO is the most important among tropical fruits of India and Ceylon, and is cultivated all over the country. In India the important mango growing States are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. In Ceylon it grows nearly everywhere in the lowlands.

Mango grows well in humid as well as dry climates found in different parts of the country. However, it blossoms and fruits better in regions where there is a good rainfall from June to September, followed by a period of dry and rainless weather for eight months. Rain, fog, or cloudy weather at the time of flowering prevents the setting of fruits and favours the development of pests and diseases. It requires a very deep but well drained soil.

Inarching is the common method of vegetative propagation of mango, seedlings of 1½ feet height are suitable for grafting. The process of inarching consists in removing a strip of bark 3-5 cms long. A similar strip is removed from scion shoot. They are tied together. After about 30 to 40 days the root stock is cut just above the grafted scion. This is however, a cumbersome and

expensive method and needs to be replaced by veneer grafting.

In veneer method, scion sticks are cut right from the mother plant and grafted on the seedlings growing in the nursery. In both stock and scion, about 3 cm slanting cut is given, then tied together and wrapped. When scion begins to sprout, the upper part of the stock is removed. One can prepare his own grafts, even if he has no mother plant. About 2 to 3 year seedling can be utilized and two or more varieties grafted on same seedling stock.

THE INFERIOR variety of seedling tree can be converted into superior variety by the method 'top working'. About 10 to 15 year old trees are headed back up to secondary branch level during March and the new shoots developed are grafted by veneer grafting during June-July. The tree will start bearing again within two years.

The best time to plant mango seedlings is during the *Monsoon*. In the heavy rainfall areas, the mangoes are best planted near the end of the best time for planting. The pit of about 1 x 1 x 1 meter is dug out and filled with soil and manure and watered. The planting distance may range from 8-13 meter apart depending on the spread of the variety.

No water is required during monsoon, except in the dry weather. From the second year water may be given to the young

trees at fortnightly intervals and during hot season at the interval of 4-6 days. In north-India, bearing trees are not watered before flowering.

About 9 kg of a fertiliser mixture should be applied to each tree in two doses, one in July and the other in February along with an application of 3 kg of farm yard manure in October. Ammonium sulphate 6.81 kg, super phosphate 20.43 kg, potassium sulphate 5.44 kg and magnesium sulphate 4.99 kg should be used.

THE YOUNG mango grafts may begin to flower during the first year of planting. All flowers that may appear during the first three years should be removed as soon as they appear. The grafted mango begins to bear fruits from the 4th to 5th year of planting. In mango, fruit drop is often very severe in the early stages.

Mango trees do not bear normal crop every year. They bear only one good crop in two years. This is known as *biennial bearing*. De-blossoming partially regulates the crop.

Hoppers is the most serious pest of mango. It may destroy the entire crop by sucking the sap. The pest can be controlled by spraying the trees with 0.25 per cent DDT or 0.03 per cent Malathion.

Mealy Bug is a soft white insect found on the tender shoots, from February to June, sucking the juice. Its eggs are found in the soil and should be destroyed by repeatedly raking up the soil from July to

October. The best control measure is to apply grease coaltar (1:2) in order to prevent them from climbing the tree. Spray of 0.1 per cent malathion also controls the insect. Dusting of 5 per cent DDT and 5 per cent sulphur on the flower clusters soon after the emergence of flowers helps control the disease—powdery mildew.



Spraying Checks Mango Disease

Anthracoase disease which sometimes causes failure of mango crop can be controlled with chemical sprays. The chemicals recommended are Capan and Zindo (Zn dithiocarbonate) to be sprayed in the strength of 0.1 per cent before and after the flowers open. Five to six sprays in a year will be needed if the disease is likely to appear in a severe form. Attack of mango hoppers can be checked by spraying 0.25 per cent DDT or 0.03 per Malathion. One spray in winter and another in the spring before the opening of the flowers are recommended. The powdery mildew can be controlled by three sprays of wettable sulphur in spring at fortnightly intervals. Mango hoppers and powdery mildew, if left unchecked, can cause extensive damage to mango crop.

TOPICAL

Biological Control of Aquatic Weeds

IRRIGATION and drainage systems which are infested with aquatic weeds causing obstruction to the free flow of water can be cleared in the shortest possible time through the application of biological control methods at practically no cost. This was demonstrated to the Planning Commission Task Force by UNDP experts working in the Chambal Command Area, in a village near Kotah (Rajasthan) in India. The 18-member Task Force was appointed by the Planning Commission in October 1971 to study the working of various rural and agricultural development schemes in the country and to suggest ways and means for their quick and successful implementation in an integrated manner.

The aquatic weeds restrict the flow of water in field channels and drains. Many control measures have been tried so far both in India and in many other countries for controlling these weeds. Application of chemical weedicides proved to be highly injurious to the fish, and made water unfit for human consumption. Mechanical

weed control methods proved very costly.

Ultimately, it was found biological control through 'grass carps' which feed on aquatic weeds is the safest, most effective and cheapest of all the methods. Such fish eat up in a day as much weeds as their own body weight, and not only help to keep irrigation channels and drains clear of weeds but also provide valuable food for human beings. The project authorities are planning to put large numbers of this fish in all the canals and drains of the Command Area of the Chambal Project.

The biological control method which was tried over a pilot area of about 150 acres has proved to be extremely popular with the farmers. The example has been so exciting that other farmers in the vicinity applied to the project authorities to initiate similar improvements on their own lands on cost basis to be repaid by them in easy instalments over a period of ten years.

Encouraged by the results of the pilot projects, the Rajasthan Government has already formulated a scheme for the development of 45,000 acres by 1976.

POULTRY

On Layers and Liers

CAN a hen lay two eggs a day? Which is better in quality—the white egg or the brown?

Which is the best breed of birds for egg production? It is possible to get two eggs in 24 hours from a hen by adopting special intensive rearing techniques—by exposing the bird incessantly to bright light all the time and feeding it adequately.

A variety in egg colour often relieves the monotony but the colour of the outer shell has nothing to do with the nutritive properties or the flavour of the contents. Eggs from birds which have no access to cocks are styled as vegetarian to denote they have no live embryo. Consumption of such eggs involve no killing but they are as nutritive as the eggs laid after fertilisation by the hen. The only snag is that eggs laid by hens, not covered by a cock, cannot be used for hatching.

THE PROFITABILITY of a poultry venture depends primarily on the quality of birds, chosen for rearing. The poultry is the quickest converter of feed into protein-rich food and the more efficient breed is termed as layers while others which merely consume feed and waste time, money and energy, are termed liars. Short beak, bright bulging eyes, large fine warm combs and soft thin silky skin. The liars are quite opposite, having small, cold and coarse combs, long beak, dull sunken eyes, and round head, like crows.

