

TRIBUNE



NEWSPAPER
REVIEW

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Letter From The Editor

LAST WEEK in this column we drew attention to the controversy that is now raging in the elitist tribe of developmental economists about the future of the third world countries. The problem simply put is how best developing countries can affect a breakthrough into a real economic growth. This implies an increasingly rapid betterment of the living standards of ordinary people with emphasis on the quality of life rather than a mere statistical enumeration of employment opportunities with a higher wage potential. As we had mentioned last week a number of western bourgeois economists, e.g., Thomas Balogh, Gunnar Myrdal etc., had prevailed on the leaders of the developing world, including some of the top brass in the World Bank and the IMF, that poor developing countries could achieve a fast rate of growth only through a system of controls of both exports and imports coupled with subsidies to sustain a minimum of welfarism to ensure victory at the polls. Some developing countries were able to record a sizable degree of progress by adopting such a system of subsidies and controls, but it brought negative and zero results in the majority of cases. At the same time, Marxist economists persistently recommended, with polemical vigour, an even more complicated system of controls in the hope that by the adoption of rigid planning techniques the "mixed" economies of poor countries could be made to by-pass (or leap-frog) the capitalist phase and be transformed into genuine socialist states. The "planning", Marxist economists proposed, was different, in concept and content, from the "planning" of the bourgeois economists, who believed that a modified capitalist system circumscribed by a system of controls—the kind of controls that had enabled countries like the USA, Japan and Germany to register rapid economic growth—would be the most beneficial to the emergent nations that had won political independence after the Second World war. The Western nations pushed the plans for a "controlled capitalist system" whilst the socialist bloc preached the gospel of by-passing capitalism into socialism. Each bloc, in the tight grip of cold war compulsions, tried to sell their systems with the help of commodity and project aid, standby credits, gifts, loans and grants. Nearly all developing countries wanted to make the most of the aid and assistance from both worlds and tailored their "planning" mechanisms to keep both the bourgeois as well as the marxist blocs happy. They adopted bits and pieces from the techniques and controls suggested by the two contending groups and tried to weld them into a composite whole. Sri Lanka is one of the countries which tried to mix the controls and regulations of the western economists and the centrally controlled public sector planning devices of the marxists. Oil and water do not mix and all the development plans tried out by Sri Lanka from 1947 (by all governments) only perpetuated the existing stagnation in the economy. It was in this situation that a new breed of western bourgeois economists have come on the scene to preach a new faith and a new gospel of a streamlined *laissez-fairism*—no subsidies, no controls, free imports, free exports, free exchange, in fact the freer the better. Much has been made of the fact that Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore have achieved remarkable material progress and attained outstanding economic growth by adopting a free capitalist economy. IMF theorists have, in recent years, especially after the Bretton Woods system of monetary controls collapsed in the early 1970s, tried to salvage the economic mess in the third world by means of a "free," no control, no subsidies, economy. Sri Lanka, with the advent of the UNP in July 1977, has pursued this goal of a free economy pivoted on global private enterprise, but so far the better life and greater prosperity for ordinary people has proved to be elusive. Many observers have now begun to wonder whether the hope that an IMF-devised "free economy" will catapult Sri Lanka into wealth and prosperity is not really a mirage.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Watergate Or Beiragate ?

APROPOS our comments last week on happenings in Parliament on Friday December 8 characterising the lashing the rank and file UNP MPs gave the Front Bench as a "backbenchers revolt", many readers say that it is wrong to describe what was said as a "revolt". Whilst they admit that it was an angry outburst of frustration and dissatisfaction, the word "revolt" gave it an exaggerated flavour. We will not quarrel or quibble about words, but what took place on that day revealed a new mood among the backbenchers. In a Parliament where there is no effective Opposition along traditional lines—quantitatively as well as qualitatively—it is significant that a new kind of opposition should emerge from within the bosom of the ruling party which is possessed of a steam-roller majority of unprecedented magnitude. The *Ceylon Daily News* which has recently shown remarkable improvement in content and quality—really after the reorganisation which increased the pages to 16 and the price to 75 cents a copy—has an attractive feature—*From The Lobby*. Written with a touch of misplaced facetiousness, it is nevertheless a readable and interesting column. We will deal with the striking improvements in the *Daily News* next week.

The Lobby Notes for Friday, December 8, appeared in the *Daily News*, 9/12/78 under the heading **YOUNG HAWKS SWOOP DOWN**: "The Job Bank—the newest arm of activity of the Ministry of Plan Implementation—got a severe beating today that paled

the assault on the vaults of the Nallur Bank by armed thugs this week. Government backbenchers unleashed a barrage of veiled attacks insinuating ministerial favouritism and backdoor employment in the new organization created only in March to streamline recruitment to the public sector. The anger the young hawks brought to the air-conditioned Chamber clearly projected the frustration jobless youths in the rural sector suffered over their failure to have a go at that most elusive commodity of our times: employment. Panadura's UNPer Dr. Neville Fernando who has eschewed a lucrative medical practice to become a full-time politi-

cian sounded a grim warning that 'another 1971' may result if the Plan Implementation Ministry and the JB (Job Bank) did not restore the fast-dwindling confidence of the restless youth in the Government. The young, he reminded, had no frayed tempers but the incense of short endurance. Digressing the bespectacled doctor lapsed into philosophical detachment and asked wryly what the hell the whole purpose was in all the debate and discussion of the Budget in Parliament at such cost to public funds. Why can't the House discuss the needs of the country in a meaningful manner before preparing and presenting a Budget, the doctor asked.

COVER

DUST TO DUST

CYCLONES alone do not bring destruction as the picture on the cover this week will show. It is the ruined building of a church from Portuguese and Dutch times. Ownership had changed with the change of colonial masters, and neglect was inevitable because of the conflicts between contending denominational sects in Christianity. Wind, rain, heat and cold can destroy anything that is neglected, maybe a little slowly but nevertheless effectively. It has been reported that every church, mosque and temple in the Batticaloa-Kalmunai region was completely destroyed by the recent cyclone. Places of worship like other buildings were laid low. The cyclone is no respecter of persons or buildings. Time destroys when it chooses. So do cyclones. We have, this week, chosen to have the ruins of a Church on the cover to remind our readers, especially Christians, that they must give more thought than many of them seem to do to the havoc that cyclones, poverty and other forces of destruction have wrought and continue to wreak in Sri Lanka. The ostentation of new limousines, the petty exhibitionism involved in publicly imbibing expensive and rare brands of foreign liquor and the vulgar indulgence in petty displays of status symbols only lay the foundation for a socio-political upheaval that will destroy the affluent elite now fattening on the fat of the land—and with it will go the exploitative society that prevails in Sri Lanka today. In this issue we have three Christmas Tales: one a nostalgic remembrance of a X'mas Day in Sri Lanka in the days gone by; another a story of a Christmas in Nigeria and last an angry protest against curbs on the freedom of working people. Those who display in conspicuous and ostentatious consumerism, those who revel in Christmas or New Year Parties, Balls and Dances—especially in this Year of the Cyclone—will do well to recall the fate that overtook cities of sin like Sodom and Gomorrah. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Chivas Regal is an excellent whisky, but products like that are dynamite in Sri Lanka.

Role Of The Opposition

"TULF's swarthy Member for Mullaitivu Mr. X. M. Sellathambo had his colleagues in titters when he described rosily the job Bank forms in their multi-colours; 14,000 forms had apparently been distributed among the jobless in the northern province but they all turned to be luckless. The tall and husky UNPer from Tangalle Mr. Jinadasa Weerasinghe did not mince his words. If only Ministers got jobs from the JB then it amounted to a stab in the back of the backbenchers. That must be stopped forthwith or else the entire scheme will be reduced to a farce like the Five Year Plan of the last government; he thundered. The House today discovered a hidden talent in Divulapitiya's UNP Member Mr. Ariyaratne Jayatileke—to make a bad joke a better one. The former pedagogue displayed a streak of unsuspected humour when he disclosed how job hunting youths follow MPs even to their toilets."

A large number of backbenchers had lashed out at the "Ministers" frankly and freely. From the criticisms levelled it would appear that the Job Bank Scheme had degenerated into a new and refined version of the CHIT SYSTEM that had been operated by the favoured Ministers and MPs of the last government. Opposition MPs—TULF and SLFP—had also complained about the jobbery in the Job Bank, but the dissenting voices from within the ranks of the Government Party marked a departure in the parliamentary politics in the country.

The debate on the Budget in Committee, as we had indicated on an earlier occasion, revealed a rare unanimity among the different parties in Parliament. The Opposition did not oppose merely for the sake of opposing. Traditionally, Opposition parties, especially Left Parties which had flamboyantly sported their Marxism on their shirt sleeves,

had felt that they had to disassociate themselves from everything, including the good, that a non-Marxist Government did. This had compelled the UNP, when it went into the opposition to do likewise. But the UNP after J. R. Jayewardene took over the leadership in 1972/73, had tried a new attitude of dealing with each issue on its merits, supporting the government on some issues and opposing it only on some. It was thought at that time that Mr. Jayewardene was pursuing this policy as a gimmick to break the SLFP from the Left and at the same time pave the way for a "national government."

The 1977 general elections made it unnecessary for Mr. Jayewardene to seek a coalition, but nevertheless he offered all parties a place in a national government, but the SLFP and TULF had declined—each for strategic and ideological reasons of their own. But the Jayewardene government has pursued a conciliatory and non-aggressive policy towards the other parties ever since the UNP government was formed. This seems to have paid dividends.

Furthermore, the Opposition parties found that the overwhelming majority the government enjoyed had made opposition for opposition's sake a futile pastime. In the nett result, a new spirit of parliamentary co-operation between Parties has developed in the last one year and this manifested itself fully during the Budget debate. It must be also mentioned that Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, first as Prime Minister and later as the President, has treated the Opposition in the way it is treated in advanced democratic countries. In the past, many ruling parties, the UNP in its earlier phase and more especially the SLFP-Left coalition from 1970, had treated the opposition as ideological

enemies of the state and not as a democratic opposition necessary for parliamentary government.

It is in this context that discussions on the votes for the different Ministries must be examined. The Prime Minister was able to pilot the votes for the departments under him with remarkable ease. And there were good reasons why he was able to do this. He displayed a minute and detailed knowledge of the work of every department in his Ministry. Old parliamentarians say that they cannot remember a single Minister in any Parliament since Independence who had the kind of mastery that Mr. Premadasa has in regard to every aspect of work in his Ministry. MPs of all parties praised Mr. Premadasa for his capacity to get things done—he has really a great deal to his credit.

The Observer lobby Correspondent Ajit Samaranayake on December 8 under the headline PREMIER HANDS HIS BOUQUETS TO HIS DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS said: "Garlands (both real and metaphorical) are not a commodity that is alien to Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa. He is quite used to receiving both in ample

TRIBUNE NO ISSUE ON DECEMBER 30, 1978

As in past years there will be no issue of TRIBUNE in the last week-end of the year, when Christmas and New Year overwhelm most people. Therefore, there be no issue of TRIBUNE on Saturday, December 30. The next issue will be Saturday, January 6, 1979.

We take this opportunity to wish all our readers a happy and prosperous 1979.

measure. Yesterday he found himself covered with sweet-smelling verbal garlands thrown at him by all political parties in the House. Speakers discussing the votes of the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction, ranging from the Deputy Minister of Social Services, Mr. J. L. Sirisena to two Opposition MPs, the TULF's Mr. V. Yogesvaran and the SLFP's Mr. R. P. Wijesiri, were agreed on one thing. The institutions coming under the Prime Minister's purview were geared for work and to run smoothly. The Prime Minister in turn passed the credit on to his officials. He also had a special word for his Deputy Minister—the quiet, unostentatious Mr. P. C. Imbulana, who, he said had worked behind the scenes and travelled widely attending to the problems of Local Government. . . . The Prime Minister said that his Ministry was concerned with providing the infrastructure on which the people could build their own conception of the 'good life.' In a speech laced with anecdotes from his official sojourns in the countryside the Prime Minister said that a new sense of self-reliance was needed. For, too long the country had found scapegoats in the shape of the Treasury or the bureaucracy or the lack of funds for the inability to do a job of work. This should end, he said. As a model of the self-reliance and the new consciousness that he urged, the Prime Minister offered a remote hamlet in the Wariyapola constituency named Kurunewa. Here the villagers had spontaneously joined in restoring the village tank using only their hands, he said. This kind of thing gave hope for the future. He urged the bureaucratic mandarins to come down from their rarefied heights. Though the Prime Minister thought yesterday that values which stood in the way of development were a legacy of

colonial rule he did not draw a veil over the other face of the British administration. This face belonged to government Agents such as H. R. Freeman who had actually walked deep into the Raja Rata to talk and listen to peasants. The Prime Minister's plea was that present day officials too should establish that kind of identification with the people."

The Prime Minister, however, had to clear a difficult hurdle earlier in the week when the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Amirthalingam, had suggested that a new section has been introduced in the Special Presidential Commission Amendment Law after it had been passed by the House. This was hotly contested by the Prime Minister who insisted that the amendment had been duly moved and adopted. The Opposition was not satisfied and wanted the tapes of the proceedings of November 10 and the short-hand notes checked, but it was found that the tapes had been erased and the notes of the reporters were not available. The speaker settled the matter by overruling the objections of the Opposition by stating he had certified the Bill on November 22 with that clause.

The Opposition, if it was still dissatisfied, could only do one thing and that was to move a vote of No Confidence in the Speaker, but this was not done. And the matter ended there.

The SLFP weekly *The Nation* of December 8, 1978, however, had a front page spread under the heading MYSTERY OF THE MISSING TAPES: LAW MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARS—AMIRTHALINGAM: LAW NEVER PASSED—COUNSEL: "The mystery of the missing tapes of the proceedings of Parliament took another turn last Wednesday, when Mr. Amirthalingam, Leader of the Opposi-

tion stated in the House that the tapes of the proceedings of the House of November 20th were missing. He also pointed out that it was curious that minutes of the proceedings of November 22nd, 23rd and 24th were available, but not the minutes of the proceedings of November 20th—the day on which the law was passed. The Leader of the Opposition also said that the Hansard did not bear out the moving and passage of the particular amendment.

"Previously, in the course of submissions before the Supreme Court on the 4th of December, Mr. H. L. de Silva, Senior Counsel for Sirimavo Bandaranaike told the Divisional Bench: 'This is an amendment of the law which was never moved in the House, never considered by the House and never passed by Parliament. I am instructed by the Petitioner, who was throughout present in Parliament, that the House never passed this. I do not know how this new section came to be inserted in it.' Mr. de Silva was addressing the court in an Application contesting the validity of the law relating to the Presidential Commission and the warrant issued under that law, on the ground that it was inconsistent with the 1972 Constitution. The Amending Bill intended to declare null and void a judgement of the Court of Appeal was necessitated by Mr. de Silva's successful application to the Court of Appeal on a previous occasion. He went on to say that the original draft of the Bill contained 10 clauses according to the Hansard, and that the Bill in that form had passed into law. He added 'No other new clause was ever moved or considered by the Committee of the whole House'. Mr. de Silva stated that he was surprised to discover an entirely new section in the Act, dealing with the 1946 Order in Council and the 1972 Consti-

tion upon which he had based his second application. The court granted him an adjournment of two weeks during which time the authenticity of the disputed section will be examined by the house.

