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## Letter From The Editor

ON THE COVER we reprint a drawing of the Colombo-Galle coach service which was the fastest way of travel in the last century in this country. The Railways crept in on this country from the turn of the century and since the thirties and more especially in the forties road transport has assumed an importance that has become overwhelming. The Railways was from the beginning a governmental undertaking and in 1958 the entire bus transport was nationalised—though lorry transport was left in private hands. Complaints about the railways had increased ever since road transport had appeared on the scene. But, to the credit of the CCR, it has maintained a reasonably good service until 1970. From that time, it started on a downward path and regrettably, even after July 1977, the downward trend has continued in a most disastrous way. Many promises were held out when the new government came to power that in less than three months a new CGR would come into being. But, eighteen months have gone by and it will soon be twenty four months since the Jayewardene government was installed with Mohamed as Minister of Transport and the Railway is in a worse mess than ever. Breakdowns are frequent because of the total lack of maintenance and servicing—a better and more frequent service was provided right up to 1970 with even fewer locomotives because the Rammalana Workshop, the Running Sheds and other Maintenance Units had worked efficiently. Today, the public is being fed with stories that with new locomotives, carriages and waggons, the CGR would be different. Maybe this will be so for a time, but the fate that overtook the Tanzanian Railway can easily overtake the new CGR equipment. The Transport Minister has proclaimed that British were coming in to help with a £ 270 million scheme to update the CGR, but with the senior supervisory management of the CGR being what it is, there is no doubt that the £ 270-million will go down the drain in the same way the money spent on new locomotives and carriages will go down. Party stooges and catchers placed in positions of authority to please party-oriented union bosses cannot run the CGR or any other organisation effectively or efficiently. The Catering Services of the CGR have been shut down for over six months now and the attempt to pass this buck to the Hotels Corporation has flopped badly. Everyday the service of the CGR gets worse and worse—and the less said the better. The situation in the CTB is not much better. The Colombo Town service is a disgrace. Commuters who come in to work from a distance of about 20 to 25 miles now find that it takes them over 2 1/2 hours to do this distance from the time they board a bus. Complaints have begun to say that travel is easier and better in the age of the bullock cart and the horse carriage in that they fully supplied the needs of the time and the demands of the travelling public. Today the CGR and the CTB are not able to do this. And with each passing day the situation gets worse. The common people are getting tired of waiting for new buses, new locomotives and new carriages. They want to know why the existing buses, the locomotives and carriages cannot be better maintained and run more efficiently. Each day that the Government is not able to set matters right, its popularity rating goes down. It is time that the President and other Ministers of the Government look into the affairs of the Transport Ministry with a view to making it to function properly. If this is not done immediately the dharmists will go out of this government much faster than its most opponents expect. Transport has already become the Achilles Heel of this government. It will be foolish for the President, the government and the UNP to think that new buses, new locomotives and new carriages will save the situation. The rot that has set in the CTB and the CGR is such that the new buses and new locomotives will breakdown as often as the old buses and engines today.

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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

### International, National

Colombo, January 8.

The international situation continues to provide its surprises. The most significant development this week comes from Indo China. Knowledgeable observers had anticipated that the "Government" formed inside Kampuchea by rebels opposed to the Pol Pot regime, no doubt with the backing of Hanoi, would be able to sweep aside the China-backed Pol Pot-Ieng Sary set-up without any difficulty. The Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime had broken every tenet in the charter of human rights and a little encouragement from Vietnam had enabled the dissident movement inside Kampuchea to take the offensive.

The Pol Pot regime had from the beginning carried out blundering raids into the territories of all its neighbours, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. The Kampuchean attacks on Thai border towns had received wide publicity in the Western press and Kampuchea had suspended these attacks for some time now. Raids into Laos were less spectacular probably because there was not as much loot as in Thailand or in Vietnam. The Kampuchean attacks on Vietnam were kept under the hat for a long time because Hanoi believed that a quarrel between "socialist brothers" should be settled amicably through negotiations.

In December 1977, however, the lid was rudely taken off in the Kampuchea-Vietnam dispute as the fighting began to escalate. China openly threw its weight behind the Kampuchean regime accusing Vietnam of "expansionist" and "hegemonist" ambitions. Nobody took the Chinese accusations too

seriously because it was mixed up with its quarrel with Vietnam about the ethnic Chinese in Vietnam. Peking was disturbed that the socialist screw should be applied very drastically on the rich ethnic Chinese group in former Saigon (and now Ho Chi Minh city). This led to induced upheavals among ethnic Chinese long settled in North Vietnam and a mini confrontation developed between China and Vietnam.