The proper site of poultry has a direct bearing on the profitability of the enterprise

and another, perhaps, the most important factor, is the quality of the feed. Feed is 80 per cent of the cost of the eggs. By proper management, the quantity just necessary for the birds to keep trim and lay well, can be provided and wastage avoided. Quite often loss in poultry is due to indifferent handling of feeds and wastage, particularly when servants are employed to handle them.

Birds understand and respond to kind treatment. Personal attention pays good dividends. According to one of the experts, poultry venture is like catching the tail of a tiger. Once you have gone in for it, there is no going back. One has to keep on attending to it or lose heavily. The person who manages the flock must have a way with the birds. Even moody birds can be coaxed into production by proper attention.

British Rice Dryer to Help Overcome Harvesting Problem

A RICE dryer, designed by the Tropical Products Institute, part of Britain's Overseas Development Administration

is being sent to Thailand to help overcome the problems of harvesting rice in the wet season. Mr. G. S. Pinson, an engineer from TPI's Industrial Development Department at Culham, flies to Thailand tomorrow, 24 June, to test the dryer under local conditions. He will be based in Bangkok at the Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand on a technical assistance assignment lasting about two months.

The TPI dryer, which has a diesel-driven fan, raises the air temperature by about six degrees Centigrade, and has been specially modified for attaching to silos which have been developed locally. These are ferro-concrete storage containers, roughly conical in shape, which can accommodate between $3\frac{1}{2}$ and seven tons of rice. Normally, after harvest in the dry season, the paddy is dried in the sun for several days to reduce the moisture content. It can then be safely stored in the silos, which are hermetically sealed to prevent pest infestation and other losses and milled when required.

Harvesting in the wet season introduces the problem of storing and milling undried paddy, and so the TPI dryer has been designed to dry rice actually in the silo. Laboratory trials at the TPI have shown that air must be blown through a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -ton-capacity silo for about three days to achieve the required drop in moisture content of the rice.

FOR THE RECORD

Speeches at the Peking Banquet

PRIME MINISTER

SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE'S SPEECH

Following is the full text of the speech made by the Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike at a banquet in Peking's Great Hall of the People on Sunday June 25th.

I FEEL deeply honoured and happy to be present here today in your midst and permit me to thank you, your Excellency, the government and the people of China for extending this invitation and giving me the opportunity of visiting your country. I also wish to thank you for the warmth and scale of the reception accorded to me as well as your very kind words of welcome. I appreciate that these are a spontaneous expression of the good-will of your government and people to me personally and to my country.

I am also delighted to return to your beautiful city of gracious buildings, parks and land-scapes and see it in its summer glory. As you know this is not my first visit to your country. I was last here in January 1963 but on that occasion I came in connection with the initiative of the Colombo Powers in the capacity of their emissary.

Today I am here in my own right as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to convey to you the thanks and good-will of the government and people of Sri Lanka for the friendship and good-will extended to them by the government and people of the People's Republic of China.

MANY important events have taken place in the world and in both our countries since then and as far as your country is concerned, a significant event, I should say, is the restoration, after many years of waiting, of your lawful rights in the United Nations.

Permit me to take this opportunity once again to felicitate you on this great event which was a momentous one both in the history of the United Nations and I should say, of the modern world.

Your entry was a matter of personal gratification to us not only because of our friendship for your country but also as it was the successful culmination of efforts which we had been pursuing with other nations for many years in support of your lawful claims.

Your membership in the United Nations will, as we have

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always maintained, enrich that Organisation and enable it to benefit from the wisdom and experience of one of the oldest and greatest civilisations of the world. It will afford an opportunity for the People's Republic of China to contribute its own distinctive outlook and genius towards giving the United Nations a new orientation and finding new directions in which it could develop.

WE TOO in our country have been recently celebrating a major event in our history when we inaugurated the Republic of Sri Lanka on the 22nd of May. This step represented in our view a landmark in our evolution as a free and independent nation. This is, therefore an appropriate moment at which to take a brief look at the past.

One of the highlights of our history as an independent state has been the very friendly and cordial relations which we have maintained with the People's Republic of China and the friendship extended to us by her.

Our relations, in fact, go back to historical times when there was considerable cultural exchange between our two countries, marked by visits of distinguished scholars.

After independence, our relations have been unique in that Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to extend diplomatic recognition and establish trade relations with your country. The Rubber-Rice Agreement, which was concluded is in for-

ce to this day and has been in fact, one of the corner-stones of our foreign trade policy.

IN RECENT times, these ties have been greatly strengthened and enlarged and Sri Lanka has been the recipient of a large and generous volume of economic assistance given on the most liberal terms which are outstanding in the annals of aid to developing countries.

In this respect, the Government of China as been faithful to the eight principles which it has enunciated as the basis for the grant of aid to foreign countries.

Your aid programme has taken the form of credits, outright gifts, participation in joint services and technical assistance. One of its highlights is the construction of the Bandaranaike International Conference Hall by which you intended to honour the memory of my late husband. It is an embodiment of his abiding faith in internationalism and the brotherhood of man, as well as a realisation of a wish which was dear to his heart that Sri Lanka could some day serve as a meeting ground for the nations of the world.

For this gift, I am particularly and personally thankful to you, your Excellency, for I remember your spontaneous offer to donate it on your visit to my country in 1944. I hope you will be able to come personally to Sri Lanka and see it when it is completed. The aid thus given to us by your

country in so many ways and on such generous terms have been an invaluable contribution to our economy in the context of the difficult and stringent times which we have been experiencing.

My government and people are, therefore, deeply grateful to you for your good-will towards us and one of the main purposes of my present mission is to express my thanks in person.

SRI LANKA looks forward to continued co-operation with your country in fields in which it would be mutually beneficial and appropriate to us. We could, I am sure, benefit from the store-house of your own untold experience acquired in the process of emerging from a state of a semi-feudal and colonial economy to that of a strong and self reliant nation.

This veritable economic miracle, which the country has achieved is, indeed, a tribute to the dedicated and sincere leadership of your country under the inspiration of Chairman Mao and the intense patriotism and devotion to duty evinced by the great people of China. They have set an example of dedication and determination which is worthy of admiration.

The good-will and friendship which you have shown is no doubt a reflection of the excellent relations and understanding existing between our two countries. *This relationship which is a source of much*

gratification to us, is also, in a sense unique in that it is an instance of friendship and co-operation between two countries of very unequal size and power.

For our part, our endeavour as a non-aligned nation is to seek the friendship and good-will of all nations irrespective of their size or ideology because it is our belief that as a small country our surest security is the good-will of all. A relationship based on mutual respect and good-will has sufficient substance to stand by itself without the need for formalisation.