"Before the leader of the Opposition made his startling revelations, Prime Minister Premadasa had stated in the House that there was no mischievous attempt by anybody as far as Section 21A was concerned. He also stated that he was given a copy of Mrs. Bandaranaike's writ application on the 20th and had instructed the Attorney General, Mr. Shiva Pasupathy to examine Mrs. Bandaranaike's writ application and ensure that the loopholes in the law were closed, which the Attorney General had proceeded to do. The Speaker stated that he had already given a ruling on the matter and added that in future he would instruct the staff of the House not to erase the tapes without his permission.

"A senior member of the legal profession stated that by implication, Mr. Premadasa had paid a compliment to Mrs. Bandaranaike's lawyers and shown up the inadequacies of the state's lawyers. 'Is this another Watergate or Beiragate?' he quipped. On the same day as the court submissions were made, Mr. Amirthalingam, the Leader of the Opposition stated in Parliament that a new section had mysteriously appeared in the Special Presidential Commission Act, and called for a probe by the Speaker. In response to the Leader of the Opposition, the Speaker said that there had been legal precedents, where the Legal Draughtsman and the Attorney General had, subsequent to the passing of the Bill, included certain provisions. Thereafter the Speaker agreed to look into the matter. Later Mr. Premadasa, on behalf of the government, told the House that copies of the amendments

were made available to the Secretary General of Parliament, and that the Legal Draughtsman was allowed to insert 'consequential amendments that are necessary.' Mrs. Bandaranaike stated that this was not a consequential amendment. The disputed section, which was referred to as a consequential amendment, contains 242 words! Before the adjournment, the Speaker ruled that the 'amendment was also handed in by the Hon. Minister of Trade and Shipping at the time he moved amendments to this bill during the Committee stage.' The Speaker said that he had signed the Bill on the 22nd."

After setting out the facts in this way, *The Nation* went on to comment: "Within the past one year, the government has taken three actions which have had a deleterious impact on the independent standing of the judiciary. Firstly, the dismissal of the Supreme Court Judges without assigning reasons. Second, by condoning an attack by Mr. A. C. de Zoysa in the Presidential Commission on Mr. Jaya Patilrana, who was, at that time, holding office of a Judge of the Supreme Court, the Government brought disrespect to the high standing of Judicial office. Thirdly comes the question mark raised by Mr. Amirthalingam and the submissions of Mr. P. L. de Silva in the Supreme Court. The combined effect of these arbitrary and capricious assaults on the Judiciary cannot be anything less than a serious blow to the principles of Parliamentary democracy. By retrospectively legalising the Presidential Commission's acts, the legislature has been used by the government to not only throw mud at the Court of Appeal, but also to kick the second highest judicial tribunal in Sri Lanka, in the rump. By declaring the Court of Appeal's judgement null and void, the government, to all in-

tents and purposes, substituted its own decree for a judgement of the Court of Appeal. That was an unprecedented act, and its implications go way beyond the specific nature of the issue at hand. The argument that Appeal Court Judges should not hear cases which involve the actions of Supreme Court Judges who have a higher standing, is perhaps a justifiable principle. It will be pertinent, however, to ask the government why it appointed a District Judge to the Presidential Commission, and thereupon permitted allegations to be made before that Commission on the conduct of a Supreme Court Judge. It seems to be one set of principles to propose and another set to dispose. The Government should at least now remember that it is not God. The sooner action is taken to restore the judiciary to its high position, the better it will be, not only for the people, but also for the government which after all, is composed of ordinary people."

Mr. Premadasa and the government did not come out of this flutter unscathed. But the Speaker has stated that no tapes would be erased without his consent in future. Mr. Amirthalingam showed great restraint in the way he handled this matter. He showed even greater restraint in not bringing up a more sensitive matter at adjournment, viz., the question of a few policemen going on the rampage in Jaffra to avenge the killing of two police officers at the Nallur Bank robbery. Very graciously, Mr. Amirthalingam and Mr. M. Sivasithamparam paid compliments in Parliament to the Government Agent, Jaffna, Mr. Lionel Fernando for the prompt steps he took to stop the police from running riot in Jaffna Bazaar.

Only *The Independent* of December 8, 1978 referred to the incident in a dog ear box entitled RAMPAGE "Almost within an hour of the bank robbery in Nallur in which two policemen were shot dead, Jaffna Police rampaged throughout the town beating up youth and breaking up boutiques and generally going berserk. Fortunately, the G.A. Jaffna, Mr. Lionel Fernando persuaded the police to call halt to the rampage. Politicians in Colombo condemned the robbery, the killing, and the police reaction as a threat to communal peace. Meanwhile islandwide police stations were alerted to prevent the eruption of any communal violence."

Whether this restraint which is always a sign of welcome maturity presages a more responsible and realistic approach by the TULF to current problems is yet to be seen.

NEXT ISSUE.

Education, Fisheries, Transport



BETWEEN THE LINES

BY SERENDIB

- Agriculture
- Tourism

ON *MAGIC WEEDS*. *Tribune* reader, Dr. S. A. Vettivelu, of 22 Rasavin Thoddam Veethi, Jaffna, sent us a letter dated November 20, 1978: "I am sending you a photostat copy of an article which appeared in the *Indian Express* some time ago. The article is fully worth popularising here because then only people would know what a rich source of excellent protein food could be developed in this country if we get seeds of these plants. I have already sent photostat copies

of this to the Minister of Agriculture and Director of Agriculture asking them to do their best to get these seeds. But I have not had even an acknowledgement or the result of these copies even though they were sent under registered cover. I hope you will do your best and continue to do your best to see that these seeds are obtained early."

Before *Tribune* could do anything about the matter, came another letter from D. S. A. Vettivelu dated 22nd November 1978 that read: "I have today received a letter from the Minister stating that he would try and get the seeds. So kindly omit all reference to the Minister and the Director of Agriculture and their not replying. If you would kindly put in an editorial note stating that you are sure that the Minister would get the seeds of these plants it would do good."

All's well that ends well. The Minister of Agricultural Development and Research must be congratulated for streamlining his office to the point where they have begun to answer letters with a degree of promptitude that is worthy of emulation by other ministries and departments. In this case, according to Dr. Vettivelu, the Minister had sent him a reply, but can he absolve the Director for not sending a reply?

It would also appear that the Minister has undertaken to "try and get the seeds." It is our experience that Ministerial officers and Departmental officers make such promises with gay abandon, and nothing more is done about it thereafter. Though Dr. Vettivelu wanted us to omit all reference in his letter to the Minister and the Director we think it useful to place the correspondence on record to see what follow-up action is taken by the Ministry or the Department.

There is little *Tribune* can do to get the seeds, except perhaps write to the FAO Headquarters which the Minister and the Director must surely have done by this time. We can however, prod the Minister and the Director to see that they do not go to sleep.

In any case, we reproduce below the article Dr. Vettivelu sent us. It is entitled *THE MAGIC WEEDS* by Marie Fitzpatrick and it had appeared in the *Indian Express* of May 25, 1978.

"A recent publication by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations describes how plants that have formerly been thought of as decorative or even weeds are being used to feed the hungry. In Central America there exists a tropical plant, commonly known as *Leucaena*, that is considered a weed, even though it was used by the Mayans and Zaoptees centuries ago. It fell into disfavour because the foliage is sometimes poisonous to non-cud-chewing animals. Yet a recent study has shown that this 'weed' could be used to overcome shortages of livestock food, firewood and fertilizer—and just growing it tends to improve the soil. This universally disregarded plant, the study found, when grown on fertile, well-drained soil produces large quantities of protein. And although it thrives best on good soil, it can quite easily survive the droughts of dry, tropical regions. The stem or wood itself is excellent for firewood or charcoal, and could even become an important source of paper and various construction materials.

"Mind you, 'discovering' a former humble plant is not new. Take the *Soya bean* for instance. 50 years ago the soy was considered to be a 'poor man's crop' only fit for export to developing countries; but now the humble soy is so highly regarded it is

found on most western tables—even being used in place of meat. Despite the success of the soy bean, though, probably no other crop offers such a variety of foods as the **Winged Bean** (*Psophocarpus tatragnolobus*) also known as the **goa bean**. Every bit of the goa can be eaten, leaves, pods, flowers and shoots all go into the cooking pot in Southeast Asia: and when the season is over the fleshy, tuberous roots are dug up and roasted. A bushy mass of greenery with vine-like tendrils and blue or purple flowers, the winged bean resembles the runner bean. Botanists say that the winged bean is a combination of soy bean and potato all in one plant—a formidable combination. The winged bean or goa is in fact so popular and highly regarded in the diet of Papuan tribes in New Guinea that villages often hold goa sing-songs (festivals). But despite this plant's many virtues—it is also uniquely rich in protein—its possibilities were ignored until 1973.

"Another little-known plant just receiving the attention it deserves is the **Tarwi** (*Lupinus mutabilis*). Keen gardeners will note that the **Tarwi** is of the **Lupin** family. But despite this, it is hardly ornamental and in fact forms part of the South American highland Indians' diet. Domesticated by pre-Inca peoples more than 1500 years ago, discovered that this Tupin is extremely rich in protein—more so than peas, beans, groundnuts and even soybeans—and makes a very important contribution to the nutritional well-being of the local tribes. Yet, elsewhere it is regarded as a useless weed!

"In the Kalahari and adjacent sandy regions of southern Africa grows an insignificant plant known as the **Marama bean** (*Tylosema esculentum*). It has received little or no research attention—but this

may soon change because it has been discovered that the lowly marama, which feeds the poorest of the Earth's people—the Bushmen and isolated Bantu tribes in Botswana and Namibia—could rival soybean and groundnut in nutritional value. Still classified as a wild plant, the marama grows in dry, hot, semi-arid areas. A creeper, it sends out vine-like stems as far as six metres over the sandy soil. The pods are hard and woody, but the beans are cream-coloured with firm oily flesh. When roasted, the beans have a rich, nutty flavour which has been likened to roasted cashews or almonds. The Bushmen often pound and boil them to make a sort of porridge or soup. As a bonus the marama, like the winged bean, produces an edible tuber under the ground. But whereas the latter produces first-sized tubers at best, the marama tuber can grow as large as one metre in diameter and weight as much as 40 kg! The tubers can be boiled or roasted and have a sweet, pleasant flavour that makes an excellent vegetable dish.

"In the past, botanists have based their thinking on producing plants that could be 'introduced' into the poorer areas of the world in order to feed the people. But increasingly they are becoming aware that in most countries indigenous plants already exist that can do the job. All that is needed is the farming know-how to grow them in greater quantities."

'Weeds' like this may be of great help in the arid and 'devastated' areas of our island.

PALK BAY ISLANDS. A reader has drawn our attention to a news report in the *Madras Hindu* of December 4. It was a despatch from Madurai by a correspondent entitled **PALK BAY ISLANDS CAN BE TOURIST SPOTS.** The report reads as follows:

"Three islands in the Palk Bay are to be taken up for development as tourist spots, the Tamil Nadu Local Administration, Minister Mr. K. Kalimuthu, told newsmen here today. The Hare Island (**Muyal Theevu**) and the Crusade Island (**Kurusadai Theevu**) in Ramnad taluk and the **Nallathanni Theevu** in Mudukulathur taluk, which are to be developed as tourist spots are among the 16 islands in Ramnathapuram district. There were 17 islands in the district before **Kacha Theevu** was given away to Sri Lanka by the Government of India about five years ago. The Hare Island is 10 km. southwest of Mandapam Camp 30 km. from Ramnad and 24 km. from Pamban. It abounds in rabbits even today and has all kinds of trees including coconut and palmyra. The Crusade Island is separated by 250 metres of sea from the Kundugal Point of the Rameswaram Island. This island is about six km. south of Pamban. It has a small pier. In the past, a small church in the name of St. Xavier was constructed on this island. It derived its name from the Biblical word "crusade" and this name was corrupted into "**Kurusadai**". The Crusade Island was acquired by the Government for starting a pearl oyster farm and for locating a marine biological station in January 1915 for Rs. 4,882. **Nallathanni Theevu** has been named so as good drinking water is available within a depth of one to two metres. It is situated west south west of Villinokkam. Casuarina and coconut trees grow well on its sandy soil.

"Mr. Chandra, Managing Director of Messrs. South India Travels, says that if these islands could be developed, they are bound to attract foreign tourists who now go to Sri Lanka for a holiday on the sea shore. He is of the opinion that if facilities for sea bathing, and skindiving and privacy on the islands are assured,

the three islands would certainly attract tourists.....

"The Local Administration Minister said he would be visiting the three islands in the company of the Tourism Director and other officials by the end of this month or early January, when some concrete proposals would be made for the creation of holidays in islands in the Palk Bay."

What this means is that the Tamilnadu Government will develop the islands as tourist spots with that degree of "privacy" that will enable tourists so minded to be nude or semi-nude. Shut away in the islands, nudism will not obtrude on the local population.

In Sri Lanka there was a hue and cry about the "nudism" practised by some tourists on some of our lonely tourist beaches. This "nudity" was used to publish ultra-sensational headlines and sexy stories with tele-shots of a few nude tourists frolicking on the beaches. Such cheesecake will no doubt help to sell a few extra copies of the paper, but it will do tourism no good.

Whether we like it or not, tourism has come to stay in Sri Lanka. With the two major parties, the UNP and SLFP, fully in favour of tourism and no party totally opposed to it, tourism will continue to be a growing industry in this country. Whatever reservations *Tribune* may have had about tourism in the past, (and may still have), it is necessary to take a pragmatic view and accept tourism as a fact of life in Sri Lanka for the foreseeable future.

We have, therefore, to reconcile ourselves to a great many things which some of us may not like. The tourist with high-value hard currency is the new brahmin and the new sahib in our land and we have to learn to live with them. During every period in our his-

tory we have had to co-exist with brahmins, sahibs and the privileged —by whatever name they were known from ancient times to the present day. The privileged mughals or radalas are today the tourists. They alone can afford the best hotels, the best resthouses, in fact the best of everything. China, which had made a Maoist fetish of a self-reliant classless society, is now seeking to attract such foreign tourist mandarins and brahmins. Contracts have been signed with the Inter-continental Hotel chain to make a start with five hotels in Chinese cities. Russia has long ago made a big bid to attract foreign hard currency spending tourists.

Sri Lanka is now being carried away in this tide. We have therefore to learn to tolerate the new brahmins and the new sahibs. We must stop being horrified with the prostitution—mainly female and to a smaller extent male. It is part and parcel of tourism. There is no point in getting angry, or worked up, about the commercialised sale of the human flesh for the pleasurable satisfaction of those who can afford such delights when such exploitation of the female has existed from the beginning of time. In older times, underprivileged women were at the mercy of feudal lords. In colonial times the sahibs, the white as well as brown did very much as they pleased with women they could buy. And, in all cases, the women did not get very much out of it. Today, in the age of capitalism and cash nexus, prostitutes appear to be doing better, especially those who cater to foreign tourists. In some cities in Asia like Singapore, Manila and Bangkok, prostitutes have organised trade unions to safeguard their rights and fight for higher payment on a time-rate basis.

Prostitution has not as yet been

legalised in Sri Lanka. It has de facto recognition of a kind, but it is time that this oldtime trade and occupation is accorded a legal status. Only then can the women who ply this trade organise trade unions to safeguard their rights. Homosexuality too must be legalised. It will help tourism. Once tourism is accepted as a lawful industry, prostitution has to be recognised as a lawful adjunct to the industry. So also nudism.