At this time, the Hua-Teng group pursued its "modernisation" programmes in China vigorously by wooing Western Europe and NATO (wanting advanced technology and modern arms), by edging closer to the USA (by agreeing to let Taiwan have a special status) and by signing the Peace Treaty with Japan (with the latter agreeing to the Chinese formula of anti-hegemony). With the China-Japan peace treaty a reality and Teng's swing round some Southeast Asian countries, Vietnam signed a Peace and Friendship Treaty with the Soviet Union. Having ensured protection from a direct military assault by China, Vietnam obviously set about helping the anti-Pol Pot dissidents into becoming an organised force strong enough to take over Kampuchea. This was not a difficult task because of the weakness of the Kampuchean regime. The Western press echoing Peking had first tried to make it out that a Vietnam army was invading Kampuchea, but it is clear that it is Kampuchean rebel army that has brought Phnom Penh into Hanoi's orbit.

Comments in Peking papers over ten days ago had made it clear that the Pol Pot regime would not be able to stand up to the rebel army and had said that the Pol Pot caucus would take to the jungle and wage a guerilla war against the new pro-Hanoi government. A later statement by Teng

had indicated that China had ruled out immediate military intervention to help the Pol Pot government—there were dark hints about the future how China would settle scores with the pro-Soviet Hanoi regime.

At the time of writing, Phnom Penh has fallen into rebel hands and soon the entire country will be in their hands. Prince Sihanouk has been evacuated to Peking by the Chinese. There are conflicting reports about the Pol Pot and Ieng-Sary: one version is that they are in the jungles carrying on a guerilla war, and the other is that they are in Peking to set up a Government-in-exile before resuming the guerilla war. Peking radio openly stated that the Communist Party of China will help the Kampuchean Communist Party to wage a relentless guerilla war to capture power. This statement is in line with the policy adumbrated by Teng during his South-East Asian tour when he had repeatedly said that whilst Peking would maintain correct Government-to-Government relations with Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, the CP of China will continue to have its own relations with the CPs in these countries. This stance by Teng had not been well received by ASEAN governments, which had, on the other hand, been assured by Vietnam's Premier Pham Van Dong that Hanoi will not assist rebel or guerilla groups in those countries under any circumstances.

ASEAN countries may find it difficult to reconcile this position with what Vietnam has done in Kampuchea now, but even ASEAN countries seem to regard Kampuchea as a special case. The indications are that the ASEAN countries will be strictly "neutral" in regard to developments in Kampuchea, meaning that ASEAN countries will not support the Peking line that Vietnam had waged a

war of aggression to conquer Kampuchea. Within a reasonable time, ASEAN countries can be expected to recognize the new regime in Phnom Penh.

What will the USA and other Western countries do? Will they take a "neutralist" line like the ASEAN countries and accept the change of governments in Kampuchea with pragmatic realism, or will the USA lend direct or indirect support to the Pol Pot government-in-exile in Peking? The USA is not likely to follow this self-defeating policy although Carter is likely to preach homilies to Vietnam and the "rebel groups" in Kampuchea that their resort to force was contrary to his concepts of human rights as it applied to countries where the USA has no vested interests based on financial investments. What will the non-aligned governments of Sri Lanka, India, Yugoslavia and the like say about the recent developments in Indo-China?

There is no doubt that what has taken place in Kampuchea and Indo-China is a setback to China especially at a time when it has claimed sovereignty over the Spratly and other Islands in the Archipelago whilst waiving, temporarily at least, sovereignty over Taiwan, in order to establish full diplomatic ties with the USA. (The establishment of full diplomatic relations between China and USA, by putting Taiwan in cold storage, according to many observers, had brought about a new balance of power in the world, but the latest developments in Indo-China and Iran add further complications to the already complex global geopolitics.

Whilst the USA had a calculated accession of strength by the diplomatic tie-up with China vis-a-vis the USSR, the latest developments in Indo-China and Iran rob the new US-Japan-China Friendship Lea-

gue of part of the new glory. In the meantime, the four Western leaders at their summit in Guadeloupe in the Caribbean have been at pains to point out that friendship with China was not at the expense of detente with the Soviet Union. Whilst certain European powers want to use the "China card" to cut the Soviet Union down to size, there are others who are opposed to this.

It is difficult to say what will happen next in Iran. But of this there cannot be any doubt—that the Shah is well on the way out and all manipulative manoeuvres he adopts to cling to the Peacock Throne even behind the shadow of a civilian government led by men like Bhaktiar are doomed to failure. A civil war in Iran cannot be ruled out if the Shah, his army loyalists and the Western backers want to fight it out, but the poor and even the middle classes in Iran—an overwhelming majority of the population—have nothing to lose but their chains, and they are in the mood to fight.

If the present monarchy in Iran which was created by General Ironside, and the British is thrown out, the future of monarchies also set up by the British after the first world war or just before in Arab countries. Like Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the Sheikdoms of the UAE and the other petty kingdoms in the Gulf will all topple down and the theory of collapsing dominoes which Dulles had feared in the fifties will take place in an area which the cold war strategists of the West had believed to be a safe precinct for Western finance capital for a number of centuries.