We, therefore, sincerely appreciate the understanding which the People's Republic of China have shown in their relation with us and their scrupulous observance of the principles of mutual respect and non-interference. Our own faith in non-alignment as a policy which is suited to our interests had ample vindication during the insurgent movement of 1971 when many nations rallied to the support of my Government.

I WISH to thank you for a further manifestation of your good-will in the support which you gave to the proposal tabled by us at the last session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, for the declaration of a Peace Zone in the Indian Ocean. You were, in fact, the only permanent member of the Security Council to support our proposal.

Details of our proposal are well-known to you and I need not mention them here. We look forward to your continued support and co-operation to clear the many hurdles which lie ahead before our proposal becomes a reality.

I wish also to express concern about the continued state of international tension in the world. The situation in a number of areas continues to be very unsatisfactory and poses serious threats to world peace and security. In an atmosphere of international tension small countries like Sri Lanka which have pinned their faith in non-alignment and neutralism find themselves in a difficult situation in respect of their own security.

SRI LANKA in particular is in a vulnerable position because of her key geographical location in the Indian Ocean and the strategic role which she has played in the past in respect of the western colonial empires.

The solution, as we see, is not to backtrack on our commitment to non-alignment which as far as we are concerned is irrevocable but to go into the origin of the problem and consider the possibility of correcting it at the source.

These tensions are really a manifestation of the present order of international life and the state of power politics as we find it in the world today where a predominant position is occupied by the great pow-

ers. This fact combined with the monopoly which they possess of lethal weapons of mass destruction invest them virtually with the power of life and death over others and makes the future of world peace and of mankind increasingly contingent on the policies that they pursue. Thus in the last analysis our destinies depend on the extent to which they can settle whatever differences they may have and live in a spirit of amity on a basis of peaceful co-existence.

As non-aligned nations, committed to a policy of peace and goodwill, our earnest hope is that this will be possible. Our objectives should be to promote an atmosphere of peace and harmony throughout the world where big and small countries can co-exist and work together for the collective progress of mankind. We feel that the relationship which Sri Lanka has been able to establish with China is an example in this regard of how the great and small can combine.

Latterly there has been a trend in international relations for growing exchanges and contacts in spite of differences of social systems and ideologies which divide nations. As a non-aligned country, we welcome these developments. We are happy, for instance, that there is a progressive reduction of tension between the East and West in Europe as well as the East and West in the world. We hail the

visit of President Nixon to China as a historic watershed event that brought to an end the freeze in relations between the two great peoples of these countries. We welcome the recent accords reached in Moscow on the occasion of President Nixon's visit.

AT THE SAME time we like to believe that these developments in international affairs would also help to advance the progressive democratisation of international relations and that accommodation and understanding between big countries do not prejudice the interests of small States.

It is our view that small States have an important role to play in the world, particularly in defending the world order on the basis of the just principles of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

I wish to express our deep gratification for your support of the rights and dignity of small States in their resistance to hegemonic spheres of influence and any violation of their sovereignty, independence and equality.

As I have said already I have come here primarily to express my appreciation for the friendship and co-operation which your country has been extending to Sri Lanka and to learn from your experience in the field of economic development. It is my earnest hope that this friendship and co-operation

between our two countries will continue in the future.

I have also taken the opportunity to express a few thoughts on how a developing country like Sri Lanka in the political and geographical situation in which she finds herself feels about current trends and her future in relation to them.

I am overwhelmed by the friendship and cordiality shown to me, indeed showered on me. I know that these are not only intended for me personally but are also an expression of the friendship and goodwill between the people of Sri Lanka and the people of China.

Ladies and gentlemen—May I now call upon you to join me in a toast to the continued prosperity and success of the People's Republic of China, to the lasting friendship between the Governments and the people of Sri Lanka and China, to the health and happiness of the great leader of the Chinese people, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, to the health of His Excellency, Premier Chou En-lai, to the health of all distinguished Chinese leaders and officials present here, to the health of Their Excellencies, Ambassadors and Heads of Missions and their wives, to the health of all friends present here, to peace and prosperity among the peoples of the world.



Premier Chou's Speech

Speaking at the banquet given in Mrs. Bandaranaike's honour at Peking on June 25 Premier Chou En-lai had earlier said:

WE ARE very happy this evening to gather joyously with our well-acquainted, long-standing friend, Her Excellency Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, outstanding statesman of Sri Lanka and with the other distinguished guests from Sri Lanka. We are most thankful that shortly after the founding of the Republic of Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike has, in disregard of a tiring journey, come to China for a state visit, bringing with her the profound sentiments of friendship of the Sri Lanka people for the Chinese people.

Please allow me, on behalf of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Government and people, to extend a warm welcome to Her Excellency, the Prime Minister and the other distinguished guests from Sri Lanka. I wish also to take this opportunity to express once again our warm congratulations on the founding of the Republic of Sri Lanka and extend our cordial greetings to the people of Sri Lanka.

SRI LANKA is a beautiful country with abundant resources and ancient cultural traditions. The people of Sri Lanka are an industrious and valiant people, who have displayed a dauntless spirit in the prolonged struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

Since the independence of Sri Lanka, and particularly during the tenures of office of the late Prime Minister S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and the present Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike the Government and people of Sri Lanka have made unremitting efforts and achieved considerable successes in eliminating colonialist forces, safeguarding and consolidating national independence, opposing foreign control and interference and developing the national economy.

Defying brute force and persevering in her policy of independence, peace, neutrality and non-alignment, Sri Lanka has made positive contributions to the Afro-Asian people's cause of unity against imperialism.

At present the international situation is continuing to develop in the direction favourable to the people of all countries. The countries of the third world are playing an increasingly great role in international affairs.

We are firmly opposed to the power politics and hegemony of big nations bullying small ones or strong nations

bringing pressure to bear on weak ones. China will forever stand together with the countries of the third world in the struggle against aggression control, interference and subversion by the superpowers.

SINCE ANCIENT times there has existed a profound traditional friendship between the peoples of China and Sri Lanka. In the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, we have always sympathized with and supported each other. Soon after the founding of the People's Republic of China, Sri Lanka bravely broke through the blockade and embargo imposed by the imperialism and concluded a rice-rubber trade agreement with China thus giving China valuable support.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Sri Lanka, the friendship between our two peoples has made new progress and the political, economic and cultural co-operation and exchanges between our two countries have steadily increased. Her Excellency the Prime Minister's previous visit to China ten years ago left the Chinese people with cherished memories. My colleagues and I twice visited your country and were accorded by the government and people of Sri Lanka a warm welcome and kind hospitality, which made unforgettable impressions on our minds.