If Tamilnadu Tourism wants to offer competition to Sri Lanka tourism in special tourist islands in the Palk Bay to meet the attraction of Sri Lanka's nudist tourist centres it is time our Tourist Industry accepts the challenge and builds hotels, beach complexes and the like on some of the islands that hug Sri Lanka around its entire coast. If we take our tourism seriously, as we should, we must develop some of the islands as tourist outposts where nudism is

LETTER

IS IT EELAM?

Sir,

Jayantha Somasundaram's review—*Figure It Out For Yourself*—appearing in your issue of December 2, 1978 calls for comment. Although the earlier articles were of a high standard this article seems to be an apology for an "Eelani". The figures given may be correct, but please remember the following aspects of appointments: 1. Percentage of population; 2. The number of educated who would qualify for the posts given; 3. Influence of any type in the selections due to other factors than racial and political issues.

Dr. G. T. Herath

Anuradhapura.
10.12.78

permitted. Enclaves can also be created in some of the lonely stretches on our coastline for nudist tourist centres.

All this will mean a revolution in our thinking, but we cannot complain—we live in an age of revolutions.



SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Dec. 7—Dec. 13

DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE WORLD COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO.

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Times; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa, DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chintamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release; DK—Dinakara.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7:

The PM yesterday categorically denied that there was any mischievous attempt to smuggle in a new section to the Special Presidential Commissions of Inquiry (Special Provisions) Bill which was passed by Parliament on November 20; in a special statement to the house he said that he was keen to correct a wrong impression being created in the minds of the public by certain interested parties that section 21 (a) was smuggled into the amended Bill after its passage in parliament. Police yesterday made a breakthrough in the Nallur 1.18 million-rupee bank robbery when they found a car and a bicycle which are believed to have been used in the operation. The Minister of State has promised

journalists in Sri Lanka a new deal with the setting up of a Newspaper Trust through which working journalists will be paid a pension once they retire. A man suspected of having given vital information to the CID concerning the time bomb explosion on board the Avro 748 last September, has been shot dead in Jaffna by gunmen—CDN. The Director of the Colombo Observatory observed that Sri Lanka needs a storm warning Radar for accurate reading of storms and other weather conditions well in time and thus warn the people against the vagaries of the weather—CDM. The government is likely to call upon all five members of the GCEC to resign to enable President Jayewardene to reconstitute it. State officials engaged in rehabilitation work in the cyclone affected areas need no longer wait for directives from Colombo to take decisions at field level. A highly trained Police strike force was rushed to Jaffna yesterday to re-inforce police and armed personnel who are now on a massive security operation to track down the bank robbers who killed two policeman on Tuesday—SU. Over fifty armed persons in civilies created trouble in Jaffna on Tuesday evening, attacking shops etc. but due to the timely action of the GA things were brought under control very soon and the trouble didn't spread. The population census will take place in 1981, the agricultural census in 1982 and the industrial census in 1983—VK. The MP for Chavakachcheri has requested the government to appoint a commission to inquire into the events that took place in Jaffna last Tuesday and try and take steps to prevent such incidents from happening again—EN. The Ministry of Social services is considering the idea of purchasing all bricks stocked in private brick factories to send to the cyclone

affected areas—DM. The government has decided to set up a National Health Academy at a cost of Rs. 45 million to draw up a more suitable health scheme for the country using the western, ayurvedic and other medical systems in the country—DV. Political differences between JVP leaders as to how they should formulate their policies is threatening another break-up in the party—ATH. The ruling Janata Party won another important parliamentary by-election in Northern India but the party was still riven with internal bickerings. Soviet leader Brezhnev last night denounced what he called demagogic arguments for changes in communist bloc defence policies—a rebuke clearly aimed at President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania. Common Market leaders decided to set up a European Monetary system but so far there will be only six members. Defying Soviet protests China is sending its Minister of Machine building with responsibility for aviation matters to look at the revolutionary Harrier war plane that Peking is anxious to buy from Britain—CDN. Pakistan's condemned ex-Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was yesterday given permission to appear before the Supreme Court to make a personal plea for his life. President Carter will send Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Cairo and Jerusalem next week in a bid to break the deadlock in the stalled Egyptian-Israeli peace talks—CDM. The Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and Afghanistan's President Taraki signed in Moscow yesterday a treaty of friendship between the two countries. The Egyptian government had decided to sever diplomatic relations with Bulgaria—SU.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8: The PM yesterday charged the SLFP with using the devastation caused

by the cyclone to further their political ends; a report of a recent SLFP meeting held in Galle indicated that speakers at that meeting seemed to be happy that the cyclone had devastated certain parts of the country and tried to make out that the cyclone would never have come if the SLFP had been in power he said. Local government elections will be held before June 1 next year the PM told parliament yesterday. The People's Bank and the Bank of Ceylon will close a number of their branches in the North tomorrow until further notice following a decision to restrict the activities of the two institutions in this area for reasons of security. The Minister of Finance has met the Chairman of the World Bank during his visit to Washington on Tuesday and discussed World Bank assistance to the accelerated Mahaweli Project, assistance for cyclone rehabilitation etc—CDN. In the reconstruction of the Batticaloa district, the worst hit by the recent cyclone, infiltration from outside the region would not be allowed said the Minister of Justice who is in overall charge of rehabilitation and relief activities for the eastern province; he said he had authentic information that politically motivated moves were afoot to settle people from outside the province in several villages in the Batticaloa district. The Minister of Education and Higher Education has decided to introduce a scheme for national service for those students selected for university admission—CDM. The government is to deploy the armed service to set up workshops in the cyclone affected areas; these will turn out roofing and other building materials for the reconstruction and repairs of houses devastated by the recent cyclone, particularly on the east coast. Government is considering the introduction of a 'no-fault'

accident insurance scheme on the lines of the scheme existing in several developed countries; under the proposed scheme accident victims will be paid compensation whether or not the fault has been proved in courts. The Trincomalee branch of the TULF has undertaken the construction of 100 temporary houses at Navalady village in Batticaloa which was badly affected in the recent cyclone. The World Bank has granted a loan of 14 million US dollars to the National Water Supply and Drainage Board for the development of water supply schemes in Colombo and the outstations. Police inquiring into the Nallur bank robbery are trying to find out why a private car was used to transport the stolen money to the bank when an official vehicle was given by the bank for this purpose—SU. After questioning 273 persons in connection with the Nallur bank robbery the police have discovered that one of the persons guilty was tall and curly haired while the other was short and stout—VK. Rs. 50 million has been allocated by the PM to be given as loans to repair renovate, and extend rural houses—LD. The State granite corporation exported Rs. 8 million worth of granite last month—DM. The acting Minister of Agricultural development and research has decided to distribute 1 million coconut plants free of charge in the cyclone affected areas. Work on the TV Centre will commence in February next year—DV. The Chairman of Lake House has started investigating into the alleged CIA agents in Lake House—DK. Massayashi Ohira was finally acclaimed Japan's new PM by both houses of the DIET in succession to Takeo Fukuda. Iran's military authorities released two opposition leaders Dr. Karim Sanjabi and Dariush Forouharr after detaining them for almost a month.

President Carter describing human rights as the soul of his foreign policy said he would fight for the ideals of individual freedom as long as he stayed in the White House—CDN. The Indian government has introduced a bill in parliament to set up special Court to try former PM Indira Gandhi and her closest aides for their roles in the emergency 1975-77. A renewed strike by oil workers has cut Iran's oil production by half. Mrs Indira Gandhi was elected the opposition leader in the lower and upper houses—SU.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9: The government spends Rs. 3 million a week on the issue of free rations in the cyclone affected

The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964.

Notice under section 7.
Ref. No. 3/62/459/69/J.72 A.601

It is intended to acquire the land/lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 15 of 15/12/1978 (Part III).

Schedule

Name of Village Etc.:

Etambe village in Medapattu Korale East, Pannala D.R.O's Division, Kurunegala District, North Western Province.

Name of Land:

Kaluhabarallya Watta

Plan & Lot Nos.:

Lot Nos. 40 and 41 in Supplement No. 2 of Final Village Plan No. 389.

K. A. Gunasekera
District Land Officer
Kurunegala District

The Kachcheri,
Kurunegala.
30th November, 1978.

areas said the Minister of Food and Co-operatives. The PM visited Polonnaruwa yesterday in the company of the Speaker of the house and the leader of the opposition to inspect cyclone damage and confer with officials about the rehabilitation program. The President will visit the cyclone affected areas today. The question that is worrying the Board of Directors of the People's Bank is why did the Nallur branch of the People's Bank where the robbery took place deviate from procedure and ask for police escort the previous day instead of on the morning of the day when the collection is removed as is the usual practice. Police have established the identity of three persons who it is believed have played a key role in the Nallur police murder and bank robbery. The President will open the Human Rights Centre at the Head Office of the Sri Lanka Foundation tomorrow evening—CDN. Persons who loot state or private sector owned food items would be tried under Emergency laws and dealt with severely said the Minister of Food and Co-operatives. Eighteen bullet wounds were found on the body of constable Kingsley Perera who was shot dead last Tuesday in the Nallur bank hold up—CDM. The government would continue to control 60% of the means of production, exchange and distribution in Sri Lanka the President declared yesterday. The Minister of State yesterday denied an allegation by an SLFP MP that a number of Sri Lankan journalists had been identified by a US Senate committee as being agents of the CIA. Families in cyclone areas in Batticaloa district will continue to receive free rations for three more weeks said the Minister of Food and Co-operatives. The proposed salary increase of 10% with a minimum of Rs. 50 is to take the form of a special allowance—SU. Former PM Golda Meir a pioneer of the

State of Israel died yesterday at the age of 80. NATO yesterday rejected communists proposals to freeze military manpower levels in central Europe while group-reduction agreement is negotiated. President Carter said yesterday he did not know whether the Shah of Iran would survive the mounting opposition to his regime but he hoped so—CDN. The Speaker of the lower House of Parliament charged today that members of ex-PM Indira Gandhi's party were conspiring to murder PM Morarji Desai. Former Home Minister Charan Singh announced his decision not to return to PM Morarji Desai's cabinet plunging the bitterly divided ruling Janata Party into fresh chaos. Radio Hanoi said leaders of the newly established anti-Phnom Penh guerilla movement had visited their troops at the frontline and claimed two local uprisings had occurred in Cambodia—SU.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10:

The President who flew into cyclone ravaged Batticaloa yesterday said that the armed services would be throwing themselves completely into the government's efforts to rehabilitate the areas destroyed by the cyclone. A spectacular leap in the import of cars, motor cycles and tractors into the country has been recorded in a plan implementation ministry survey which has just been published. The contributions to the President's fund stands at nearly 6 million now—SO. The taxi service in Colombo is to be restructured on a request made by the President: he has advised the Minister of Transport to model the local taxi service on the Singapore taxi system to ensure a fair deal for users. A gang yesterday threw two petrol bombs at the office of the TULF at Main Street, Jaffna damaging several window panes. A big breakthrough in our trade with

India was achieved in the recent Delhi discussions, with India agreeing to reduce the import duties on Sri Lanka's cloves, nutmeg, glycerine, rubber, cocoa beans and natural graphites and jointly launch industrial and packing ventures and market tea. A programme to raise the standard of English in schools which has been deteriorating in the past two decades has been launched by the Minister of Education to be effective from January 1 next year. Over 50,000 families have been rendered homeless by the total destruction of their houses and huts in the recent cyclone. In the two weeks since the cyclone and floods of November 23, international assistance to Sri Lanka for immediate relief measures has reached Rs. 50 million—ST. A co-op general manager, and ex-mayor and several leading citizens were taken into custody for conniving, retaining looted property and for transporting looted property said the SP, Batticaloa—WK. The leader of the Opposition while travelling in the cyclone-ravaged areas to survey the damage escaped by a hair's breadth when the car he was travelling in met with an accident—VK. The people who lost their houses during the recent cyclone will get a loan for Rs. 5000 to repair the damage—CM. Iran enters a critical 48 hours of religious mourning with a military government seeking to avoid bloodshed that could further weaken the Shah's position—SO. Israel foreign minister Moshe Dayan said yesterday Israel was unlikely to close its doors to further talks with Egypt if Cairo did not sign a peace treaty on December 17 as planned. The Angolan government announced the dismissal of PM Lope Do Nascimento and said his post would be abolished—ST.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11:

President Jayewardene said yesterday that as long as his gov-

ernment lasted it would implement to the letter the Declaration of Human Rights; he was speaking on the occasion of the inauguration of the Human Rights Centre. The President said after a tour of cyclone ravaged areas in the Batticaloa district last Saturday that he was happy that the government administration was returning to normal and the machinery was now there for normal distribution of food to take place. 239,000 students will sit the GCE 'O' level examination tomorrow. The FAO has granted Rs. 11 million as food aid for cyclone victims in Sri Lanka. The condensed milk factory at Polonnaruwa will resume production in two weeks; the factory ceased production after it was damaged by the cyclone—CDN. Unlicensed radio sets will be confiscated; this decision was taken by the directorate of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. Ten members of the gang responsible for a series of murders, armed robberies and bank hold ups in the Northern Province are reported to be in Colombo—CDM. President Jayewardene yesterday decided that restrictions would have to be imposed on society if a section of misguided individuals sought to destroy the government. The Cabinet has laid down a series of guidelines to be followed by GA's in regard to cyclone relief work. A Bureau for the study of Sri Lanka Rebirth cases is to be established shortly in Kandy as part of an American research project on this subject—SU. President has announced after surveying the cyclone affected areas that two plans—one short term and the other long term—will be implemented to rehabilitate the areas—VK. Investigations into the Nallur Bank robbery have so far not revealed any useful clue according to police sources—DP. A secret document severely criticising the SLFP leader-

ship has been distributed among its membership and it has jolted the leadership. The Minister of Transport has decided to permit private bus owners to run minibuses services in Colombo and the suburbs—DM. The police has got a tip off that a part of the cash stolen from the Nallur bank is to be distributed among Tamils who were affected by the cyclone in Batticaloa—JD. Police investigations have revealed that members of the terrorist group in the North have been sent to Colombo to shoot anybody who gives information to the police regarding their activities—LD. President Carter faced with criticism within his own party defended a strong military policy and said he was inclined to increase the defence budget next year to counter a Soviet build-up. South Africa yesterday announced an 81% turn out of voters in the week-long election in Namibia. The US flew military transport planes into Teheran last night to bring in anti-riot equipment and carry out American families—CDN. Iran's armed forces conceded the centre of the capital to around one million demonstrators against the Shah facing a climax to the year-old opposition campaign against his once absolute power. President Carter sent warm wishes and a pledge of continued support to Communist Romania's independent minded President Nicolae Ceausescu—SU.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12:

The PM of India, Mr. Morarji Desai, will be in Sri Lanka on February 4 to participate in the first anniversary of the installation of Mr. J. R. Jayewardene as the first elected Executive President; this announcement was made by the Minister of Trade who returned to the island after an official visit of India and Bangladesh. The Minister of Trade said yesterday the willingness of India to treat her trade

relations with Sri Lanka on a special basis showed the qualitative difference in the goodwill between the two countries. The Minister of Education promised the country that in the interest of education he would see to it that justice and fairplay prevailed in the marking of all answer scripts be they in Sinhala, Tamil or English. Strong winds and incessant rain during the past 48 hours have caused a minor flood situation in Batticaloa. The exposition of the sacred tooth relic for public veneration will be held from December 15 to 25 at the Sri Dalada Maligawa Kandy—CDN. The police team investigating the Nallur People's Bank robbery has run into a wall of silence though there were at least 25 witnesses of the incident in its various stages—CDM. The Parliamentary Select Committee examining the suitability of candidates for high posts has suspended the screening of the five members of the GCEC. The newly passed Judicature Act will come into operation by the middle of next year. The Minister of Justice and Chairman of the District Advisory Committee said that the rehabilitation of the cyclone affected areas in the Batticaloa district will be undertaken on a two phased programme. The MP for Nallur and the President of the TULF yesterday called for a full inquiry into the allegations made by the Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs that Tamil examiners were favouring Tamil students in the University; he asked how the Minister had obtained answer scripts which were secret documents—SU. The Minister of Education asked for pardon on behalf of officials of his ministry who he said were behaving badly—VK. Rs. 3 million worth of tea which was exported to a middle eastern country has been returned as this consignment was not in keeping

with the conditions in the agreement—DK. The Petroleum Corporation is considering increasing the price level by 60%; a gallon of petrol will cost Rs. 22, a gallon of diesel Rs. 8 and a gallon of kerosene oil Rs. 5—ATH. Qatari Oil Minister Al Thani said yesterday that the rising of oil prices has become a must and indispensable. In a mammoth show of strength and unity against the Shah an estimated 3 million Iranians, about 10% of the total population, marched peacefully through the streets of Tehran and other major cities yesterday. Two top Nepali ministers and a minister of State have resigned because of investigations into ministries that they have headed in recent years. The lower house of parliament began a debate whether to take up the recommendations of its Privileges Committee that the former PM Indira Gandhi is guilty of persecuting government officials collecting information for parliament about alleged violation by her son's Maruti Ltd. of licence conditions for the manufacture of small cars—CDN. Thousands of Israelis, many with tears in their eyes paid their last respects to former Premier Golda Meir—SU.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13:

Minimising Customs and Exchange control formalities, only random checking of baggage and incoming gift parcels, the elimination of customs declaration forms for certain categories of travellers and the provision of reversion of the Sri Lanka rupees into foreign currency at airports are some of the steps of government proposes to take shortly. Air Lanka, Sri Lanka's new international airline, will commence operations at the beginning of next month; it will not tie with any other airline but go it alone. The European Centre for International Co-operation will offer substantial aid to Sri Lanka in the implementation

of its major development projects including the accelerated Mahaweli scheme. Members of workers councils will be appointed to the directorates of state corporations the Minister of Labour said yesterday. New laws will be framed soon to regulate the feelevying employment agencies for jobs abroad. 20,000 people have been marooned in several areas following heavy rain; two villages were completely cut off by floods once again in the Batticaloa district—CDN. The Minister of Labour announced yesterday that he would shortly introduce legislation to set up a Trust Fund for public and private sector employees which would pay gratuities of one month's salary for every year's service to employees who had worked over three years in any establishment; this would be in addition to the EPF—CDM. The Advanced Level qualification certified in Sri Lanka will be recognised for entrance to Universities throughout the world after 1985, the Minister of Education announced yesterday. The Attorney General has held that a District Minister in the North Central Province could be prosecuted for alleged intimidation and assault of an Attorney-at-law. The government has announced the Six Chancellors to the Universities: Colombo Prof. D. A. Ranasinghe; Peradeniya Mr. Victor Tennakoon; Moratuwa Mr. Arthur C. Clarke; Sri Jayewardenapura Prof. D. E. Hettiarachchi; Kelaniya University Mr. V. Manickavasagar. The government will intervene to compel the private sector to fall in line with the ten percent wage increase announced in the budget last month. Mr. Wang Jun-Shong the Vice Foreign Trade Minister of China will lead a five member delegation to Colombo for bilateral trade talks—SU. Rs. 25,000 was taken at gun point at the Galle bus-stand yesterday morning—VK.

The Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs said in Parliament yesterday that people who retire from government service will receive their pension after one month and if somebody died in service the families will receive one year's pay as compensation—EN. The Social Service department has estimated the number of people affected by the cyclone at 1 million and the number of houses damaged at 2 lakhs—DK. Construction work on the Maduru Oya project has been stopped as the cyclone has damaged nearly all buildings in the area—DV. Armed robbers have robbed 32 banks and have got away with Rs. 3. million in the last 21 months—LD. The government of the People's Republic of China has informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs that it has decided to donate relief items to the value of half a million Rupees as assistance to cyclone victims—IDPR No. 273/78. Malaysia and Indonesia propose setting aside an island to give a temporary home to the growing number of Vietnamese 'boat people' fleeing their homes. Mrs. Golda Meir was buried in heavy rain on a mountain side funeral plot reserved for Israel's most honoured leaders. Arab oil ministers gathering in Abu Dhabi are expected to step up their private consultations about an almost inevitable increase in Oil prices for next year. China has advised some governments of the NATO alliance it intends shortly to end the 30 year Sino-Soviet treaty of friendship alliance and mutual assistance—CDN. Several million people paraded through Iranian cities in demonstrations of religious mourning and political protests against the Shah which went off peacefully in Tehran but were marked by scattered violence in provincial centres—CDM.



IN THE TUB

by Diogenes

The Perfect Banking System

THE WISDOM of Diogenes is not borrowed and his philosophy is his own. He talked to himself and appears to his friends that he converses with some voice within. His has a mind that pierces and penetrates through irrelevancies and reaches the relevant realities of life. He saw the vanity and folly of men who, in quest of fortunes for themselves, ruined both society and the state. They ruined themselves in the end and their children too.

Diogenes also saw how men invested and squandered their assets in that invisible but ever Flourishing Bank which was sounder than the soundest Bank on earth. It was the most perfectly and efficiently organised Bank in existence. It had no accountants, cashiers, officers and sub-officers. There are no ledgers kept nor Bankers' books. There are no monthly statements sent to the customers.

Every human being has an account in this most wonderful Bank, and he operates his account without any knowledge that he is doing so. The credits and debits are never checked by him and yet the accounts are never in error. There are no frauds or defaultations in this Bank. It is the safest Bank to make one's deposit and the highest interest is paid in this great institution. No man is too poor to make deposits and no man is too rich not to get into the red and overdraw on his account. Unlimited credit is allowed here. Every good and kindly act is credited to the account of the doer and every evil hateful act is debited to

his account. Deposits are easier to be made here than anywhere else and payments and debits are readily made. A customer's account is never closed and no warnings are sent to him. The Bank never sues nor can it be sued. Many are the multi-millionaires who have fabulous accounts in the Banks of the World with unlimited credit but they are in the red, having heavily overdrawn in this Great Invisible Bank.

The Master laughed and laughed when he saw the wretched men feeling so secure and making investments in the little Banks of the World in complete ignorance of the fact that a deposit here is a debit there in that Great Bank. To be born a man is the greatest of blessings. It is only man who can freely operate an account in this Bank. Deposits are easy, drawings are easier. It is only a kind thought or a kind deed which goes to make a deposit and it is an evil deed or an evil thought which leads to a debit. Every material loss goes to his credit as a payment on a loan and every material gain goes on the debit side of his account. With worldly success, man draws and overdraws. That is the moment he must make deposits with noble deeds and noble thoughts. On the other hand he swells his account with his losses, his noble deeds and noble thoughts.

This is the perfect Banking system and this is every Man's Bank mused Diogenes and pondered over the ignorance and folly of man.

IN NEXT ISSUE

As we go to press, US and China have established diplomatic relations and OPEC has increased oil prices. Tribune will discuss and comment on these developments in the next issue.

A SHORT STORY FROM NIGERIA

Another Christmas by Sita Selvadurai

"I have hardly any time left to get rid of this one," mused Yomi to himself, as he sat outside Kingsway. The day after was Christmas, and that meant that tomorrow will be a holiday too, and the whole place would be deserted. He surveyed the solitary comb of bananas still left on his tray.

"O bother," he cried as he patted his tummy.

"Hungry?" inquired Cheeku his twelve year old friend, who was observing him while hawking bananas beside him.

"Yes rather," admitted Yomi. "I did have my usual chop of gary before I left home this morning. But that was at dawn, and it is nearly evening now."

"Don't worry. You have only one comb left". Consoled Cheeku. "And there are about two hours left for big shop to close."

"Remember to get at least fifty kobo for each of these," his mother had told him, as she handed him the three combs of bananas that morning. Yomi wondered if he had been too hasty with the first two. He had got only forty kobo for each of those. The masters had bargained and won. "I will try to get at least sixty kobo for this one," he said aloud.

Yomi watched the well dressed crowds as they poured out of Kingsway, hugging their last minute Christmas shopping. They brushed past each other as they hustled in and out of the supermarket. Yomi had never been inside Kingsway or any other supermarket. As a matter of fact he had on many occasions peered in at the doorway and even suggested to his mother that he look around it leisurely with her. But she had brushed aside his request. "Those

big shops are not meant for us son." she had said.

The cars that had brought the shoppers circled round and round the circular drive of Kingsway. It was a interminable string of cars. They were all the latest models. Most of them were chauffeur driven. Yomi always had a fascination for these limousines. He could identify most of them. "The Toyoto and the Datsun are the best cars, and they are made in Japan," Cheeku had told him. Cheeku's father was a chauffeur and drove a Toyoto 'Crown'. Though Cheeku was two years older than he was, Yomi did not accept everything Cheeku told him. He had verified this statement from his father. "The Mercedes Benz is the best car in the world." His father had said, and Yomi believed that his father knew best.

Yomi pictured his father in his mind's eye. He could visualize him standing there in front of him. Tall, dark and handsome. His father who had now gone. His father who had made him intensely happy. His father whom he had admired and idolized so much. Time would never obliterate that memory. He was thankful he had had him for nine whole years. His little brother who was only two years old could not even remember his face.

It had all happened so suddenly, two days before Christmas last year. Yomi's father who worked for a white master in town was expected home that evening for Christmas. Little Yomi had lain awake on his mat and pillow till quite late, and then fallen asleep. He was awakened at dead of night by loud cries and shouts. On peering through the tiny window of his mud hut he had seen all uncles and their families who lived in the same compound, running towards the road. In his anxiety to run after them Yomi forgot to bend

low as he usually did at the doorway, and the lintel of his front door had struck him hard on the head. The ugly scar on his head was a reminder of that fateful day.

About a kilometre away from his house they had all stopped near a overturned van. Many of the injured passengers were being taken to a nearby hospital. After a while Yomi spied his mother. She was bending over the dead body of his father. The board on the overturned van said "Salvation". But there was no salvation for Yomi now. They had carried his father's body home, and Yomi remembered how his mother had sat by his father's corpse that night and wept softly and desperately into the darkness.

He had only vague memories of what happened in the next two days. There was special drumming and music that was usual at burials. It was noise alright but it did not help one bit to numb the searing sorrow that had pierced his heart. Two white goats and some fowls had been slaughtered. His mother did not want these animals to be sacrificed. "Don't do this. I am a Christian and do not believe in sacrifices." She had said. But his grandfather and uncles had insisted. And she had been too sad and upset to protest too much, so it had been as the elders had wished. No meals were cooked in the little shed outside his hut as usual. All the cooking during those two days was done in the big hut in the middle of the compound, that belonged to his grandfather. His grandfather, his uncles, his brother and he had been dressed in shirts of self same checks, and his mother, aunts and sister had the same print on the cloths they draped around their waists. It went a long way to give the mourners their identity. Yomi's father was buried in a corner of

their compound, and the orange tree they had planted over his grave was but now two feet tall. For weeks after the funeral the noise of the funeral drums had resounded in his sleep. He remembered how he had shrieked into wakefulness one night, and how his mother had rushed to his side and held him gently in her arms, till he had drifted into sleep again.

He recalled with nostalgia the days when his father was living. He used to come to see them every Sunday, his day off, and he always brought some little gift for him, his sister and brother. He thought of the big, red rubber ball, the last present his father had given him which lay treasured and unused, wrapped in polythene paper in a corner of his hut, in a cardboard box with his clothes. Yomi had hoped to preserve it

My No. FA/1/259
**The Land Acquisition Act
(Chapter 460) as amended
by the Land Acquisition
(Amendment) Act No. of 1964
Notice under Section 7**

It is intended to acquire the land described below for a public purpose. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 15 of 15/12/1978.
Situation:

In the village of Bandaragama Minor Division of Adikaripattuwa, D.R.O's Division of Raigam Korale (West), Kalutara District in Western Province.

Name of Land: Godaparagahawatta
Lots & Plan No.:

Lot No. 1 in P.P.K. 1409

Mahinda Gammanpila
Acquiring Officer, And
Assistant Government Agent,
Kalutara District.

Kalutara Kachcheri,
1st December 1978.

forever; a precious memeto of his father. There was always enough food at home for them in those good old days. The meat soup with the gary was regular part of their diet then. He could count on his fingers the number of times he had had meat soup since he lost his father. His mouth watered as he thought of the slices of bread and jam they used to look forward to on Sundays.

His father had been happy working for the white master. He never complained about his lot, and always had a good word for his master. Yomi had been up to the big house once. It was when his little brother was born. His mother had wanted him to convey the happy news to his father. Yomi had been impressed with the big house, its well kept lawns, and flower beds. The Madame had given him a cooled coke from the ice-box, and some oranges to take home to his mother. He thought she was kind.

How things had changed for them over the past year. The smile had disappeared altogether from his mother's eyes. He had observed her gloomy look while he dug the ground round their hut and planted cassova with her a few days ago, and his heart had saddened. She had been so different when his little brother was a baby, and she had him perched in a cloth pouch upon her back, as she went about her tasks. She used to even sing then, while she worked. Yomi was determined to make it up to her as soon as he was able to. He had always wanted to drive a car, but now after the road accident that had killed his father, Yomi had second thoughts about his future vocation. He had seen many road accidents before. They were common in his part of the country. But it was different when tragedy struck your own. Yomi thought of the National Pledge

he used to repeat in school each morning.

"I pledge to Nigeria my country, to be faithful, loyal and honest. To serve Nigeria with all my strength, to defend her unity, and hold her honour and glory."

Serve Nigeria he must, though at the moment he did not quite know how. The sound of "Jingle Bells" drifted out of Kingsway. It was his favourite Christmas tune, and he usually skipped and clapped when he heard it. Today he was in no mood for either. He raised his arm and wiped the miserable tear that had oozed out of his eye, on his outsized shirt sleeves. He must make a last minute attempt to dispose of the bananas.

Yomi scratched the short wiry curls that was his hair, and sweat poured down his brow. He felt hot and thirsty. The "Hamatan" wind which had started blowing from the north, somewhat eased the heat of the hot tropical sun. People continued to pour out of Kingsway, their arms full of parcels. Yomi approached a lady as she stepped out of the big shop. She was dressed in a blue frock the colour of the sky, and wore red shoes and carried a red handbag. "Buy these, Madame," he pleaded, as he stretched out the plantains towards her. "They are English Bananas."

The lady stopped and smiled. Perhaps she was moved by the pathetic look in his ebony eyes, or may be it was the spirit of Christmas that prevailed. She opened her handbag and handed him a One Niara note. "Keep the change". She said as she walked away with the bananas.

Yomi's heart leapt with joy, as his fingers closed tightly over the one Niara note. "God bless you, Madam." He called after her, as he made beeline for home.

Christmas won't be that bad he thought, and the world not such a cruel place after all.