A new world is fast emerging, but nobody can say what its main features will be. India is in the throes of an upheaval with the Janata experiment a total and dismal failure. In Pakistan, General

Zia's Martial Law administration is not making any headway either in economic development or in achieving political stability. Bangladesh is in the grip of a political dilemma from which there does not seem to be a way out.

The stalemate in West Asia is beginning to tire everyone. In Southern Africa, violence has begun to erupt in a big way with the apartheidists and racialists determined to maintain White Rule over some of the richest parts of the continent. But all these developments are overshadowed by the global economic crisis that has descended on all but a few of the leading capitalist nations of the West.

In this situation, where does Sri Lanka stand?

With bounteous politically-motivated loans from the IMF and Consortium countries, Sri Lanka has been flooded with consumer goods of every kind. Will this country generate enough production and productivity to be able to repay loans within the stipulated periods? In addition to this, in terms of our Trade Agreement with China and the liberalised imports, China has successfully captured our pavement markets with cheap consumer imports of every kind. Very soon, the cry of dumping to destroy every trace of local production in such goods will arise.

The President and the Ministers seem to find comfort in the plentitude of consumer goods of every kind, but is this really something to be happy about? Except for a little increased paddy production—even here much of the boasting by Ministers is blatant exaggeration—there is nothing else to show as evidence of real economic growth. And, the way statistic, about paddy production are collected leaves much to be desired because the

accuracy of government figures can easily be challenged.

Though a few silver linings have manifested themselves in the Sri Lankan horizon in recent months, heavy dark clouds have begun to obliterate a few spots of brightness. The FTZ has begun to reek with corrupt and shady deals. The new Air Lanka is nothing short of a sell out—it would be far better for Sri Lanka not to have an international airline flag-carrier than become a second rate junior partner of Singapore Airlines? Must we become the dumping ground for SIA's obsolete planes?

Mahaweli is still a long way off, but before Mahaweli can bring prosperity, Sri Lanka might well have become a colony of greedy Asian entrepreneurs from Singapore and Hongkong? Whether Sri Lanka is a question on the lips of thinking people who are concerned with the future of this island.

Ministerial performances in the implementation of policies—except in a few rare cases—have not inspired confidence. Prime Minister Premadasa stands heads and shoulders above all others in the matter of getting things done. He also seems to have the capacity to make bureaucrats, technocrats and all others connected with development in his Ministry to work. He is one of the few Ministers who takes up follow-up action to see that his directives and orders are carried out. If only other Ministers follow Mr. Premadasa's example, a great deal will be achieved.

Another Minister who has begun to show rare promise of being able to get things done is Mr. Festus Perera, Minister of Fisheries. *Tribune* had been very critical of him when officials in his Ministry had let the country on a dance by farming out our seas to foreign trawlers without adequate safeguards and precautions. These

mistakes have now been corrected and Minister Festus Perera has been able to achieve a great deal within a short time. He has also done a great deal of homework and if there is one person who knows everything there is to know about fisheries—coastal, deep sea and inland—it is Mr. Festus Perera. He has been able to get his technocrats to draw up long-term and short-term plans and programmes on all aspects of the Fishing Industry and distribution, and he has begun to inspire confidence that by sheer persistence he will get the work done. He also makes surprise visits to various Fisheries Department installations and has discovered that officials are either absent or are asleep—when they should be at work.

The recent appointment of Mr. Anura Weeraratne, of Ceramic and Asst. Secretarial fame during the SLFP government, as Secretary, Fisheries, has made many wonder whether the UNP is so bankrupt of bureaucratic and technocratic skills that it should have recourse to dropouts who have still not outlived the notoriety they had earned for themselves earlier. Mr. Anura Weeraratne no doubt made a success of the Ceramics Corporation, but he had also led his last Minister and the Government on a dance that made history. He may be a new man—all of them say that—but must the UNP take risks of this kind in key and sensitive ministries like Fisheries? What the Ministry of Fisheries will be like after Mr. Anura Weeraratne has had time to feel his way about is yet to be seen. Minister, Festus Perera, by himself, without five-star operators like Anura Weeraratne, had brought the Fisheries Establishment to a position where it had won the respect of fishermen and the public and had begun to inspire confidence that it was going places, but now, it is anybody's guess what

Fisheries will turn out to be with Anura Weeraratne about—unless of course he has undergone a born-again transformation.

Minister Festus Perera will do well to plough his lonely furrow as he has been doing for some time now and he should insist that his Secretary Weeraratne confine himself to Secretarial functions and duties and not assume the role of saviour to execute spectacular feats of dazzling showmanship.