THE GOVERNMENT of Sri Lanka always stood for the

restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. For this I would like to take this opportunity once again to express our thanks. Facts prove that the friendly relations and co-operation between our two countries are based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence, and can stand test.

Just as Her Excellency the Prime Minister said not long ago, these relations were examples of friendly co-operation and a model of inter-state relations. We are confident that Her Excellency's present visit to China will surely further increase the friendship between our two peoples and the friendly relations and co-operation between our two countries.

I wish complete success to the visit of Her Excellency Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike! Now I propose a toast: To the continuous consolidation and development of the friendship between the peoples of China and Sri Lanka and the friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries; to the prosperity of the Republic of Sri Lanka and the wellbeing of her people; to the health of His Excellency President William Gopallawa; to the health of Her Excellency Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike; to the health of all the distinguished guests from Sri Lanka; to the health of His Excellency Duong Sam Ol, Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of

CHINA

Birth Control in Mao's China

by RICHARD RESTON

Peking,

BIRTH control is a major pre-occupation in China these days. It is a revolutionary duty for the family and a matter of first priority for the state. Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Premier Chou En Li and the rest of the Chinese leadership backed the concept of family planning as far back as 1951. But it was not until 1962 that birth control really began to take hold.

Today, China's birth rate appears to be slowing down. And while the Chinese do not offer many statistics to support this claim, they do talk about the problem openly. They readily admit that population control is crucial to the economic health of the nation. Failure in this field could jeopardize the present drive toward improved living standards through rapid industrial and agricultural expansion.

FOR THE RECORD

from P. 14

Cambodia, and Mme. Duong Sam Ol, to the health of the heads of diplomatic missions and their wives present and to the health of our friends and comrades.

What is evident to the American visitor in China is the massive state effort to meet both the challenge and the threat of uncontrolled population growth. The objective of family planning is kept before the people at all times. Propaganda billboards on family planning appear in the streets of major cities. Clinics, hospitals, factories and "barefoot doctors" in the countryside are all engaged in a nationwide effort to change the thinking and the tradition of the Chinese people.

The country's population already is estimated at between 750 million and 800 million people. The Chinese account for nearly one person in every four in the world today.

THE SUBJECT of population comes up everywhere the visitor goes in China. Dr. Lin Chiao-chi, perhaps the country's leading gynaecologist, talks at length about the problem in Peking's capital hospital. So do revolutionary committee officials at workers' settlements in Nanking and Shanghai. Leading members of people's communes in the countryside near Hangchow and Canton are equally concerned.

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Dr. Lin says that family planning sections were set up in most hospitals and clinics by 1956. A more serious effort to bring about a decline in population growth began in 1963. At that time medical teams were sent into rural areas to educate the peasants about family planning and to perform sterilization operations where necessary. By 1969, family planning was considered an essential state objective.

Dr. Lin, a charming and still active woman at age 70, is convinced that the Chinese women are more aware of the need for birth control, particularly since the 1966-1968 Cultural Revolution.

"People know more about birth control, and they want it and even pray for it," she said. "Women want to be free to work for the country."

As head of the gynaecological department at Peking's capital hospital, Dr. Lin offers some further insight into China's present demographic pattern.

She says that infant mortality was running at more than 100 per 1,000 people at the time of the Communist rise to power in 1949. The figure later dropped to between 40 and 50 per 1,000. By 1965, it was down to 25 for every 1,000 persons. The present Peking average is 17 to 18 per 1,000. The figure in Shanghai is closer to 9 per 1,000.

ON POPULATION growth, Dr. Lin says that some years ago the rate was 40 or more per 1,000 people. That figure

has now dropped to 17 or 18 in Peking. According to Dr. Lin, the hope is to bring the present rate of population growth down to 10 per 1,000 in the cities and 15 per 1,000 in the country under the current five year plan.

She is convinced that traditional Chinese attitudes on children and the size of the family are changing, though she admits that the process is slower and more difficult among the peasants. Family planning is becoming a new way of life. "Old China was a nation of individual families," Dr. Lin said, "New China is one large family. The whole country is a family. People want to join that family to construct the New China. The women want to work."

Birth control pills and contraceptive devices such as the ring and diaphragm are provided in China free of charge, as are abortions. Sterilization operations are done on a voluntary basis. Doctors in Peking say the number of this operation sterilized people is increasing is still performed mainly on women.

THOSE wanting abortions can receive them in neighborhood clinics. After the operation they rest for two hours and are then sent home with 10 days vacation.

Doctors are experimenting with the ancient Chinese practice of acupuncture—the use of needles at strategic points in the body—to induce abortions. The results are said to be poor thus far. Dr. Lin is

- ★ Ceylon, a Desert?
- ★ Across the Ages
- ★ Science Fiction
- ★ Sri Lanka

by AGASTYA

ON JUNE 13 the *Ceylon Daily News* published a report with a heading which should have made anybody sit up. It read: CEYLON, TOO, MAY BECOME A PART OF MAN-MADE DESERT. Unfortunately, the report was tucked away in an insignificant corner of the paper but what it said, though known to a few, was most revealing. This is what the *Daily News* report stated:

"Will parts of Ceylon become Earth's next man-made desert? According to a report by the District Representative

experimenting with 22 day birth control pill, a pill that would be taken once a month. Tests have been run on some 5,000 people in the Peking area over the last year and a half.

Results are said to be highly satisfactory, though there is still some concern about the possible side effect of high blood pressure. Dr. Lin is confident that doubts on this point will be overcome in the near future and that the pill will then go into general use throughout China.

of the Wild Life and Nature Protection Society we are doing just the thing that could result in this."

The *Daily News* then went on to give a very brief summary of the main argument in the Report of the Wild Life and Nature Protection Society. What it said had been said several times before, the first time being in a Report of a British colonial agricultural officer, nearly a hundred years ago. This official had stated that the denudation of the forests around the watershed and catchment area around the Adam's Peak Wilderness would ruin Ceylon's agriculture in the Dry Zone. He predicted soil erosion, floods owing to the quick run-off of water from hills, and all the other ills which have overtaken this country. I do not know whether the present Report of the Wild Life and Nature Protection Society refers to the old report (I believe the official ended up either as Director of Agriculture or the Curator of Peradeniya), but this Britisher had suggested that the Peak Wilderness should be reafforested

without delay. The CDN report went on: "According to this report felling of forest over 5,000 feet in elevation continues unabated. The Government is taking the path of least resistance by regularising these encroachments. The report urges the Government to take immediate action to eject all unauthorised squatters and reforest their clearings. The report also calls for top priority in preserving in toto the Peak Wilderness, the Pedro forests and the Horton Plains. The most immediate adverse effect of the denudation of montane forests is on the climate, according to the Report. This has been amply demonstrated by one of the worst droughts on record experienced over the first three months of this year. In addition, it states, the tea estates in the Nuwara Eliya District have had very bad attacks of frost on their tea owing to the lack of humidity in the atmosphere.