O—O O—O O—O

A CHRISTMAS

I'll Never Forget

by Ina Trimmer

"Like Silver lamps in a distant shrine the stars are shining bright, The bells of the City of God ring out for the son of Mary was born to-night."

Music is in the air, carols for Christmas is nigh. Weeks ahead the choir is rounded up by a few enthusiastic members. The men are cajoled into helping and together with the ladies practise the carols they have sung for many a year.

Matara had been steadily filling up. There was not a house without its family gatherings. They came sons and daughters, from far away places to where they had gone to seek a living, in the great outer world where fortunes are coined, back to the shelter of the old roof for it was Christmas time. Sometimes a Black Sheep returns. He has failed to make good. Maybe he was undeserving or perhaps unlucky. But it matters not, the welcome is as warm for the Prodigal Son. The fold had been empty and with thankfulness and rejoicing he is received to share the goodwill of the season. At no other time of the year does the Fort echo and re-echo with this tinkle of bells as it does at Christmas time. Through the old Main Gate rumble the buggies bringing their load of relations and friends. "Juck! Muck! Pitta!" shout the drivers goading on their bulls and twisting their tails to outrun their rivals. The bulls hasten with swinging

heads. "Cling-ling" ring the bells hung round their necks, bringing music to our waiting ears. With bells and shouts and a clatter of hoofs the wanderers come home.

On Christmas eve the carols, so ardently practised, are sung. Everyone awaits this with pleasurable anticipation and I, too, feel important for I have a place in the ancient choir loft. My voice is a negligible thing, a mere hum of mosquito-like proportion. When the trebles rise to the heights I pretend to move my lips for I know my limitations. The old church is a blaze of light. The enormous hanging chandeliers shine with candlelight that stream out through the high, old-fashioned windows. On this night alone it awakes out of its yearlong sleep for the carol service which the whole town attends. The congregation join in many of the carols. With enthusiasm they "Hail the Golden Morn", the organist pedalling furiously, beating the leaking bellows by sheer force of human power. Suddenly a cyphering note invades the harmony of a soul-stirring anthem. The ancient harmonium has decided to share in its own special way the glory of the occasion. High and piercing that wanton note holds the stage for full five minutes. Then as suddenly as it was born it dies, silenced by a resourceful chorister.

Into the star-lit night we dispersed—not to sleep—Oh no! Who could think of bed on the most wonderful night of the year. Even tee children were wide awake and with our parents we saw Christmas in as the custom was as far back as I could remember, in the home of Matara's Grand Old Man, Mr. Keuneman. After games and supper the whole gathering stood round the piano and as the town clock on the ramparts struck the midnight hour, sang his favourite carol:

"From the hallowed belfry tower,
Hark! resounds the midnight hour".

Wishing and kissing we ushered Christmas in, then to bed we were hurried but not before making a preliminary search for evidence of Santa Claus. But the pillow cases hung empty and limp and the chair had not been touched. We were not perturbed, however, Santa was our trustworthy friend and benefactor. About 3 am I was awake, restless with the excitement of anticipation. Gropingly, in the dark I sat up and felt for the pillow case. It was full! "Get up! Get up! Santa has come," I whispered to my sister. Together we crept with our pillow cases to the dining room where a night light was burning. In that hour before dawn we investigated our treasure troves, sampled the sweets and pulled a cracker or two. My golden-haired doll was revealed last of all strangely like the one at Cardoza's. How clever of Santa to have known exactly what I wanted!

Salvoes of crackers reverberating through the town in the early morning sent us springing to our feet. Christmas was here! Happy Christmas! Merry Christmas! We shouted to father and mother, then ran across to the other house in our garden where my aunt and uncle and cousins lived. At 9 o'clock all paths lead to the church in the shade of the whip trees where we sang carols the night before. Self-conscious in our new finery we walked on either side of mother, along the short cut through the coconut palms. My new shoes pinch, my hat presses like a vice on the crown of my head, but my "baby doll" dress with two frills of embroidery which in those days we called "a robe" was after my own heart.

Over the grave-stones of long-forgotten dead with which the church is paved, we enter. Every seat bears its full complement of

worshippers but still they come, even those who haven't seen the inside of a church throughout the year. A later-comer's stealthy entrance brings all eyes on the door. Its father! Where could he sit? Every place was occupied even the chairs brought in for the occasion. Nods and smiles from the choir beckon a welcome. His rich tenor was always an asset. Mother looks pleased that he has arrived before the ministers. His usual time was half-way through the sermon. The visiting minister in flowing black cloak follows hard on his heels and enters the large antique pulpit with cane sides.

"Now stand to sing," he announces.

"Christians Awake" resounds from beam to beam and from a hundred undaunted throats the top notes ring out triumphantly.

After service the church is a happy meeting place. Everyone kisses

The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended By Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964. Notice Under Section 7

Reference No. LL/A/7409

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 15 (Part iii) of 15/12/1978.

M. M. Premaratne
District Land Officer,
Ratnapura District

Land Branch, The Kachcheri,
Ratnapura. 1st December 1978.

Schedule

Name of Land: Hettigewatte
Situation: Village of Nugawala,
Nugawela Wasama, Atakalankorale,
Ratnapura District.

Survey Reference:

Lot No. 34 in Supplement No. 15 of FVR 4.

everyone else. Hats meet in violent conflict but undeterred by such minor difficulties the kissing goes on. "Merry Christmas!" "Happy Christmas!" "Same to you!" are heard on every side, old scores forgotten, grudges buried in the limbo of the past year. Resounding smacks, hearty handshakes, every heart is overflowing with the real Christmas spirit.

But the best is yet to come. More fun awaits us in the evening. Christmas Tree organised and often financed by Mr. Keuneman. No child was forgotten, high or low, Christian or Buddhist, for Christmas is the children's day. Every child had equal chances of carrying away any one of the gifts with which the great tree was loaded.

Towering to the roof, glittering with candles, spangles and balloons floating amidst the dolls, trains and other toys, the thrill in the luck of the draw the Christmas Tree was the fitting end to the happiest day of the year.



A CHRISTMAS DREAM

"...Their Stocks By Night..."

by Inna

THERE WAS AN AIR of festive feeling. The long-awaited document had come. They went home, bosses, executives, staff and all in their new 8-Sri cars.

In the city, not too far from the slums and shacks, there were the night watchmen, (euphemistically called security guards) keeping their multinational stocks by night. And all at once a multitude of messengers and representatives looked down benignly on them like undertakers and then announced: "Why be afraid, go to the

Randyan art centre and there 'you'll find a brand new ILO Constitution on labour, wrapped in Randon silver-paper and rolled into a cylindrical casket of exquisite workmanship and filigree work. Listen. You may not like it, but it is really good for you and all of us. Here's a sign: It is full of negatives: no strikes, no workers' compensation, no respite to safeguard the continuity and the dignity of perpetual non-stop labour, not even health facilities. Talking of baby clothes and other textiles, go and tell this news in all the countryside—some of the new textile machines produce clothes for trade purposes, fluff for the air and by-sinosis (a lung disease) for the worker's lungs."

And then, in a blaze of mercury lamps, they announced: "Glory to Bord and Dockefella, and peace to people who keep awake like you, keeping the night watchn."

And they answered back:

"Peace, what peace, peace is the fruit of justice. That's what you have forgotten....."

AND THEY FEARED that so much answering back from menials could be possible in a democratic country, and so the tweed-decked, batik-tie locals vanished out of sight in their swift 1978 cars leaving the security guards speechless with amazement at their lack of politeness. The light went out of their eyes.....

Now, they said to one another: "Let's go and see this strange phenomenon, and learn for ourselves what has taken place, and they hurried away in the early hours of dawn after their duty was done, and they found it exactly as it had been told. There was the coldly impersonal scroll in its wrapping, and alongside it were the key tex of the document. Now, the light went out of their life. This was really bad news.

And the bad news went from mouth to ear and fear came upon all, except the workers, who suddenly realised that true power was gradually coming on to their side, to the side of the down-and-out and the bereft, the oppressed and the heavily-laden. The sodium and mercury lamps may go out, but the true inner light dawned on them, that peace-loving people must work for peace through justice and that people righteous people, meant real power.

They thanked God for their sudden awareness, and they felt as if it were Christmas, like the ones they peacefully celebrated long ago, when they kept awake once a year, though now they were awake all night so that their children could be in rags and others in tweeds an batiks.

And they slept all during Christmas morning, and some dreamt nearly the same theme:

The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by Act No. 28 of 1964.

Notice under Section 7.

Reference No. 2/11/2/74

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 15 (Part iii) of 15/12/1978.

Schedule.

Situation:

Situated at Munwatte village at Walapane Divisional Revenue Officer's Division of Nuwara Eliya District.

Name of Land: Kehelgolla.

Plan & Lot No.:

Lot No. 1 in P.P. NU. 563.

L. Premaratne
District Land Officer,
Nuwara Eliya District.

The Kachcheri,
Nuwara Eliya.

28th November, 1978.

a Little Boy came up and smashed the cylinder with its scroll of evil machinations against workers. And they woke up, joyful.

—X— —X— —X—

YUGOSLAV NATIONAL DAY

November 29th

TITO

—founder of policy of
non-alignment—

by Djorde Milosevic

THE POLICY of non-alignment grew up in the years after the second world war, when mankind was passing through many trials and dangers, when the polarisation of the international community into blocs was beginning to represent a permanent characteristic of international relations. The policy of non-alignment grew up, historically inevitable, as a form of the organised struggle for peace, security, decolonisation, independence, equality and free political and economic development.

The birth, development and consolidation of the policy of non-alignment are, as is generally considered in the world, the most closely linked to the personality of President Tito and his activity on the international scene, not only as a witness, but rather as an extremely active participant in the most important postwar events. With his statesmanlike wisdom, his capacity for finding solutions at critical moments, his constant efforts aimed at the realisation of clear goals with concrete activity and the linking of urgent and long-term tasks, President Tito has given an invaluable contribution to the consolidation of the non-aligned movement both as a doctrine and in practice. It is in the

non-aligned movement and policy that Yugoslavia sees the expression of the aspiration for the creation of a better and more just world, a world without wars and aggressors, for Yugoslavia herself suffered much in both world wars, a world without domination and pressure, pressure to which Yugoslavia has herself been submitted.

The aims and tasks of the policy of non-alignment have always contained the basic aspirations of modern man: peace and security for all, equal international relations and their democratisation, freedom and independence for all countries and peoples. The non-aligned countries today more than ever before comprehend that it is necessary to make great efforts to consolidate their national and economic independence.

IN HIS SPEECH of address to the ministerial conference of the non-aligned this summer in Belgrade, President Tito stressed that for many years there has been talk that stability in the world can only be founded on the balance of power and fear, on bloc agreements. However, warned the Yugoslav President, we have also been witness to the constant instability which this state of affairs has led. President Tito considers that this very state has led the non-aligned countries to seek and construct a new logic for the approach to reality in the world today and this logic is to be found in the policy of non-alignment. This policy contains such moral and political force that it has been able to introduce positive elements of stability into the troubled world. This is why the policy of non-alignment has become the real and indeed the only possible alternative to the existing system of monopoly and dependence. This is why the policy of non-alignment is gaining more and more renown in the world and its force, vitality and

influence are being underlined as the main element of world event.

President Tito has never looked upon non-alignment as an idea devoid of activity. He has always pointed to the necessity for activity aimed at peace, more just political and economic relations. For him the path to the strengthening of unity is at the same time the path of concrete co-operation and solidarity on the part of the non-aligned, the confirmation of their basic links and the permanent adjustment of national interests. At the same time President Tito constantly points to the fact that talks—and not the use of force or threat of force—are the only real way to solve conflicts and consolidate understanding and co-operation amongst countries and peoples. President Tito also emphasises that it is difficult to construct peace but easy to destroy it, that co-existence and co-operation either have to be general or in the final analysis may be brought into question and it is therefore essential that all countries make the necessary efforts to consolidate peace and enrich international co-operation on the basis of equal rights.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF Yugoslav foreign policy and the elements of the renowned role of President Tito on the international scene, have been and remain—Independence for all, equality of all, territorial integrity, non-interference, the right of each country to decide on its own fate and internal system. These are at the same time the basic principles of the non-alignment policy which Yugoslavia has been consistently conducting since the very beginning and in the creation of which President Tito has had such a major role. In the whole of the non-aligned world, and further afield, President Tito is considered as one of the perso-

nalities of modern history who, supporting the concept of the policy of non-alignment, have had decisive influence in bringing the world back from the brink of disaster, one of the personalities whose name will "live as long as all the values of civilisation are respected" as one foreign statesman once said.

During the ministerial meeting of the non-aligned in Belgrade this summer powerful support was given to the assessments that the battle against old and new evils of our world must also be the battle for the achievement of a different vision of the world, which would not be founded on bloc division even if it were possible to achieve the so-called balance of bloc forces and interests. Yugoslavia believes that this is relevant for the character and content of the detente, to which Yugoslavia attaches great importance.

The process of the relaxation of tensions—as Yugoslavia considers—has come to a serious halt, especially where relations between the major powers are concerned, and is burdened by some new cold-war elements. It is therefore essential to emphasize its positive factors once again and set them into motion, for without the detente there can be no real hope for the removal of the main crisis points in the world. Yugoslav political circles are of the opinion that the detente, however important the relations between the big powers may be, should not be channelled only to agreement between the blocs and their mutual co-existence. The detente must be made universal, it must include all regions and all aspects of international life. Yugoslavia is of the opinion that the detente must not be reduced to the conservation of existing state of dependence and the status quo, but must be the medium for trends

towards peace, independence and social progress, with the active and equal participation and responsibility of all members of the world community. The United Nations can contribute a great deal to channelling the detente in this direction.

President Tito once said that Yugoslavia is not a pendulum swinging first one way and then the other and that this has been provided in the whole of the post-war period. "We do not hesitate, we take one path." This is the conflict in a peaceful way, the readiness for an equal dialogue with all, regardless of size, economic power, internal system or foreign policy. These principles of Yugoslav foreign policy, which contain all the essential elements of the policy of non-alignment, and the consistent struggle for peace, equal international co-operation and more just political and economic relations in the world, have gone to creating the great prestige and renown which Yugoslavia and President Tito enjoy in the world.

—Tanjug

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THE WORLD TODAY

CHINA

—press reports—

REASSESSMENT OF MAO WITH PARTY APPROVAL

Tokyo, Nov. 26,

The Chinese Vice-Premier Mr. Teng Hisao-ping said today that the current mass campaign in Peking to reassess the late Chairman Mao was being carried out with official party approval, the Japanese news agency *Kyodo* reported from Peking. *Kyodo* said Mr. Teng, also Party Vice-Chairman,

made the statement in a 90-minute meeting with a mission from the anti-Communist Opposition Democratic Socialist Party of Japan. Mr. Teng was quoted as stressing it was unfair to put all the blame on the late Chairman for Tien An-men square incident on April 7, 1976 because of his poor health at that time. Mr. Teng said the Chinese Communist Party was considering shortly modifying the controversial decision made by its Politburo on the same day. The Politburo decision promoted Hua Kuo-feng to first Vice-Chairman of the Party and concurrently Deputy Premier and purged the then Vice-Premier Teng. Later, Mr. Hua assumed the posts of Chairman and Premier. Mr. Teng indicated the revision would be made because Mr. Mao was ill when the key decision was made under the initiative of the Gang of Four including Chiang Ching, Mao's wife.