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IN SRI LANKA

## The Saga Of Foreign Doctors

For many months, the Ministry of Health had proclaimed that foreign doctors were being recruited to meet the shortage in Sri Lanka. In the third week of November, 1978 the first batch had flown in. The *Ceylon Daily Mirror* of 21.11.78 had heralded their coming with a striking frontpage splash *FILIPINO DOCS. FLY IN TO MAN REMOTE CLINICS*. The report by Thilaka Pancharatnam read:

SIXTEEN doctors from the Philippines, including women who arrive today to take up duties with the Department of Health Services will be posted to rural areas from December 1. This is what Mr. Gaman Jayasuriya Minister of Health told the *Daily Mirror* yesterday. Mr. Jayasuriya said that the shortage of doctors was most acute in the periphery where 80 per cent of the population lived and to which local doctors, over the years had refused to go. Remote areas such as Lakgala-Pallegama and Huruluwewa had no doctors for several months. And it was to places such as these, that the foreign doctors would be posted. The Filipinos are the first batch of foreign doc-

tors to be recruited by the UN volunteer section based in Geneva on a request made to it by Government to help overcome an acute shortage of doctors. Another batch of 40 doctors—from India and Pakistan is expected in December.

Explaining the need to employ these doctors, the Minister said that it was only a temporary measure. Employing them would not cost the country any additional expenditure as they would be paid similar salaries as those of local doctors. These doctors would be paid in local currency the consolidated salary of a preliminary grade medical officer. The difference in payment would be financed by the UN Agency. Mr. Jayasuriya said that no local doctor would be deprived of his place in the country's health service. Foreign medical officers would not be entitled to private practice. Although their employment had initially been contracted for two years, their services could be terminated at any time. The foreign doctors would also be given an orientation course at the Institute of Hygiene at Kalutara. They would be instructed on the treatment methods and drugs normally prescribed here, facilities available for screening and referring of patients and also given an intensive training on language. The latter would mostly place emphasis on medical terminology and general dialogue between doctor and patient.

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Then, on January 3, 1979, the Ceylon Daily Mirror carried another story from Thilaka Pancharatnam entitled 4 FILIPINO DOCTORS RESIGN.

Four of the 26 Filipino medical volunteers who were posted to medical institutions in the periphery resigned and returned to the Philippines last week. Three of them

returned to their country on medical grounds while the fourth did not give any reasons for his resignation. The Daily Mirror understands that the husband and-wife team who were accompanied by their little daughter were posted to a malaria stricken area. They found that they were sensitive to the fumes of the anti-malaria insecticide and requested a transfer to the city. Since this request could not be granted this couple resigned and flew back to their homeland. The other doctor had complained of a heart ailment and although the UN office here did not think his complaint serious enough to warrant a resignation, he did so and returned to the Philippines. The fourth doctor gave no reasons for his resignation. The Filipino doctors were posted to medical institutions in the periphery in November last year. Meanwhile another batch of 18 Indian doctors were posted to their stations yesterday.

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The following is a letter dated 26.12.77 from a local doctor who for obvious reasons wants to remain anonymous.

A few weeks have elapsed since our government imported a batch of foreign doctors from abroad (reported to be from Philippines) in order to overcome the difficulties created by shortage of local doctors. But we (at least I) do not know (i) the qualifications of these foreign doctors and (ii) the total emoluments they receive (and whether it is in local currency or foreign currency) from the Sri Lanka government and/or from any other UN agency (iii) their working conditions, hours of work, number of days of duty per month, paid holidays, income tax deductions, whether they are subject to FR, AR and other health department regulations (iv) whether they can

resign any time with or without one month's notice, (v) whether they are provided living quarters (and servants) at government expense (vi) whether our Health Department has the right to give them any kind of (relevant) duty anywhere in the island, (vii) whether they do medico-legal (judicial work). The question of their qualifications (and from which University obtained) assumes significance because it is common knowledge that standards of medical graduates differ widely from University to University. It may be of interest to know whether their MBBS degrees are recognised by the prestigious General Medical Council, UK (the latter granted recognition—meaning, right to practice medicine in UK and other Commonwealth countries—to Colombo and Peradeniya MBBS degrees conferred up to 1972 only). The Ceylonese medical graduates of Lumumba University, USSR and other Socialist countries are "forced" by the Ceylon Medical Council and the Ceylon Government to sit an examination here on their return, before they are absorbed to the Health Department. (I am personally not aware whether the medical degrees of USSR are recognised by the General Medical Council, UK).

Finally, permit me to add a personal remark. I have MBBS (Cey.) and also General Medical Council full registration. I passed out from Peradeniya Medical School in 1968 and served the Health Department from 1969 to 1977. In March 1977 I sent my resignation to the Department of Health along with one month's pay (which was accepted and a receipt issued to me by the Health Department). But in spite of repeated reminders, the Health Department has not so far sent me a letter of release which, I understand, is necessary for me to travel outside Ceylon even for a few days.