The report also warns of possible dwindling of the water resources. The montane forests are catchment areas for the major rivers and if these are deforested it will affect the dry-weather flow of these rivers. Deforestation of these mountains will also alter the ecology of the entire area and fauna and flora peculiar to these areas may disappear for ever"

What the UF government will do I do not know. But it must be borne in mind that no Land Reform will be benefi-

cial unless the dangers and problems arising from the denudation of the Peak Wilderness were eradicated.

THE TRAGEDY which has befallen Ceylon—it is indeed a real tragedy—is only another example of how Man has mismanaged his affairs, since he began conscious life on this earth. It is surprising how Man has managed to survive so long with so much fundamental mismanagement. In the various advances made by him over the centuries, he has complicated his simple existence on this planet. When, at the dawn of civilisation, Man came out of the jungles to the plains and the river valleys to grow, multiply and garner the grains, it was thought to be a great advance over the practice of plucking the ripe fruit from the tree and dropping it unwashed into his mouth. At that time, little did he know that he would be tipping the balance of nature one day and thereby causing untold agony to future generations.

Even in the old days, Man's greatest problem was the inundating of rivers. So Man, simple that he was, worshipped the rivers in all the cradles of civilisation, in the Euphrates, the Nile and the Gangetic Valleys. He thought that this would be adequate. But in another region, in the basin of the Yellow River, man learned to build a dyke across the river in an attempt to tame the waters and its seasonal fury. The remains of these dykes built 5000

years ago are still extant.

Man has undoubtedly changed a great deal from those far off days. He also has a great many things to his credit. In the early days, he cooked his food in clay dishes, but today he has copper-bottomed stainless steel vessels, together with teflon-coated frying pans, the electric grill, the dough-mixing machine and pre-cooked canned *buriyani*. The ballpoint pen, for instance, is a great advance over the clay tablet and the goose quill. (But a ballpoint can leave a stain on a clean shirtfront and removing these stains constitute a major operation. The delicate and washable ballpoint ink must soon follow the indelible).

MODERN CIVILISATION has become complicated. The moment something is invented or is discovered to eliminate some earlier trouble, something else happens which sets everything into a further muddle. Everything has always gone round in circles. The hippies wanted to end all this by reviving some of the more inoffensive ancient attitudes centred around various *-isms* of the past. But their *mod* ideology (and theology), their long hair, their permissiveness, and all the rest of the hippy mumbo-jumbo are extremely difficult to acquire—especially by those who have had the benefit (or misfortune) of a conventional education and a conventional way of life. The hair can grow but the grey matter underneath

nearly always refuses to unlearn or to change.

In this context, happiness is something difficult to attain. It is only when we begin to realise that science and "progress" have done nothing to improve the original lot of the ordinary man we can see the first glimmer of happiness. Periodic improvements effected on the *abacus* (another invention of the Yellow Race) have helped man to reach the Moon, and even the astrologer has updated his ancient profession with its help. But the ordinary man is where he was from the dawn of time so far as the sum total of happiness is concerned. An attitude that nothing mattered, except the simple act of living can alone infuse happiness into the human mind and soul (if the use of the term *soul* is permitted in this age).

The matter does not end here. What of the future?

ECOLOGISTS, geneticists, biologists and more specially Science Fiction writers have made approximations of what the world might be like a few thousand years hence. Life, then, after several mutations, would have become totally unrecognisable. The species we knew now, the *homo Sapiens*, would have either died out or taken unexpected turns up the lanes of evolution to adapt themselves to completely changed circumstances.

It is possible that man would have shrunk, in the course of genetic mutations, to no

more than 18 inches in height. And it is just possible that one single banyan tree occupies the entire face of the earth, its countless trunks growing everywhere. The mountains and valleys are submerged under its dense foliage. The sea, with its acidic salinity, alone keeps the banyan tree at bay. The continents have joined together to form one single land mass, or in other words one single tree mass. The tree itself will exist in several layers. Its lower levels are buried in a vast swamp inhabited by carnivorous plants fighting and eating one another.

I am taking a few paragraphs out of science fiction, and this is how the story goes: "The massive branches of the tree support certain forms of animal life, and man lives among the branches, in small communities built around accumulations of water collected in the hollows of the tree. Vast beetles, several times the size of the shrunken man, hunt him. Gargantuan flowers lift off the matted top surface of forest, and rise as far as the moon. The sun itself is burning out, an impotent dwarf hanging radiantly above the green earthscape ..

"After setting the scene, and explaining away its anomalies and contradictions, the science fiction writer sets about to create a 'human' drama in the forest. In the process he invents a civilization. But human wants, human love and human hate remain. Our emotions and our intellect are

made to live in an environment which can never truly be ours..."

Science Fiction (SF) takes us into realms which are several light years away (SF has a jargon all its own). In a sense Science Fiction is escapism particularly to the weary scientific mind grappling with time, space, dimension and topology (and now ecology). So the elite among our intellectuals and scientists turn to Science Fiction. It gives them mental relaxation—in a neat world where science is accepted as providing final and satisfying answers. Take for instance a world, this time, several light years away, but inhabited by 'people'. They have five little, 'Suns' in their brown sky, and darkness is totally unknown... except for a brief spell once every thousand years when all the Suns disappear by some celestial quirk, when simultaneous eclipses take place. The eclipse, the darkness, is the visitation of God on which their religion is based. During the darkness, men go mad with fear, they use everything they can lay their hands upon to light fires to keep the darkness away, and their world is consumed by fires. Those who survive the holocaust transmit its knowledge through the generations, and they build their civilizations anew, on the ashes of the earlier one, only to be consumed once again by another conflagration. The cycle is then broken by the emergence of 'science', which explains the eclipse.....

Even to the layman, the distortions and the unrealities provide unfulfilled escapism. Sometimes they help him to see his own puny self in its puny setting in the perspective of the *cosmos*.

Science Fiction has sometimes anticipated the problems of man. Jules Verne created the undersea craft he named the *Nautilus* in his imagination, but within a few years the submarine became a reality. Arthur Clarke in his Science Fiction in 1945 stated that satellites would bounce back radio signals. He now lives to see them work in a global satellite communications system. Clarke had also predicted that man would land on the Moon in the fifties. Though he was out by a few years, many of his predictions have come true. Clarke had also stated that by the year 2000 AD man would be the equal of the gods, thus bestowing immortality on mere man.