—Reuter

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MORE POSTERS AS CHINESE DISCUSS DEMOCRACY

Peking, Nov. 26,

A string of sensational wall posters attacking Chairman Mao Tse-tung and praising Taiwan and the United States have opened the way to freedom of speech, dramatised by an open discussion between foreigners and crowds of cheering people here yesterday. Taking the cue from the liberal thoughts expressed on Peking walls over the past week, poster readers mobbed foreigners and talked freely about their country's problems. When the crowd heard that some of the foreigners were correspondents, a cry went up "Make way for the journalists." They were allowed a closer look at the posters. A dazed diplomat said "Never have I been mobbed like this. It was unimaginable

that one would one day be surrounded by crowds in Peking discussing the merits of democracy and law. The fact that the posters have not been removed indicates to them that they have the freedom this weekend that they did not have two week-ends ago," he said. The posters began appearing last weekend shortly after the declaration that the riots in Peking's Tien An Men Square two years ago were revolutionary—the communist world highest accolade—and not counter revolutionary as they had been labelled at the time. The most dramatic poster was put up overnight by eight young men from a province in South China on a fence in the square and facing the mausoleum containing Mao's body. Signing themselves 'the democratic forum', they wrote on 62 panels in large and beautifully executed characters designed to catch the eye that superstition and 'its modern equivalents—a clear reference to Mao—were at the origin of human misery, for their great sin was that people were kept in the dark. The techniques of modern propagandists were 'even more fearful than those of feudal society,' the poster said. And it went on to extol the virtues of Prometheus, the God of Light, for stealing fire from heaven and bringing it down to the world to enlighten man. "America is a capitalist country and is the most developed in the world", the poster said. The United States was only 200 years old but it developed because it had no idols or superstition. The wisdom of the Communist Party had been stunted by superstition and China had built two great walls in its history, the poster said. "One wall was to keep out foreign invaders. The other was a spiritual wall built by China Shih-Huang Ti and is derived from his name—between 221 and 210 BC. He was

often praised by Mao for creating the Chinese nation.

The poster also said, "The new thinking, the great democratic and human rights to which we aspire, which we seek, have today raised their heads in the great land of China." It concluded: "The cultural revolution must be re-assessed. Mao divided 70-30 (that he was 70 percent good and 30 percent, bad) the same level the late Chairman put on the cultural revolution." Another highly popular poster declared that Mao became "muddled in his old age. For example he appointed the political swindler Piao (the late Defence

Minister) to be his successor in 1969. He could not distinguish between contradictions among the people and between the enemy and ourselves. That is why there were so many unjust cases during the cultural revolution". "We say Premier Chou was the people's good Premier and the people loved him very much... Why could not you (Mao) get this (love) from the people?.. Why did the bad people persecute so many good people and label the Tien An Men incident counter-revolutionary?... Why can't the national economy catch up with the one in Taiwan controlled by the Chiang Kai-shek

LETTER

Sir,

INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THE CYCLONE

During the pre-cyclone days arrangements were in the blue print stage for a pageant and massive Independence Day Celebrations in Kandy on the fourth day of next February. Then came the most devastating cyclone ever to hit Sri Lanka in recorded history, in a short period of ten to twelve hours. This set the clock back ten to twelve years. A gigantic programme of reconstruction must come after the equally gigantic first-aid *cum* food rations work is over. Friendly nations round the world are rushing to our aid and have volunteered to help us to rehabilitate the stricken land.

In the midst of these humanitarian activities arrangements are still under way to stage the Independence Day Celebrations in Kandy. Perhaps the President and Prime Minister are even not aware of these preparations. Do people celebrate birthdays in funeral houses? Can anything be more tragic than a nation that learns nothing and forgets nothing.

Kandy too had its quota of deaths and destruction on that fateful night. But Kandy's highups cannot resist the occasion for a tamasha. If any Government decides to appoint a Minister for Tamashas & Carnivals, you can bet your last rupee that he will be from Kandy. Kandy has its other problems—see BETWEEN THE LINES by Serendib in the *Tribune* of 20.10.78—crying for redress. When the very people who have created these problems are in the vanguard of any celebrations, the long suffering people swing fromside to side from Genera Election to General Election as has been well demonstrated during the last decade.

Citizen

Sarasavi Uyana,
Peradeniya.
12.12.78.

clique?.. Now we are speaking out what is really on our minds..

..How can a handful of bad people run amok for 10 years?.. How we hoped Chairman Mao could modestly listen to different opinion.. It is a pity he cannot do so now."

Another new poster questions for the first time the appointment of Mr. Hua as first vice-Chairman of the party and Premier after the riots. It was not seen as an attack on Mr. Hua, who became party chairman after Mao died, although it implies that Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping would have become Premier but for the extremist members of the leadership in 1976. The party's politburo passed two resolutions unanimously on April 7, 1976. The first promoted Mr. Hua from acting Premier to full Premier and the second labelled the riots counter-revolutionary and dismissed Mr. Teng. "These two resolutions are not products of Marxism, but the wilful products of feudal, fascist dictatorship," the poster said. "They went against democracy and the legal system. They raped the people's will."

—Reuter



CHINA GIVING UP MAO LINE ON INDUSTRY

Canton, Nov. 28,

A major reorganisation of China's industrial structure is under way to integrate plants and streamline production on a broad basis. Discussions now going on in the country and some directives already issued indicate that China is moving away from the Maoist concept of self-reliance on the part of individual factories to a more rational and efficient method of industrial distribution and production. Under the Maoist theory of self-reliance, a tractor factory, for example, would manu-

facture as many individual parts as possible itself and then assemble the complete machine. Officials said the idea now was to designate certain factories to produce a smaller range of parts, which would then be put together at a properly equipped assembly plant to modernise and streamline production. They said co-ordinating companies had been set up in Peking and Nanking earlier this year, while discussions on implementing the directives were under way in Canton. The overall concept was to form "large-scale and even inter-trade companies" to transform the industrial structure of the country. The self-reliance concept made for some inefficiency, with a wide variety of different models of the same type of machine being produced all over the country. Standardisation was difficult to achieve and plants were even producing individual tool-making machines. The new concept, however, means that a major effort will be needed to improve management techniques and ensure adequate supplies of raw materials and transportation facilities—not among China's strong points at the moment.

—Reuter



CHINA INVITES FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT

Tokyo, Dec. 2,

China, as part of its modernisation programme, is inviting foreign private capital investment in a series of production fields. Two of Japan's leading industrial houses, Mitsubishi and Nichimen have received joint venture offers from China for production of a wide range of goods from textile to heavy machinery, an informed business source said on Friday. This is in total reversal of China's policy so far of not letting foreign

capital acquire interest in its economy or borrowing money from abroad. China has proposed to do both—asking for aid and offering joint venture participation to foreign investors. The Japanese sources say that the China National Textile Import and Export Corporation, a State enterprise and its Shanghai branch have approached firms in Japan, France and West Germany with such offers. They offer up to 40 per cent equity holding for the foreign capital, something many a developing country would not have done. The Chinese want the foreign investors to bring in latest technology, funds and production plants. Chinese share in the venture will be local labour, land and finance for local purchases. It is understood the Japanese have received the offer favourably. A Chinese economic mission headed by the State Economic Commission Vice-Minister Mr. Yuan Pao-hua is currently visiting Japan discussing joint venture proposals. If they materialise, the joint ventures will mean Chinese grant of private ownership of means of production for the first time since the People's Republic was proclaimed in 1949. Meanwhile, a Japanese Government source said here that exports of India and other developing countries to Japan would suffer, if it granted preferential tariff treatment to Chinese goods. China has formally asked for this treatment, which is at present enjoyed by about developing nations enabling their products to compete with those of developed countries. The source said most products of the developing countries would be driven out of the Japanese market if China received the same preferential treatment. Japan might accord China preferential treatment under the official "generalised system of preference", sources said.

—PTI

TAIWAN'S UNITY WITH CHINA: PEKING'S OFFER

New York, Dec. 4.

If Taiwan were united with mainland China, Peking would allow US economic interests to remain on the island and take its differing system of Government into account. Chinese Senior Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping said in an interview published yesterday. In a settlement uniting the island with the mainland, China would want to preserve the higher standard of living on Taiwan. Mr. Teng was quoted as saying in an interview published by the *New York Times*. Mr. Teng said Peking recognised that the political system of China and Taiwan were not similar and that China wanted to reach a settlement that would take the differences into account. He said China would try to discuss the return of Chinese nationalists after full diplomatic relations were established with the United States. But, he said: "Under no condition will China enter into any pledge to refrain from the use of force." Mr. Teng said China did not want to drop its three conditions for normalising relations with the United States—withdrawal of US military forces from Taiwan, cancellation of American treaties with the island and the severance of US diplomatic ties with the nationalists. —Reuter.

X X X

PURGES CONTINUE, NEW TENSIONS IN CHINESE C.P.

Hong Kong, Nov. 29.

The purge in the Chinese Communist Party continues, unabated. Those who have been driven out were indeed leading lights of the "cultural revolution" or connected with the "gang of four". But among the axed are also some who for some reason or other are unwel-

come to the present Chinese leadership. Last month, the First Secretary of Peking city committee, a member of the Politbureau and Chairman of Revolutionary Committee of Peking, Wu Teh, was sacked. Similarly CC member and the First Secretary of Liaoning province, Tseng Shao Shang, as well as CC member and First Secretary of the Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia, Yu Tai Chung, have been removed. The process of removal of important functionaries of the CPC is going on in Honan, Kwangtung, Shensi and several other provinces. In the course of two years, the leaders of almost all the departments of the CPC central committee, more than two-thirds of the first secretaries of the party committees and chairmen of the revolutionary committees at the provincial level have been dismissed from their posts. As a result of "streamlining" of the PRC state council, only eight out of 29 ministers and chairmen of the state committees, who were appointed three years ago have remained in their posts. There has been a reshuffle of personnel at the main political board of the army and in a number of departments of the general staff. Five out of eleven commanders of major military districts and twelve commanders of military districts of the provinces have been replaced. The scale of the purge is not the only evidence of instability in the Peking top crust. It is also seen from the process of "rehabilitation" of a part of old cadres, against whom repressive actions were taken in the course of the "cultural revolution", and who now make the backbone of the considerably strengthened Teng Hsiao Ping group. At present they hold most of the senior posts at the ministries and departments of the PRC state council.

The latest "instructional"

articles in the Chinese press set guidelines for continuing and deepening the purge. Thus, declaring that only through continuing the "great struggle" against the supporters of Lin Biao and the "four", it is possible to establish order in the party, army and state, *Jenmin Jihpao* writes that "big political affairs" have not yet been uncovered. Army newspaper *Chieh-fang-chium Pao* stresses that such a big purge cannot be made overnight, thus making it clear that the process may last for years. A number of foreign observers think that the campaign of settling old scores may soon involve other members of the politbureau of the CPC central committee. In this connection are mentioned the names in particular of commander of the Peking military district and vice-premier of the PRC state council Chen Hsi Liang as well as commander of the Shenyang military district, Li Te Sheng, known for their "radical past." Observers cannot help asking in this connection the question whether the figures, who are in danger now, will wait or launch a counterattack. As the Chinese press admits, the "streamlining" already now encounters considerable resistance from people, who took leading posts as a result of the "cultural revolution". The army incidentally was always the object of contest among the ruling echelons of Peking. As is known, the purge was started in the people's liberation army of China immediately after the removal of the notorious "group of four" headed by Mao Tse-tung's widow Chiang Ching. A number of commanders of districts, political commissars and other military leaders were removed during the purge. Differences, however, developed of late in the Peking leadership as to the scope, and pace of the purge-

This was manifested with part.

cular clarity at a conference on political work in the people's liberation army of China, held in May-June this year. Top leaders of Peking took part in the conference. Chairman of the CPC central committee Hua Kuo-feng in his speech called for unity and cohesion in the leadership on the basis of Mao Tse-tung's "ideas" and he actually called for limiting the purge. But deputy chairman of the CPC central committee Teng Hsiao-ping insisted on the need of spreading the "purge" and said that criticism of the "group of four" cannot be conducted without criticising the "line of Lin Piao", the former minister of defence and Mao Tse-tung's "successor". Following the army political bodies, the "movement" has since swept the naval forces of China. The newspaper, *Jenmin Jihpao*, declares that its aim is to "purge the navy from the lurking supporters of Lin Piao and the 'gang of four.' The "streamlining" of the navy, as Chinese newspapers report, is done under the direct supervision of member of the politbureau of CPC central committee and first political commissar of the navy, Su Chen Hua, who "personally checked" more than 40 naval military units. More than 700 "working groups", including 6,000 specially trained "activists" have been sent to the headquarters, ships and coastal units.

In order to imagine the great scale of the current purge it is sufficient to recall that over the period under review, the officers' corps, up to the regimental level, was renewed by at least a half, and a considerable part of political bodies—by two-thirds—removing those who were promoted during the "cultural revolution." It must be noted that neither the rehabilitation of the leading figures, who were in disgrace during the years of the

"cultural revolution" nor the criticism of the "gang of four" has led to the restoration of the Communist Party of China as a Marxist-Leninist Party. Personal struggles are under way for power within the top crust among politicians, who borrowed from Maoism its most negative feature, anti-Sovietism.

So far the more experienced Teng Hsiao-ping who went through two purges and knows how this experience can be applied to others, is taking the upper hand in this struggle. It would be of course an over-simplification to believe that there is no difference between Teng and Hua Kuo Feng and vice versa. Judging by the speeches of the Chinese leaders themselves, there are differences between them—on the so-called program of "four modernisations" (in the field of industry, agriculture, defence, science and technology), on the development of relations with the USA and other countries as well as on other issues. It cannot be ruled out that the accentuation of personal differences will be accompanied also with a sharpening of "business disputes". Time will show. There is no doubt that the Chinese leadership is experiencing considerable difficulties in the implementation of the slogan about the "establishment of general order in the country" and ensuring "stability and cohesion.—IPA.

CHINA REVISITED—2 Then And Now

—preliminary observations—

by Nikil Chakravarty

Editor, *Mainstream*, New Delhi

THE NET IMPRESSION that I could bring back from a visit to a Commune is the variety of activities that go on under it. Compared to the advanced agricultural

co-operatives which I had seen in 1956, the Communes, introduced twenty years ago, are essentially agro-industrial centres, in which agriculture dominates under the preponderating influences of the peasantry. Industry takes the second place in the Commune's order of priorities. What we in our country would be small-scale industry, could be seen in the functioning of a Chinese Commune. The industrial component in it is ancillary to agriculture. Even the best of them produce some small-scale agricultural implements; the Communes as they function today, can hardly go in for mechanisation of agriculture of the level that we have achieved in our country in the Green Revolution areas.

On enquiry, I could get no clear answer about the costing of the products of the industrial units connected with the Commune. While there is occasional inspection from the State authorities, there is no system of standardisation and quality control. No doubt the sons and daughters of peasant families are trained locally or regionally for these small industrial units, but they retain the culture of the peasant economy. They are very far from the industrial estates we have in our country, not to speak of the more advanced ones in Japan.

The transition from co-operatives to Communes was not accompanied by any organisation of fiscal transfers and no assessment of the market was made in the high fever of the Great Leap. The remnants of this could be seen even today in the absence of any uniform pattern of accounting. In some cases, the accounting unit is the production team, in the others the brigade, while in still others, the Commune itself.