## BETWEEN THE LINES

BY SERENDIB

### Sellout To Singapore?

#### \*MONKEY BUSINESS IN FTZ.

The *Tribune* of December 2, 1978 spotlighted a nasty piece of work in its last page column CONFIDENTIALLY. It had said: "...That *Tribune* intrigued by this funny business of a bedside Board meeting and especially the hurry to hold it before the other two Directors returned to the island—set its sleuths and investigators on the job of discovering some of the facts? That the facts that our investigators have come up with will make many to sit up? (That if the bosses of the GCEC think any of our facts are wrong, we would request them to send us for publication the facts they regard as true?). That *Tribune* investigators have found out that the matter so hurriedly discussed at the bedside meeting related to a contract in connection with the development of Negombo town? That to go back a little, it was on 11.07.78 that the GCEC wrote to three firms asking them to submit plans and proposals for planning, designing, project management and construction work pertaining to the development and expansion of Negombo town? That the three firms were (1) SELLECK NICHOLLS WILLIAMS (EEC) LTD., (2) SPECIE DATIGNOLLES and (3) ULSAN CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD.? That at that time the three firms were in Sri Lanka having tendered for a large housing project at Raddoluwa? That the three firms were asked to submit proposals before October 30, 1978? That there after, sometime

in August 1978, the Director General of the GCEC, Upali Wijewardene, had added a new firm ASIAN EXPRESS LTD., to the list and asked this firm too to submit proposals for the development of Negombo town? That this firm was given additional time till November 9, 1978 to submit its proposals? That *Tribune* has not been able to find out whether the decision to add ASIAN EXPRESS LTD., to the list was arrived at a Board meeting or whether it was something done by the Director-General off his own bat? That a Committee was also appointed to evaluate the proposals? That the Committee was headed by Vitharne, the Secretary who had recently blossomed out to be Secretary-General (Vide *Tribune* 25/11/78)? IS IT NOT A FACT that soon after November 9 the Vitharne Committee had met and recommended to the Board of the CCEC that the proposals of the ASIAN EXPRESS LTD., be accepted as the 'most comprehensive'? That the Committee, no doubt to have a safety and escape clause for itself, had added a proviso that the background and experience of ASIAN EXPRESS LTD in regard to the kind of work involved in the contract was not known compared to the two other companies that had tendered for the job? (That one of the original three, viz. ULSAN CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD. had not tendered for this job)? That our investigators have so far not been able to find out what the depleted Board that met at the bedside of a sick member on November 24 decided? That this is the \$64 million question in the FTZ today? That the popular gossip is that the ASIAN EXPRESS LTD., is the company favoured by the Director General? That this company has a Malaysian base with expatriate Sri Lankan involvement? That if the contract is given to ASIAN EXPRESS LTD., it will be a

scandal of the first magnitude? That though all the legal and technical formalities would seemingly have been adhered to in granting the contract to ASIAN EXPRESS LTD., very important moral and ethical questions arise? That if this kind of monkey-business is permitted to go on in the GCEC, the President's declarations about a Dharmista society will lose all validity? That if the President wants to preserve the image of an honest administration, he must look into the affairs of the GCEC?!

Thereafter, on December 16, 1978, *Tribune's* CONFIDENTIALLY column concluded another piece on the FTZ thus: "...THAT it is difficult to see how "differences" which arise from corruption versus anti-corruption conflicts can be composed without drastic surgery? That little by little a big dark cloud of corruption has begun to hang over the FTZ and it cannot be said that the President and the UNP have not been forewarned? That the little 'benefits' the FTZ may bring to a few thousands in the form of employment will not be able to offset the scandal of a few dirty deals that brings millions in profit to a favoured few? That the big sharks operating in the FTZ seem to think that once technicalities and formalities are seemingly observed everything in the garden is well and good? That no fault can be found with the awarding of the contract to ASIAN EXPRESS CO., LTD., at a Board meeting held in the bedroom of a sick Director because there was the requisite quorum as required by law and the rules? That the suspicions which have been aroused by the way the whole thing was done has left a stink that will gather momentum as more and more such deals are put through? That experience has shown that voters are never duped by the observance of mere formalities and legalities? That this is something that the



## Obsolete Boeings

bigwigs in the UNP must think about?"

That it is in this context that we reprint a story from the STRAITS TIMES of December 30, 1978 entitled SINGAPORE FIRM WINS \$650M DEAL IN SRI LANKA (Lian Thian Soo and Dana Lam reporting):

"A consortium of Singapore and Malaysian firms has won a \$650 million contract to provide 'brain' services for the development and expansion of a town in Sri Lanka. Asian Express International Consortium comprising five Singapore firms and a Malaysia firm won the contract from 10 international bidders. The contract, to be carried out in three phases, is for the planning, design and project management of the construction of infrastructure facilities and supporting housing, medical centre and city-planning schemes for the town of Negombo. It was awarded by the Greater Colombo Economic Commission, which is the authority in charge of the Sri Lanka Free Trade Zone where Negombo is. The first, which involves the construction of water supply, sewerage, drainage and road system for the town, will take two years starting early in the New Year. The value for this part of the contract is estimated at \$200 million. For the subsequent stages, worth about \$450 million, the group will be involved in the construction of a five-star hotel, 200 executive-type houses and 2,000 units of low-cost housing in Negombo Town and the Colombo International Airport vicinity.