To the addict of science fiction, problems of hunger, war, jealousy, anger, love and religion do not exist except as segments of fiction. According to these scientists all these problems mentioned above had been solved a long time ago, but that political man had not yet been able to cope up with these problems through institutional devices to eliminate these *Mudalalis*. And science fiction hints that the present mess in the world today was due to the politicians. If the scientist was permitted to organise a world of technocratic

excellence, all these evils would disappear. In science fiction we do not have the man of anger, greed, selfishness and the like. They exist only in the politician's world. Science fiction has created a world of man without anger prompting him to aggressive acts. Science fiction transports us to a world where present emotional, economic and other problems have no relation to reality.

In Ceylon we have no indigenous science fiction as yet to make us forget the realities of the day. But in Sri Lanka we have instances of curious human behaviour and the two news items below speak for themselves.

IN SRI LANKA: The *Ceylon Daily Mirror* of 18th September, 1971 reported under the heading **EVEN WREATHS ARE NOT SAFE** that:

"EVEN wreaths and flowers placed by the graves of the dead are no longer safe. What's more this ghoulish plunder of treasured tokens of grief and respect goes on under the very eyes of the cemetery authorities. The frate protests of the close relatives of the dead have made little or no impression on the cemetery authorities who say that they have no authority to stop it as these wreaths are placed on no man's property.

"Mrs. S. P. Jayasuriya, wife of the former Director of Education, told the '*Daily Mirror*' of the harrowing experience she had after her husband's

funeral. Being in no frame of mind to examine the many wreaths, sent individually she had postponed the task for the following day. Much to her surprise and grief she found only a heap of earth when she came back to her husband's grave the following day.

"Mrs. Jayasuriya said "I have an eight year old daughter who may not remember the occasion unless there were a few snap shots to show her when she was older. But when we arrived at the spot we did not find a single wreath there. Among the many wreath's were one placed by the German Ambassador and one by the Minister of Education with his personal message of condolence."

"When Mrs. Jayasuriya complained to the relevant authorities they had told her that they were helpless and even mentioned a previous incident, very similar to her experience. They had also told once when they had seen a man carrying away two wreaths along the road and informed a police officer on duty, he had asked them to inform the police station as he had no authority to charge the thief."

And, on June 14, 1971, The *Ceylon Observer* reported under the heading **KASIPPU HAUL FROM KANATTE** that:

"The Colombo Central Vice-Squad made a haul of kasippu which was being sold near the head-stones of the dead buried in the Kanatte Cemetery,

this week. When the Vice-Squad team led by Sub-Inspector Ignatius Perera swooped down, a man was busy selling the "devil's brew" to about 15 people squatting around him, under a tree, in the falling light of the evening:

"A priest who had visited his mother's grave at this time was shocked to find that the illicit hooch was being sold at the identical spot. The priest daily visits the grave since his mother died a month ago. According to the police, the Kanatte Cemetery was selected for selling kasippu since it was easy to escape if the police detected the sales. Earlier the cemetery was used only to conceal kasippu. A police spokesman said yesterday that certain Municipal employees were in connivance with those who sold kasippu in the cemetery. He added that very often, police had found that grave diggers were giving signals to the kasippu sellers to bolt away, when the Vice-Squad approached.

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Lanka

by J. R. SINNATAMBY

THE INTEREST now evinced concerning one of the names by which Ceylon has been known from ancient times, namely *Lanka*, it would appear that the following extract from my work "Ceylon in Retrospect" may interest your readers. In the chapter dealing with some names of Ceylon I have referred to this as follows.

"According to investigations made by me this word '*Lanka*' is not a name of Ceylon as such but a name which is synonymous with the word 'island'. This is a word that appears to have been applied to small islands formed in the estuaries and mouths of rivers and in large marshy areas. My reasons and authorities for the above statement are as follows.

Kiepert (*Ancient Geography*) has pointed out that the word '*Lanka*' is not an Aryan name. The inference is that it is a word given to the island by the people of South India which adjoins Ceylon, but actually Ceylon is referred to in most inscriptions in South India as *Ilam, Elam*,

Abreu (*The Indian Antiquary*, 1884, *Buddhist Legends*) has pointed out Lanka as the name first known to Aryans

who went there.

Mendis has pointed out (*Early History of Ceylon*, P 7) that *Lanka* means island by which he presumably means it is synonymous with the word island.

That different islands in the Maldives were also called *Lanka* is clear from the following extracts from an article "Excerpts *Moldiviana*" by Bell (JRASCB, Vol. 31, 1950, P 555). It would appear, in this article also, that Ceylon is also referred to as *Lanka*. As there were several islands, they had to be distinguished by various distinguishing descriptions as "Here", "There", as in the case of the Lankas in the delta of the river Godavary, dealt with in the sequel.

The extract is as follows, "The employment in Lomafana No. 2 of the term "Lakka", as synonymous with "Divvhi Rajje" of a later period, to denominate the 'Maldivian realm', finds valuable collateral support in the Bodugala Miskit Lomafanu; in which distinct reference is made to more than one "Lakka"—"Aahilakka Mahilakka"; Lanka the "Far" (literally there) and the "Near" (literally "Here").

These terms may cover the Lakkadives and Maldives Island Group—unless (not impossibly) 'Aahilakka' denoted Ceylon itself'.

Further evidence pointing to the use of the word '*Lanka*' meaning an island in general is provided in an article on "Bandar-Maha-Lanka". (*The*

Ceylon Antiquary and Literary Register, Vol: IV, P 227), an extract from which reads as follows, "Burnouf speaks also of Bandar Mahalanka. Discussing the situation of Nagadipa he says that there is a Nagalanka, a Pootalanka, and a Bandar Mahalanka not far from each other at the mouths of the Godavary and the Krishna, and concludes from it that the name Lanka (which is the name of Ceylon), with or without Naga is of frequent use on that coast, and direct communication with Ceylon in ancient times".

Burnouf says he found these names in a very detailed map in which one of the mouths of the Godavary is marked "Bandermalanka River", only it is Bandermalanka and not Bandar Mahalanka.

If now to complete our research we look up the Imperial Gazetteer of India, XII, we find the following; "once through the hills the river (Godavary) again opens out and forms a series of broad reaches dotted with low alluvial islands (lankas), which are famous for the tobacco they produce", P 298. It would appear that—lanka, as found in Nagalanka, Pootalanka, Bandar Mahalanka, has nothing to do with *Sri Lanka*. As regards Bandar Maha Lanka there is only this:

Discussing further the history of the word Bandar Maha Lanka the article says "This is however not the only occasion in which Burnouf and Tennent were both misled by the name Lanka. Tennent said that

'the Hindus, in their system of the universe, had given prominent importance to Ceylon, their first meridian, "the Meridian of Lanka" being supposed to pass over the island. And Burnouf wrote: "Less geographers indients...font pasur leur premier meridien a Langka." This however created difficulty for the Meridian passes through Ujjein and if it passed through Ceylon the ancient Lanka must either have been further to the West, or it extended Westwards, both of which Burnouf discusses at learned length.