But conditions have improved for the peasant under the Commune from the days of the agri-

cultural co-operatives: his participation in the affairs of the village has increased—in fact, the face of the village itself has been transformed. The initial idea of communal living propagated in the heady days of the Great Leap (1958) never really materialised and what I could see is that the peasant in the Commune has his own home where he lives and eats with his family; the Commune kitchen, as I could find out, is used by those who happen to work away from home and pay for their meal—as many of the workers and employees in our country do in the canteens. An index of the peasant's improved living condition was provided by the village store, where I could find not only the bare necessities, but even pastries and chocolates are sold—which would have been unthinkable twenty two years ago. The drab unisex clothes of the fifties have given place to more variety and colour though there is not even the remotest sign of affluence. In 1954, Mao gave the call that in agriculture, "Learn from Tachai". Today, Tachai which by slow train is one night's journey from Peking, is the show piece of Chinese agriculture. Situated in the arid upland areas of Shansi Province, Tachai represents essentially, the spirit of New Frontier in China: opening up inaccessible corners and turning into agricultural land what was once regarded as virtually a doomed area from the point of view of agricultural production. The pioneering spirit shown by the local party unit has been widely boosted and the former party Secretary of the local unit, Chien Yung-kuei is today a member of the Politbureau, while the present Party Secretary in Tachai, a lady, is an up-and-coming leader in the Chinese Communist hierarchy.

ALTHOUGH MAO personally never visited mountainous Tachai,

his wife, Chiang Ching did, and this is referred to nowadays with contempt both at Tachai and in the exhibition set up about it in Peking—a spot where she as the leader of the Gang of Four was supposed to have tried to mislead the faithful is today shown as the site where a pig-sty has been set up. There are many moving references to Chou En-lai's visit to Tachai to encourage the pioneers, up-turning the virgin soil—from inhospitable brown to pleasant green. Although Tachai is still held up as a model—many a starry-eyed China-watcher hailed it as the pace-setter for Asia's agrarian problem—a close look at the experiment cannot but lead to the impression that without in any way underestimating the initiative and the grip of the eighty-three families that constituted its production brigade, the contribution of the People's Liberation Army to its achievement cannot be overlooked. The official position is to publicise Tachai as a heroic example of self-reliance; but this self-reliance could not have been possible, without the PLA bulldozers levelling the land and other government agencies helping in the laying out of the interesting irrigation system. While Mao's behest of making an example of Tachai is kept up, the present leadership in China has to face the grim imperative of raising the productivity of agriculture. Although China has achieved perhaps the highest productivity per acre, its record of productivity in terms of man-power spent is low—lower than in many parts of India or Bangladesh.

THE UNEVENNESS of Chinese agricultural growth is to be seen in the fact that while remarkable efforts are being made towards water conservancy, China is not only short of fertiliser production, but the fertiliser it produces is

of uneven mix; with high percentage of nitrogen which can burn up the productivity of the soil. This leads one to the need of getting fertiliser resistant seeds along with high-yielding varieties—which, in turn, underlines the urgency of improved standards of agricultural research, a field in which India can certainly claim to have advanced further than China. In the field of irrigation, many new projects are being undertaken including the canal link-up between Huang Ho and Yangtze. Tractor farming is planned on a crash programme and in Peking one could hear of the American firm, John Deere, being engaged in mechanisation of State farms in north-east China.

All this goes counter to the small-world concept of self-reliance with which the Communes started. Since the Peking authorities know that with population totalling a billion very soon, the problem of more mouths to feed cannot be tackled by more campaign for family planning—a campaign which Chou En-lai initiated in his report before the Eighth Party Congress in 1956, the first Communist Government to do it—there is a bid to push up food production which has been stagnating for some years at 280 to 285 million tons. The new target of 400 million tons demands higher productivity on the part of the peasant. So, the focus now is on to an investigation report on the stagnation of agriculture for four consecutive years in Hsianghsiang country in Hunan Province. The Party Central Committee issued a circular in June to all units underlining the importance of the Hsianghsiang Report. If Tachai highlighted the spartan fortitude of the peasant in the Commune, Hsianghsiang Report shows that everything has not been lovely in the Commune

garden. *Peking Review* of July 28, quoting the official *People's Daily* wrote: "Some units commanded production teams' labour force, funds and materials without compensation; in some communes and brigades, the number of people divorced from production was greatly increased, while manpower and expenditures used for purposes other than production were also on the increase; there was extravagance and waste in some units, and communes, brigades or teams, where a number of cadres were engaged in graft and embezzlement, appropriating the peasants' fruits of labour; and quite a few departments asked production teams to pay for development of culture, education, public health and transport and communication in the local areas. The result was that the peasants' private income dwindled."

THE ACCENT now is on more incentives for the peasant and less burdens on him, as impetus for more production. The follow-up measures on the Hsianghsiang Report have been significant. Apart from punishment for those guilty of graft, embezzlement and speculation—practices which had so long been kept away from public view to glorify the Commune system—the party mandate now lays down: "Develop collective production energetically while making every effort to lessen the undue burdens on the peasants. Run communes with diligence and thrift and in a democratic way; improve management and raise the peasants' private income on the basis of increased production. Adhere to the principle, 'from each according to his ability, to each according to his work' and oppose equalitarianism. See to it that he who does more work gets more pay." At the same time, steps are being taken to reduce prices of farm machinery, fertilizers and pesticides.

Tachal to Hsianghsiang is a long way: understandably, many Chinese friends would not like to concede to a foreigner this sharp turn in the outlook of the authorities towards peasantry in the interest of raising agricultural productivity. Hsianghsiang is going to be the model of 1978. Productivity claims priority today or revolutionary polemics.

Wherever I went in China—from the Commune to the kindergarten—I heard the ritual explanation that all the ills, all the shortcomings were due to the mischief wrought by the Gang of Four. But if you pin them down, they would not identify as to who among them were with the so-called Gang of Four nor would they admit that they themselves were afflicted with the malaise that put ultra-revolutionism before productive endeavour.

Although no Chinese friend would concede it—though some of them were victims of the purge under Mao—the inescapable impression I gathered was that the disruption of the economy started really with the Great Leap of 1958, and the genesis of the Gang of Four could be traced back to the Cultural Revolution, with the rash of Red Guards coming up with Communist Party Central Committee's Mao-inspired Sixteen-point mandate of August 1966 which specifically enjoined: "Don't be afraid of Disorder", and about the same time, came Mao's own poster slogan, "Bombard the Headquarters", meaning the Party establishment. Out of this twelve-year long ultra-revolutionary disorder, China today is trying to return to the path of realism.

During my stay in Peking, I noticed careful China-watchers laying stress on Chairman Hua's address delivered only a month ago, in July, at the National Finance and Trade Conference in which he blamed the Gang of Four for having "wrought havoc with our socialist

economy", the charge was that the Gang was "waving the banner of 'revolution' and brandishing big sticks, forbade the people to learn from the advanced experience of other countries, and many of our comrades are scarcely aware of what has been going on abroad." Hua pinpointed two shortcomings in particular—poor technology and lack of managerial skills, and added: "Low productivity, poor quality of products, high production costs, low profits and slow turnover of funds—these can be found in most enterprises."

Talking to friends on Peking with a sense of perspective, I realised that the initial spurt of in-

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

Ref. No. 94/1/212

It is intended to acquire the land/lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 16 of 22/12/1978.

Schedule

Situation:

Kitulampitiya Village, D.R.O's Division of Bope—Poddala in the District of Galle.

Name of Land:

Eladuwegawatte, Diganagewatte, Kirihamigellyadda alias Arachchige Liyadda alias Katukurundugaha Liyadda, Kirihamige Liyadda, Katukurundugaha Addara Liyadda

Plan and Lot No.:

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 in P. Plan No. Gaa 1324.

S. J. Pathirana
Acquiring Officer
Galle District.

The Kachcheri,
Galle.

07 December, 1978.

dustrialisation achieved in the fifties with massive Soviet aid suffered a serious setback with the rapture with Moscow, and what China did under Mao was to over-emphasise the importance of agriculture to the neglect of industry. Ideologically this was facilitated by Mao's long-standing bias for the agrarian revolution, underplaying the role of the working class.

The only exception was Defence in which noteworthy advance was made, particularly in the nuclear fields, and China is the only developing country which has exploded the H bomb: this was done in June 1967 though three years before, in 1964, Mao had said: "The atomic bomb is a paper tiger." If the production of steel is to be taken as the measure of a nation's economic growth, China improved her steel production from 17.8 million metric tons in 1970 to 23 million in 1976. This, however, includes inferior quality of steel also which normally could be absorbed in the manufacture of elementary farm implements. I found foreign experts deducting 15 per cent out of the total steel output on this count, while some of them question the very basis of Chinese official statistics.

(To be Continued)

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FOR THE RECORD

Attacks On Workers' Rights

—Letter to the President—

EVER SINCE the UNP Government took office under your leadership in July 1977, attacks have been taking place upon the freedom of association of workers, on their right to strike, on the right to march in peaceful procession, on

their right to hold meetings in their workplaces and upon various other rights to which workers or their trade unions have been entitled to under the law or by established custom in this country. Whilst such attacks have been flagrant in both the public and private sectors they have been most frequent in the public sector for which the Government bears direct administrative responsibility. Such attacks have included lock outs, mass dismissals and transfers, arbitrary interdictions, transfers of or discrimination against trade union officials and militants and even physical attacks on those engaged in protest activity like picketing with placards on issues affecting them. There has also been wide spread victimisation of and discrimination against workers for political reasons.

On 31st January this year, the Minister of Labour tabled in Parliament the infamous "White Paper on Employment Relations", which was designed to suppress or restrict trade union freedoms and the right of workers to strike or take other forms of trade union action and to deprive them of their right to legal redress in cases of unjust dismissals. The campaign of protest conducted by the organisations represented in our Joint Trade Union Action Committee against the White Paper, as well as the protest made by various other organisations both in this country and in other countries led to the apparent abandonment of your Government's intention to implement the draft law set out in the White Paper in its original form.

The subsequent actions of your Government, particularly in relation to the Token General Strike called for by our Committee on 28th September this year, and widely publicised statements made by you as well as by other Government spokesmen, and by the

Chairman of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon give us good reason to believe that your Government has not abandoned its intention to restrict and suppress existing trade union freedom and to take away or restrict the right of workers or their unions to strike in accordance with their own judgment of their interests as working people as and when they deem fit.

On 8th November your Government rushed through Parliament a new bill entitled "The Employment of Trainees (Private Sector) Bill" without any opportunity being given to the public even to know, let alone understand, its real implications, as it was not published in the newspapers at all, and was presented to Parliament by the Minister of Labour only on 20th October. By this new enactment which has been given retrospective effect from 1st May this year, private employers have been legally entitled to employ persons on terms of remuneration that are much lower than any existing wage levels established as minima by law or under collective agreements, for upto one year, by designating them as 'trainees'. This reactionary piece of legislation expressly excludes employees so designated and employed from the protection of the Trade Unions Ordinance and other existing labour legislation in the country.

We reiterate our declaration in relation to the White Paper on Employment Relations that we opposed and will oppose any attacks upon the existing rights of workers in this country and any attempt to restrict the trade union rights or to interfere with the right to strike and the right of collective bargaining in the private as well as in the public sector under any pretext whatsoever.

We accordingly call upon your Government to desist from its efforts to use its parliamentary majority to subject the working class to even more ruthless exploitation than it has already been subjected to in the public and private sectors by suppressing or restricting its freedom of association and collective action. We also call upon your Government to desist from its grossly undemocratic practice of rushing bills affecting the rights of the people and the working class in particular, through Parliament without any proper opportunity being afforded to the public to know the contents of such legislation in time to express its views in that regard before draft legislation is presented to Parliament.

FROM THE JOINT TRADE UNION ACTION COMMITTEE.

L. W. Panditha, Ceylon Federation of Trade Unions; **Bala Tampoe**, Ceylon Mercantile Union; **Alavi Moulana**, Sri Lanka Independent Trade Union Federation; **J. A. K. Perera**, Public Service Trade Union Federation; **P. D. Wimalasena**, Government Trade Union Federation; **Chandradasa Gamaathige**, Sri Lanka Independent Government Trade Union Federation; **N. G. Subasinghe**, Technical Service Trade Union Federation; **T. A. Nandasena**, Local Government Trade Union Federation; **Batty Weerakoon**, Ceylon Federation of Labour; **A. T. Navaratne**, Ceylon Bank Employees Union; **Gunaratne Bandara**, Sri Lanka Jathika Guru Sangamaya; **H. N. Fernando**, Ceylon Teachers Union; **Savanadasa**, Government Clerical Service Union; **H. M. Wilbert**, Samastha Lanka Rajaya Lipikaru Sangamaya; **W. L. V. Weeratunge**, Central Council of Ceylon Trade Unions;

N. Shanmugathan, Ceylon Trade Union Federation; **Nandasiri Gunaratne**, Sri Lanka Federation of Labour Unions.

123, Union Place,
Colombo 2.
November 24, 1978.

OF LIONS AND TIGERS

Let's Get Together

—not divide—

by **R. C. Thavarajah**

Backbencher's Political Note Book of Sunday Times dated 3rd December, 1978 provides interesting reading. The appeal of the Honourable Minister of State is most commendable. He is an eloquent speaker. There is excellence of DICTION and oratorical brilliance. In addition, he has always been a flawless writer of no mean repute. As a journalist he believes in what **ROY WILSON HOWARD**, American newspaper publisher, Director of Newspaper Enterprise Association and later Editor of the *World Telegram* wrote:—

"In a great democracy such as ours, the outstanding need of the hour is greater INFORMATION and greater TOLERANCE. Sincere efforts at enlightenment and education by the Press are more important than self-appointed leadership."

The Minister spoke of Tamil civilization being 8000 years old, of Bharatha Natya, God speaking to the people and the contribution made by Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan. He was not placating any particular Political Party or assuaging the feelings of the people of the North. He was not playing to the gallery of only a section of the Colombo Municipality. It was

the expression of sincere appreciation by a cultured person who has an admirable sense of values. In paying a tribute to the great Tamil leader, he was associating himself with the sentiments of the one time Governor, Sir Herbert Stanley who said:—

"I think if I were a Ceylonese, I should feel specially proud of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan. He has had a most remarkable career. I suppose there are few instances on record in which a man has touched life at so many points and at every point at which he has touched it, he has touched it with distinction" (From the book *Life of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan* by Mr. M. Vythilingam, B.A. (Lond.) former Principal, Hindu College, Chavakachcheri).

IN SHARP CONTRAST to the laudable comments of the Minister of State, there are, in the same news item, some references by another. Briefly there is an allegation that a certain political party was afraid of Tigers, that they (not the political party) had Lions, that they have now tamed them and that "You" (God knows who he is referring to) are provoking the sleeping Lions.

One fails to see how a tractable, docile and possibly domesticated animal can be provoked and how it can be dangerous after it had been tamed. Another point that is not comprehensible is whether a tamed lion or a sleeping lion that he is referring to, is not a quibbler and have no intention of being one. Not being a lion tamer employed by any circus company, foreign or local, I am ignorant of the habits, temperament or idiosyncracies of a lion—awake or asleep. The only lions I know are the ones in the Dehiwela Zoological Gardens and some others who sport elegant neckties, expensive imported shirts, trousers

and cuff links and who, like "the British Lion, though muted still roar", at least at their get-togethers. Most of them are absolutely excellent chaps and believe in promoting good government and good citizenship. They belong to world organisation the aim of which is to create and foster "a spirit of generous consideration among the peoples of the world."