"Said Mr. T. Jayadevan, Chairman of Asian Express International (Singapore) Pte. Ltd: This is the first time Singapore management services and technical expertise have been exported to a foreign country in the form of a single multi-million dollar specialist services contract. Other Singapore firms include Lau Downie and Balfour, which specialises in the public health engineering field,

and Heah Hock Hong and Partners, an architect firm. LDB will undertake the work of planning, design and construction supervision of the water supply, drainage and storm water control and sewerage system, including the cost of this segment of works is the range of \$126 million. Heah Hock and Partners will be involved in the planning and design of the five star hotel and executive-type housing schemes."

The Asian Express International Consortium is a clearly syndicate put together for the purpose of this FTZ contract for Negombo town. Nobody could have complained about this if the company had tendered with the other companies on or before 30.10.78 and had not been given a special concession to delay its tender proposals until November 9, 1978.

The suspicion has been openly expressed that this Consortium is an outfit in which companies or individuals who are business partners of Upali Wijewardene in Malaysia and Singapore have crucial interests. Critics have openly alleged that Asian Express International is an Upali outfit, and no denial has been forthcoming from the boss of the GCEC? If it is true that Asian Express International is an Upali Product, it will be a scandal of the first magnitude and this may prove to be a major campaign bone of contention at the next elections.

**\*AIR LANKA MESS.** The STRAITS TIMES of December 29, 1978 had a top story entitled SIA TO LEASE 2 BOEINGS TO AIR LANKA (Susie Soh reporting). This is what the story said:

"Singapore Air Lines is to lease two Boeing 707s to Air Lanka, the new Sri Lanka national carrier which is expected to begin operations next September. SIA will also act as consultants to the newly-formed airline and, according to sources, will second several pilots,

technicians and marketing personnel to Air Lanka. Already, an SIA Boeing-707 captain, Mr. Rakhitha Wickremnayake, has been seconded for two-year period as Chairman of Air Lanka. An SIA spokesman said yesterday: 'SIA is prepared to sell or lease Boeing 707 aircraft to the new airline. We have made a primary offer to provide management services to Air Lanka following a request for assistance by Air Lanka. Further negotiations will have to be carried out before details are finalised.' SIA has five Boeing 707's in its fleet. Two are now on freighter service and a third will be added to this cargo fleet. The remaining two will, as part of the airline's plan phase out the aircraft, be replaced by DC-10s, and sources said these two would be leased to the Sri Lankan carrier.

"The new carrier will operate on the traditional international routes of Air Ceylon, whose international flights were terminated earlier this year. Meanwhile, a Reuter report, quoting official sources said Sri Lanka has proposed the establishment of a regional airlines, Asian Airways, in cooperation with eight other countries in the region. Sri Lanka is said to have invited India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Iran to invest in the airline. According to the proposal, the airline will be managed by a board of directors with each country represented and its chairman alternating annually from country to country. The proposed airline, to be based in Sri Lanka will be modelled on the Scandinavian Airline System (SAS). SAS became an international consortium after the Second world war when three small airline of Denmark, Norway and Sweden got together. The board is appointed from the three airline, with Denmark and Norway each holding two-sevenths of the shares and the remaining three sevenths by Sweden. The shareholders are

the governments and private entrepreneurs. A Ministry of Communications spokesman was not available for comment on the proposed airline yesterday. An SIA spokesman said the airline had not been approached."

Readers will realise that this report from the STRAIT TIMES of December 29 confirms what was set out in the CONFIDENTIALLY column last week (Jan. 6, 1978—Vol. 23 No. 27) that Air Lanka will lease two Boeing 707s from Singapore Air Lines—is a kind of poor relation doomed to use planes fast becoming obsolete. Tribune will have more about the AIR LANKA Project in the CONFIDENTIALLY column and elsewhere in the coming weeks?



## IN THE TUB

### The Pilgrimage Of Man

*(Diogenes thanks his many friends and readers for their good wishes. His only wish for the year is that he should not wish for anything. He extends this wish to his dear friends here and abroad.)*

Diogenes was a cynic and a rationalist. With reason and experience he accepted the life of the Spirit. He lived four centuries before Christ and two centuries after the Buddha. He possessed nothing besides his mind and spirit. He made use of a discarded Tub and he lived in it. He sat there, he lay there and he slept there. It was here that he contemplated on the nature of things and the ways of men. He took his mind into the past and into the future. His present embraced all eternity. He used to go into a trance in his deep meditations and then he was out of the confines of time and space. To him, his body, was a

burden which he longed to cast off. It appeared to him to be decaying and unfit for human habitation. He lived unmindful of his body which was a mere receptacle for his breaking bones, clotting blood and drying flesh.