But a modern and very reliable authority on Indian Chronology, Dewas Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai, says very explicitly that the Lanka of the ancient geographers was not Ceylon but an imaginary island. For purposes of calculation they imagined an island to be on the equator at the same longitude as Ujjein and named it Lanka.

The reference to Lanka as being an imaginary island is of interest, as in point of fact there is a place by the name of Lanka-puri in the Maldives which also interesting enough has the longitude of about 75° 20' passing through it in close approximation to that of Ujjein (abt 75° 59').

This point is touched on by Bell in page 555 of the JRA-SCB vol. 31, 1930, where he said "A further curious point—may be purely accidental but nonetheless not to be ignored even if a strange coincidence only—in connection with

Lanka Puri' as the presumed Capital of Rawana's "Raksasa Dipa" is the actual existence of an island at the present day .. now written and pronounced 'Lankau-puri which lies on the Eastern Roof of North Male Atol'. On this point Forbes makes this observation which further confirms the existence then of a Lanka Pura in the Maldive and Laka—dive islands. He says (vol. 2, P 259), "It is no unnatural conjecture that the Maldive and Laka-dive islands were at one time dependencies on Lanka, when its capital of Sri Lanka peera was in longitude 75° 53' 15" E".

The confusion over the actual meanings of the Lankas in the Godavary delta and again of Ceylon with the Lanka of the ancient geographers, is readily clarified, if we accept that Lanka is simply a word which is synonymous with island and has therefore been applied to several islands. In fact even today there is an island off the Malay Peninsula which is Lankaw (Mc Craw's Atlas, 64—65, B 9).

That the word Lanka has been used for islands in deltas and marshy areas in a general sense even in Europe is confirmed by Lahovary Dravidian Origins and the West, P 285), where he says "A related form, always with the meaning of a marshy ground, of an easily flooded valley, of low ground near a river; can be observed in the dialects of North Italy, with lanca; in Rum; with

lunca (wrongly considered as of Slav origin). In Spain and chiefly in central Spain, we find various localities with the name of Lanka, considered as pre-Roman denomination by Menendez Pidal (pref. of Avila, Soria, Cuenca, Saragossa). In the Nearness dial; lenghuc is a marshy place. We meet with the same term, having the same meaning, in the Dravidian regions of the eastern shores of the Deccan, Lanka, for the low lands of the deltas of the coastal rivers (Nila kartha Sastri)."

It is of interest to note that Lanka is not given as a name of Ceylon, by any of the Hellenic geographers or historians (Winstedt, "Commas Indoplistes", P 352). This confirms not only that Lanka is not a name of Ceylon as such but also the accuracy and discernment with which Hellenic writers have prepared their records.

Since writing the above interesting evidence that Ceylon has been known as Lanka to the North Indians is provided by an article written by Professor Iman of the University of Peradeniya pertaining to Iran and Ceylon. He has stated that in the Hindi language the name for cardamom is Lanka. This drew my attention to an observation made by Professor Rabin, of the Hebrew University of Israel, when reading a paper on Tamil words in the Hebrew Bible, at the International Conference of Tamil Studies, at Madras, in January 1968, that the name Elam of

Senkaku Islands Issue Simmers in Japan

by ELIZABETH POND

ASLOW-BURNING CRISIS may be developing over the technicalities of who really owns the Senkaku Islands located to the northeast of Taiwan.

So far the Senkakus issue appears to be an irritant rather than a major bone of contention between Japan and the U.S., diplomatic sources suggest.

American officials are uncertain just where the repeated comments by Foreign Minister Takeo Fukuda are leading, however. Diplomats see a danger of escalation from the momentum either of domestic politics or increasing friction between Tokyo and Washington.

The uninhabited but potentially oil-rich Senkaku Islands, located between Okinawa and Taiwan, are claimed concurrently by Japan, Communist China, and the Republic of China. The U. S. has administered these islands since the end of

Ceylon is associated with the name for Cardamom which is also Elam. Apparently Ceylon has been associated in various parts in India with cardamoms for which Ceylon has been famous.

World War II as a part of the Ryukyu Islands (Okinawa and its surrounding islands). The U. S. is returning the Ryukyus (and the Senkakus) to Japanese administration on May 15, but it has reserved its position on the legal ownership of the Senkakus. It says only that it is returning administration of the Senkakus to the country from which it took over in 1945.

Paradoxically, however (as the Japanese are quick to point out), the U. S. will continue to use a bombing range on the islands under its security treaty with Japan.

Japan is unhappy with American neutrality on the subject and would like to have Washington endorse its claims. Mr. Fukuda has made several statements to this effect in the past two days. On Wednesday he was reported as saying in the Diet that Tokyo might make a strong protest to Washington if American ambiguity continues.

IT IS DIFFICULT to determine the exact context and meaning of Mr. Fukuda's words, however. Earlier, he reportedly told the Diet that he would not ask for American support for Japan's territorial claims,

on the grounds that the islands so clearly belong to Japan that no American endorsement is necessary.

Some foreign diplomats think they detect a co-ordinated position on the Senkakus that has been thought in advance by the Foreign Ministry. The ministry, however, has not yet made a formal approach to the U. S., informed sources report.

Mr. Fukuda might be making his statements on the Senkakus for the benefit of domestic politics. He is widely considered to be the front-runner to succeed Prime Minister Eisaku Sato this year. However, he has been losing ground recently, both in garnering party votes and on the glamorous China issue. In these areas Mr. Fukuda's chief rival within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, International Trade and Industry Minister Kakuei Tanaka, has been making rapid gains.

The Foreign Minister has therefore shown himself eager to take modest initiatives that would show he is not totally bound to the pro-Taiwan and pro-American policies of the LDP's right wing, with which Mr. Fukuda is associated. Equally, he has shown himself eager to publicise his experience in Mr. Tanaka's weak spot, foreign affairs.

IN THIS CONTEXT Japan's claim to the Senkakus is an ideal popular issue for Mr. Fukuda, as it is the one aspect of the China dispute on which

practically all Japanese are united. The Communist Party is reserving its position, but the other opposition parties—no matter how strong their pro-Peking impulses—support Japan's territorial claims. So also does the generally pro-Peking press.