An untamed (wild) lion may be a different proposition. Will anyone who is afraid of tigers which are lesser beings than lions, be so foolhardy as to disturb the siesta of *Felis Leo* (zoological term for lion). The last letter of the first word is definitely "S" and not "X". It has to be siesta as the lion is chiefly nocturnal.

There seems to me a contradiction of ideas—a slight conceptual confusion whether it be "in lighter vein, 'sotto voce' or 'con fuoco'."

Sir Robert Walpole (1676-1745), Leader of the Whig Party, who based his policy on stable finance at home and the avoidance of entanglements abroad, believed in the maxim "*Quieta Non Movere*"—"Let sleeping dogs lie". Could it be that someone is getting his metaphors or the facts of English history mixed up?

Anyone claiming animal connections whether it be lion, Tiger, or Buffalo must realise the naked truth that '*homo sapiens*' whether white, black, yellow, green, blue or red descended from the ape. I suggest that they seek confirmation by reading CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN (1809-1882), who first soundly established the theory of Organic Evolution in his monumental work *Origin of the Species*.

Instead of talking of connections or association with animals or insects, let us be men for a change and not political pachyderms. Let us not get our priorities mixed up. Let

us unite and build not a political party in the South, North, East or West but a united Sri Lanka.

This cannot be done by parry and thrust of debate, riposte and counter riposte in the verbal duels, accrimonious references or ridicule, persiflage or heavy artillery attack. It can be done by appreciating the difficulties and problems of each other in a spirit of goodwill understanding and compassion.

The urgently pressing need at present is not speeches but action. The focal effort should be the progress of our dear Motherland—not the prestige of any political party.



BOOK REVIEW

Kingdom Of Jaffna

THE KINGDOM OF JAFFNA
BY S. PATHMANATHAN
PART I (CIRCA A.D. 1250-1450)

(Published by Arul M. Rajendram, 111, Pickering's Road, Colombo 13). The Kingdom of Jaffna, Part II by Dr. Pathmanathan contains a wealth of information on Tamil settlements circa 1250 AD to 1450 AD. The book is based on a thesis for which Dr. Pathmanathan won a doctorate of the University of London.

The first three chapters of the book deal with the history of the Tamils in the Island from Proto-historic times to the 13th century.

Dr. Pathmanathan quotes the Mahavamsa and Culavamsa which refer to Tamils who were of importance in politics and society in the dynastic history as shown by the earliest record of Tamils in the Island, but he goes on to say, that until the major pre-historic and proto-historic sites in the Island are systematically

excavated scientifically the beginning of civilisation in Sri Lanka and the date of the earliest Dravidian settlements in the Island will remain controversial matters. Dr. Pathmanathan has given convincing reasons of his own on the controversial subject regarding the origin of Arya Cakravartis. He differs from such an eminent scholar as Father Gnanaprakasara and takes the view that it was a General of the Pandyan Army who came over with the Pandyan invasion in the 12th century and became the first Ariya Cakravarti of the Jaffna kingdom.

Dr. Pathmanathan has also dealt with Vanniars, who occupied a large portion of Vanni District consisting of the Northern Province excluding the Jaffna Peninsula, parts of the North western province and eastern province. The vanniars were part of the army brought by the Colas. They were a warrior race of Tamil descent called the ANGIKULAM (the fire dynasty).

After the Colas left the shores of Sri Lanka, both Tamil and Sinhalese kings tried to subdue the Vanniars and the Mukkuwas but failed. The Vanniars occupied the verdant forests of Lanka then called the Maya Rata. Sometimes they became the vassals of the king of Jaffna or the Sinhalese king, but very often they defied both. Therefore their region became known as "adankapattu" meaning the territory that could not be subdued. Although the Vanniars were originally Tamils some of them spoke Sinhala and were absorbed into the Sinhala linguistic group.

Although the Tamils lived in Jaffna from very early times the two main settlements took place during Maha's invasion and the formation of a regular kingdom by Arya Cakravarti respectively. Maha brought with him the chola

chiefs and settled them on forms of feudal tenure. The Cheras were governed by the law called *Marumakkattayam*, a system based on matrilineal descent. The Tamils who came from the eastern Coromandal coast brought with them a bilateral system of customary laws and the *Thesavalamai* of Jaffna reflects the confluences of both systems. The Matrimonial Rights Ordinance of 1873 failed to recognise this system and it is no more a living system of law in Sri Lanka.

No. 3/40/1/239

The Land Acquisition Act (chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (amendment) Act, No. 28 of 1964.

Notice Under Section 7

Please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 16 of 22-12-78 for the particulars of the Acquisition of lands referred to in the Schedule below.

Schedule

Village:

Pussellja, Sirangahawatte, Naguliyadde Palleswedduma, palletenna & Polwattakanda Villages, in Ambanganga Korale and Matale Pallesiyā Pattuwa, Rattota D.R.O's Division, Matale District.

Name of Land:

Opalagala Group.

Extent:

1248 Acres, 0 Roods, 38 Perches

P.P.No.:

P.P. Ma. 313, V.P. 558 (Ex. 1), V.P. 559 (Ex. 4)

Lot No.:

P.P. Ma. 1-13
V.P. 558 Lot 3^c
V.P. 559-Lot 16 1/2, 74, 76, 78, 80

H. A. D. R. Haturusinghe
Additional Government Agent,
Matale District

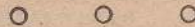
The Kachcheri,
Matale.

29th, November, 1978.

This work shows that during the medieval Period the Tamils held important posts such as generals of the army, ministers and governors of the outposts of the kingdom. Dr. Patimanathan has also given a vivid account of the powerful Tamil mercantile guilds and communities which had a preserved influence on the economy and political history of medieval Lanka.

Mahavamsa and the Culavamsa which record Sinhalese traditional history, have not dealt with the Tamil settlements in Sri Lanka from early times. This book therefore fills a gap in the history of Sri Lanka. It is well documented and is critical in its approach to various controversies which have raged among modern historians. The second part of this book which is still unpublished deals with the later period ending with the fall of the Jaffna kingdom under the Portuguese.

Nimal Karunatilaka (Jnr.)



POEM

For Sure, The New Age Will Dawn

In the distance I see a new vision,
Wont you join me soon and see?
Look! its scattered glow is everywhere,

As for me, I will sing of a new hope.
We are the free in slavery,
Flowers duped into withering;
Let us all join together and fight,
Let us in dying seek life.

We toiled to turn the desolate places into oases
And made tender green shoots come up;
Yet we have nothing saved for the future,
Neither is there hatred in our hearts.

We are the gods who have toiled,
Those who gained by us seek to harm us;
Was it then wrong that we toiled for you? No!

Then is it right that we should remain dumb?

Enough that others lived by our blood,

Now a younger generation must live;

If they come to harm us we will not cringe,
We will stand ready to resist.

Roasted by the heat of the sun,
We are shrunken human forms;
Yet, no longer shall we wilt,
For even God weeps under the burden of pain.

Now in these blackened souls there is life,
In our eyes there is a new flame
Which will burn as unquenchable fire;

For sure, the new age will dawn.
It is our task now to kindle,
A flame in the eyes of the poor;
No longer shall we live as cowards,
For our thirst will be quenched with victory.

Ismalika Dawood

Translation of the Tamil poem by Miss Ismalika Dawood in "Viluppu" a recent Christian Workers' Fellowship publication. This book contains the songs, poems and writings of tea plantation workers and others living in the hill country.



LETTERS

Is This Dharmista?

Sir,

In the current issue (Vol. 23 No. 18) of your increasingly popular journal, SERENDIB has referred to the letter written by a retired government servant who had drawn attention to a rather disturbing

state of affairs—that of one person holding two positions in the public sector.

With the UNP assuming the reins of government the people were led to believe that family bandyism (which has reigned supreme ever since Independence) was a thing of the past. It seems however, that despite UNP's sacrilegious utterances from time to time which are headline stories for the "Chinakras", "Mudithas", "Kautilyas" and other journalists of the stooge press, it is flourishing as ever before. Like the Job Bank scheme which has replaced the Chit system, a different kind of "bandyism", which is just as pernicious appears to be prevailing now. At this rate, how could this country progress? Small wonder all the talent is the country is gradually leaving our shores in sheer frustration!

One wonders how many UNP supporters and sympathisers have been appointed to more than one high post in the public sector, more for their loyalty (for obvious reasons) to the party, relationship to Cabinet Ministers and other VIPs, than in keeping with academic, technical and other qualifications! I am aware of two such fortunate persons. There may be many more such instances which some of your readers may be cognisant of. They would be rendering a public service by revealing them through *Tribune* which is one of the 2 journals—the other is the "*Independent*" which fearlessly expose fraud, sham and hypocrisy. It is only from these two much-respected publications that one could get a true picture of what is happening in the country today. This is the consensus among right-thinking persons. Unemployment among the highly-qualified (academically, technically) is fairly high, and it is pathetic to find that this government, from which the people expected a fair deal, does

not give these talented men the opportunity to serve the land of their birth to the best of their ability.

There is another matter I wish to refer to. In the same issue of *Tribune*, reader 'Naga' has drawn attention to the Job Bank scheme, overtly implying that it is just as bad as the scandalous chit system. This is undeniably true. An applicant for a job (even as a labourer) could be sure of getting it only if it is established beyond doubt that he/she is a supporter or sympathiser of the UNP. Could it be due to the fact of their not having the requisite UNP connections that not one Tamil IP had had the good fortune to be appointed as ASP-8 such appointments were announced recently—and that there wasn't a single Tamil among the 70 recruited to the SLAS? One wonders whether all of them were "Tigers"!

I am not a Tamil, but a genuine Dharmishta Sinhalese Buddhist who has right throughout his career in the Police Service and ever since his retirement nearly three decades ago always acted fairly and impartially, ignoring race, caste and creed. It is ludicrous to speak or write of a Dharmishta Society when the rightful claims of two Tamil officials, ranked Nos. 1 and 2 in the category of DIG were overlooked and DIG No. 3 was appointed as acting IGP. Is this how every citizen of Sri Lanka is treated and he/she is given every opportunity to progress, as stated by His Excellency the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka? To talk of a Dharmishta Society in such circumstances makes no sense. Adharmishta kriya appear to be the vogue today.

C. E. J. ALLES.
113, Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha,
Dehiwala.
31.10.78.

Tribune

Sir,

While walking around in Fort, I picked up your copy of No. 18 Vol. 23. Today relaxing and glancing through the letter from you on page 1, I noticed that your esteemed journal had been founded in 1954. I do not understand how it now works out to be Vol. 23 No. 18. Anyway 54—25—79 and hence, in 1979 somewhere in a month and date you should be proud to clock the Jubilee!

I have been a regular buyer of your Journal for a little over a year. I started this to cut out the "Sri Lanka Chronicle" to be sent to my daughter at the Tashkent Agricultural Institute of Moscow State University to keep her informed of S.L. news. In course of time, I found that though a weekly you have been far ahead of the dailies in many ways and your revelations are stark naked facts to the general daily news papers readers only months later as on the case of your recent articles on the Amparai Sugar Cane credit scheme. I wish your journal will grow from strength to strength in the desirable environment of Free Press.

S. T. ANDREW.

Kandy,
28.10.78.

X X X

—There were two years in which the publication of *Tribune* had been suspended during the Emergencies of 1958 and 1971 and also two of our volumes had sixty numbers—hence in our twentyfifth year we will start on Vol. 24 by mid-1979.—Ed.

C. E. J. ALLES.

113, Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha,
Dehiwala.
31.10.78.



Confidentially

Milk Powder Mystery

HAS IT NOT BECOME NECESSARY for the President, the Minister of Trade and Shipping, and/or the Cabinet, to look into the proposal now before the "Ministry of Trade" to hand over the Milk Powder Packing Plant at Welisara to Unigate whose local agents are Darley Butler & Co. Ltd.? That with the Minister of Trade, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, more out of the country than in, observers assert, that officials alone handle what may be considered the administrative and routine (the non-policy) aspects of any matter? That Mr. Athulathmudali is generally unaware of how decisions are implemented because he hasn't the time to do that? That a few weeks ago the import, packing and distribution of powdered milk was transferred from the National Milk Board (then under the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands) to the CWE (under the Ministry of Trade)? That it was thought that, unlike the Milk Board, the CWE was efficiently run and that it would be able to stop the rot in the milk powder business—import, storage, packing and distribution? That instead of getting the CWE to do the job properly, the "Ministry of Trade" seems to have been inveigled into handing over this business to a private multinational? That memories cannot be so short among our Ministers and politicians for them not to remember that milk powder was taken off the hands of private importers and distributors for very good reasons? That leaving this question aside for the

moment, it will be interesting to examine the proposals said to have been made by Unigate to the "Ministry"? (That if either the "Ministry" or Unigate feel that any facts we state are incorrect we will be happy to publish what they claim to be the truth?) That according to information available to us Unigate is reported to have stated that the Welisara Plant was no longer any good and that it was willing to sell the government another plant if it is to be entrusted with the import, packing and distribution of the milk powder? That persons-who-know feel that this suggestion is only a gundu by Unigate to import one of their excess (and perhaps obsolete) plants from abroad? That by all accounts there is really nothing wrong with the plant at Welisara? Is it also not strange that Unigate should now say that they could import the powder at 10% less than the present cost? That funnily enough Unigate was not able to secure a single tender for the supply of infant milk powder from 1973—although it had participated in practically every tender? That it is intriguing how Unigate, which had failed to secure a single tender for 6 years, can now hope to supply the powder at a cheaper rate? That if Unigate can import powder at 10% less than the last tender award, there must be other firms which can do better? That knowledgeable persons say that Unigate wants to take this opportunity to do away with the now popular Lakspray and reintroduce its own brand Cow & Gate? That the "Ministry of Trade" would do well to educate itself on why Sri Lanka had found it necessary to introduce Lakspray (and effect considerable price reductions) and also eliminate Cow & Gate and other multinational brands which for years had made unconscionable monopoly profits? That it must

be recalled that several years ago Unigate had claimed Rs. 400,000 as damages from the Milk Board for using their brand name? That thanks to the vigilance exercised by a Treasury representative on the Board this attempt to collect Rs. 400,000 was foiled? That now the local agents of Unigate, Darley Butler & Co. Ltd., are cocksure that they have already landed the Welisara fish? That they have also boasted that Unigate was offering a packing plant, free and gratis, if it was installed within the Colombo premises of Darley Butler & Co. Ltd.? That there is also a talk today that the CWE, which is charged with the responsibility for importing, packing and distributing milk powder, has not been asked to evaluate the Unigate proposal? That the "Ministry of Trade" is said to have taken over this task and this has given rise to a chain reaction of unnecessary gossip involving the "Ministry" and Unigate? That it is known there are proposals by other organisations as to how the Welisara Plant could be profitably and efficiently run? That all these proposals have been ignored? That the "Ministry of Trade" (and the government) must realise that once Unigate takes over prices will be pushed up very quickly? That Lakspray will be renamed Cow & Gate and the price increased on the excuse that a better product was being offered? That once the contract with Unigate is signed, sealed and delivered, this country will be at the mercy of the sole monopoly of one foreign multinational which will mercilessly exploit the powdered milk consumers (including infants)? That the milk powder industry is one of the sensitive sectors of our economy? That if the Government bungles this, the people (the voters) will not forget it in a hurry?

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