On the other hand, it was the inner life of the Spirit he lived. It was lived in the inner and deeper recesses of his heart. That was his secret and restful abode, his refuge and his fortress. From here, with great equanimity, he surveyed the progress of man as though it was reeled on a television screen that was before him. He saw man spiritually advancing from fear to faith and from faith to understanding. Man was helped and inspired by the great religious leaders in his spiritual journey along the several religious paths which lead him to his happy destination. These several paths are open to him and he journeys walking along the path of his choice like a child holding onto a push cart.

The outward man, with his inner personality submerged, begins his journey with his instincts and impulses, superstitions and fears, conflicts and hates. The great teachings help him further up in his journey, beyond the rites and rituals, with faith and belief. He passes the points of devotion and knowledge as he travels along the several paths laid down in the religions and philosophies. He proceeds on his journey now with understanding and love. He reaches a point where all religions meet.

It is at this confluence that the outer man discards his outer-self and his push cart, so to say, even as the astronaut discards his first space-ship and gets into the lunar module. The outerman gets into his inner self having burnt himself out like the campher into a life of the spirit. His journey hereafter is on a solitary path and

he covers this last lap alone and yet with all, having totally conquered the inner worlds within. His spiritual journey is now complete on this earth and he goes beyond the stream leaving all his desires behind.

He crosses the stream of Samsara and reaches the land of Nirvana, free from pleasure and pain. To him now things future or past, things past or present are nothing. He has nothing. He desires nothing. He becomes the all seer and the all conqueror having freed himself from life that ends in death. He is the seer whose vision is pure and clear and in peace and perfection he is one with the Supreme.



## POEM

### Must Christians Be Carnivores?

If Christ prescribed what men should eat,  
He certainly, did not say meat—  
Thus meaning flesh of birds or  
beasts  
For daily fare or sumptuous feasts,  
For carnivores to fill their paunch  
With Turkey, Ham and Lamb's  
roast haunch.

By meat or fish was meant the food  
Which for the normal being is good;  
A vegetarian diet which  
In nutriment is good and rich,  
The grains, the fruits, the milk,  
the cheese  
Which can the jaded palate please.

Christ's love and mercy cannot flow  
With guiltless blood of creature  
low.

Mervyn Casle Chetty

Jan. 2, 1979.

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Dec. 21—Dec. 29

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

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—Virakesai; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silmuna; 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 21:

Sri Lanka will not purchase any rice from China next year. In the Sino-Sri Lanka Trade Protocol for 1979 there is no provision for the purchase of rice; this is the first time that rice does not feature in the trade transactions between China and Sri Lanka since 1952 when trade agreements were initiated between the two countries. The people in the Batticaloa district will continue to get free rations till the end of this month; this follows a directive by the President; the free rations issued to cyclone victims were to have been stopped by the end of last week. The government decided yesterday to increase the price of petrol while not increasing the price of kerosene, diesel and furnace oil: the following new petrol prices will come into effect today; Super Rs. 20 per gallon or Rs. 4.40 per litre and Regular Rs. 18/50 per gallon or Rs. 4.10 per litre. Ballistic reports made by the government analyst reveal that the revolver used by the bandits who raided the Nallur Bank last December 5 was the same one that was used to kill Constable Karunanidhi

who was investigating the Alfred Duraipapp murder three years ago and the attempted murder of former Member of Parliament for Nilur Mr. C. Arulambalam a senior Police official said yesterday. A steep increase in export earnings from rubber in rupee terms was recorded during the first six months of this year—CDN.

Sri Lanka is expected to buy over Rs. 300 million worth of petroleum products mostly diesel oil and kerosene from the People's Republic of China at less than the prevailing OPEC oil prices. The government yesterday decided to set up an organisation called Asian Airways Association for the common benefit of all Asian airlines; this decision was taken on a recommendation by Mr. Anandattissa de Alwis, Minister of State. The government will import 50,000 gross exercise books as an emergency measure—CDM. The Minister of Trade and Shipping Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali will today announce government's decision to provide equal treatment to all garment exporters in the granting of tax holidays. President J. R. Jayewardene, in an apparent gesture of goodwill and support for the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) of Namibia has allowed the use of Sri Lanka as an educational base for the upliftment of young Namibians—SU. The Deputy Minister of Fisheries said in Parliament that all estate workers who left upcountry areas and went North during the August 77 disturbances should now return; the Vavuniya MP denied allegations that workers were kept in the Northern areas forcibly by a political organisation. The MP for Vivaluva alleged in Parliament that the terrorist movement in the North which was indulging in acts of violence to gain Tamil Eelam was closely connected to the TULF—DP. The