An alternative interpretation of Mr. Fukuda's statements on the U. S. and the Senkakus might be found in increased friction and non-communication between Japan and the U. S. Ever since the "Nixon shocks" of last year, working contacts between the two countries have deteriorated. Thus, to some Japanese politicians and bureaucrats, Washington has appeared to be bringing deliberate, concerted pressure on Tokyo in the realms of China policy and economic policy.

Moreover, Japan has found the U.S. with holding major and minor information from it (as well as speaking with different tongues in the State Department, Defense Department and White House). Whether by reflex or by design, Japan has begun to reciprocate and to withhold information from the U. S. that it would have shared freely in the past.

So far the spat has been confined to minor issues, and it may be that the Senkakus fit into this pattern.

Some diplomats, however, fear unintentional escalation of the issue. Whether the dynamics of the Senkakus flurry are to be found in domestic politics or in a Tokyo-Washington

tiff, a momentum might develop that would be difficult to stop.

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*You say you don't believe in God,
That you alone are master of your fate;
You say the inner voice doth speak
If you renounce all claim.*

*It's not what we ourselves do say,
Disordered orderliness just came
To be what stars destined they should.
The source was One, that source all power.*

*You say there's nothing that you do
That cannot decide your fate;
We say we're helpless babes
With will depending Will.*

*That Will does make us poor
But rich with strength and grace.
You would do well to hide yourself
In Power's own comforting strength.*

Titus Handuna

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

Dont Judge China by Western Standards

THE plan for the Chinese welfare state was not written by Chairman Mao Tse-tung. The author was Mencius. The time was the Fourth Century B. C. The famous disciple of Confucius advised feudal lords to provide for the welfare of the old and helpless, to redistribute land in equal parcels to peasants and to provide a strong moral example for people to follow. He warned that the leader who failed to rule with justice, wisdom and humanity would lose the "mandate of heaven" and be overthrown.

While no Chinese emperor ever quite lived up to the Confucian ideal, the philosophy of Mencius and later Confucians influenced all Chinese history, including the last 25 years. Recent American visitors to

China stressed the vast changes that have taken place since the Communist takeover in 1949. But if Maoism marked a major break with China's past, the new society was cast in an old mould. And many features of traditional China survived, superficially changed, but still as Chinese as Peking duck.

If television newsmen had visited China in the centuries after Mencius, would they have found the Middle Kingdom as "drab," "regimented" and "conformist" as they described it last month? Perhaps. For they would have seen many similarities between China then and now.

Picture it. This is what you might have seen on your TV screen in 350 B.C.

A light snow is falling in a northern city, not yet the

Chinese capital. Thousands of Chinese volunteers are out sweeping the streets. It is customary here for able-bodied townsmen to contribute their labour to such efforts. In the warm season, masses of labourers work without pay on the great public works projects. The local dams and roads have all been built this way since 10,000 B. C. and now they have begun a stone wall along the northern frontier. Chinese planners say that the Great Wall is designed to keep out barbarians from the north. They say it will extend thousands of miles.

NOW for a visit with a typical Chinese family:

The Wang clan lives in a large, enclosed compound with a dozen, small dwelling units within the walls. Fifty Wangs live here together. The ideal Chinese family unit is not the nuclear family (father, mother and children) as in the West, but what anthropologists call the "extended family." This means that as many as four generations—and ideally five—live, work and eat together. Children grow up with many cousins, who are treated as brothers and sisters.

The men work together in the Wang field and contribute labour to maintain a public field in the middle of the village. The women do the cooking and washing, while the grandmother supervises the children. When the children are old enough they start studying Chinese with their learned grandfather.

The children receive a book of the sayings of Confucius. This they must memorize and recite in class every day. At first the classical aphorisms are meaningless to the children, but eventually they begin to understand the classical Chinese phrases and the teachings are internalized.

Confucius teaches that the good man works hard but subordinates his individual desires to the needs of the family and society. Younger brother respects older brother. Older brother respects father. Father respects rulers. Rulers respect the people. Good rulers serve as a moral example for all to imitate.

THE WANG children know that the way to get ahead is to study hard for the national exams. If they pass, they enter the bureaucracy which could send them to official posts in far regions of the kingdom.

To get ahead the Wang children must also be well-liked. To be well-liked in the community they must avoid dissent, disharmony and confrontation. They must submit to great social pressure to conform in all aspects of their behavior. Anyone who deviates loses face, a disgrace much more severe than "embarrassment," which is the usual translation of the Chinese term.

If a member of the Wang clan commits a crime, it is the responsibility of the family and village to punish him. Except for the most serious crimes, this usually means the criminal faces the scorn of his family and townsmen. Some men commit suicide rather than lose face like this. Others leave town. Some are reformed by the group pressure.

In the case of a more serious crime like murder, if the family neglects its duty to discipline the criminal, any other family member can be punished in place of the guilty relative. This means that every man watches out for his brother, not only to protect his brother, but to protect himself as well. As a result, there is very little privacy. One of the graceful steps which provide ex-man's business is in a very real sense the business of everybody else in his family.

Although the Wang children learn early that education is more important than physical prowess, there is one kind of physical exercise they will all master. That is "shadow boxing" a calisthenic dance performed by many townsmen in the public square early each morning. The young imitate the old in learning cise and a moment of harmony with the universe.

But enough of the Wang clan and back to the present. For the great China trip was not 2,000 years ago, but last month. And it was the China of Mao, not Mencius, that newsmen glimpsed during the presidential journey.

SOME NEWSMEN described as "oppressive" and "totalitarian" the apparent conformity and regimentation at Chinese schools, communes and factories. The human snow-removal operation, the daily calisthenics, the endless quotations from Chairman Mao, the lack of strong nuclear family units were among the aspects of Chinese life which many found depressing. At least one correspondent took time out to editorialize about what he called "1984-style Marxism."

But as we have seen, the calisthenics, the quotations, the

public service, the conformity and the communal life are not entirely new to the Chinese as they are to Western visitors.

On the other hand, the concepts of freedom and individuality which Americans felt were also missing in any traditional China (and are also missing in any significant sense in Nationalist China today). Before the impact of Western philosophy in China, there were no words in the Chinese language for freedom or individuality. When words were coined to translate the Western terms, the new translations acquired a negative connotation, suggesting selfishness and eccentricity.

The point here is not to disparage freedom and individuality, but to underscore the need to judge China by Chinese standards. If the Chinese never had or wanted individuality, it is incorrect to imply that Maoism has taken it away from them.

While this may be depressing for foreigners, the real challenge is to try to understand Maoism as the Chinese experience it. How the Chinese feel about their system is the great question that scholars and journalists may answer in the decades to come.

In the meantime, Chinese history can help us see modern China in the perspective of its own past, rather than ours.

Matthew J. Siedeu



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