Telecommunication Department hopes to use a radio wave system in the cyclone affected areas instead of new telephone lines—LD. The police suspects that terrorist groups in the north are now considering kidnapping politicians and business magnates to use them as hostages to make political demands—DK. Former Indian PM Mrs. Indira Gandhi was arrested in the Lok Sabha yesterday and taken to New Delhi's Central Tihar jail; Mrs. Gandhi said she would re-contest Chikmagalur as soon as the by-election to fill the seat was declared. The Shah of Iran is continuing contacts this week with several politicians to send out rebellious officers from forming a civilian government to replace General Azahri's administration appointed on November 1. The Israeli Parliament last night supported the government's Middle East policy and blamed Egypt and the US for the failure to sign a peace treaty. Former Pakistan PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto appearing against a sentence to death for ordering the assassination of a political opponent told the supreme court yesterday his trial had been unfair—CDN.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22:

The Cabinet has decided to go ahead with a program of building cyclone-proof houses in the areas which were hit by the cyclone. The Minister of Justice disclosed this at a press conference held in his office yesterday. Sri Lanka will reach self-sufficiency in rice and also have surplus quantities for export by the end of next year. This year's combined Maha and Yala harvests have brought at all-time record harvest of 100 million bushels. If the country's 14 million population is to be given two measures of rice per week the required harvest will have to be 114 million bushels and by 1979 this target will be exceeded; the Minister of Agricul-

tural Development and Research Mr. E. L. Senanayake said so in Parliament yesterday. The Japanese government has offered Rs. 40 million aid to Sri Lanka to set up a Research and Training Centre for coastal aquaculture. A team of officers from the Ministry of Labour will conduct a survey of firms which have defaulted in offering employment to youth under the Expansion of Employment in the Private Sector. The Department of Immigration is taking steps to ensure that Sri Lankans who have obtained jobs in the Middle East are guaranteed their return passages by employers. The Minister of Trade and Shipping Mr. Lalith Athulathmudall pledged in Parliament yesterday that there will be no scarcities of essential consumer goods and exorbitant prices in this country as long as he remained in charge of trade—CDN. There will never again be shortages or unconscionable profitmaking and I am prepared to meet any commercial challenge on that account; said Mr. Lalith Athulathmudall, Minister of Trade and Shipping in Parliament yesterday. Over 130,000 passports and emergency certificates—more than double last year's number have been issued to Sri Lankans during this year. The six autonomous Universities—one of the election pledges of the United National Party—will come into being on January 1, 1979—CDM. Government officials and corporation bosses recruiting personnel to the state sector by violating the job Bank procedures, will be surcharged. Taxi fares shot up yesterday to Rs. 6.50—and even more—for a mile; this was the outcome of yesterday's petrol price hike by more than 50 per cent. Certain political groups were indulging in indoctrination under the guise of relief work; Justice Minister K. W. Devanayagam told a press conference yesterday; he identified

the TULF and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) among them.

Over a hundred wealthy foreigners have shown interest in settling down in Sri Lanka under the Resident Guest Scheme—SU. The Leader of the Opposition has informed the President that malicious letters with the Rubber Stamp of the Jaffna Police Station were being circulated to Police Stations in the Northern Province; the letter which includes a Sinhala poem requests policemen to attack Tamils—VK. All Job recruitment to government Corporations and Ministries will be accepted only if they come through Job Banks—DP. The Minister of Land, Land Development etc., has decided to re-plan the whole land administration system for the better administration of the government land that has been neglected up to now—DM. The Government is considering reducing the 45 days of Medical, Casual and annual leave by half from next year—ATH. British Foreign Minister, David Owen said he hoped the US, Britain and France would be able to persuade China to develop a dialogue with the arch-foe the Soviet Union—CDM. At least 10,000 people have been arrested throughout India following violent demonstrations after yesterday's jailing of former PM Indira Gandhi. The high-jackers of an Indian Airline plane grounded in the north Indian city of Varanasi have demanded the unconditional release of ex-Premier Indira Gandhi. Romania today hailed the establishment of diplomatic relations between US and China as an outstanding event in the service of peace—SU. Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian PM Mustapha Khalil will confer in Europe this week in an effort to re-start the stalled peace talks between their two countries—CDM. Taiwan has put its 500,000 troops on full alert and cleared

to boost defence expenditure after what seems as a new threat posed by Peking and Washington normalising relations. 16 Congress I members of the Rajya Sabha today announced they are squatting in the house chamber in protest against the Janata party refusal to allow a house debate on the motion for an inquiry into corruption charges against members of the families of the PM Morarji Desai and Charan Singh—SU.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23:

The government will spend Rs. 45,000 million on a massive development program in this country on a scale unprecedented in history, surpassing even the era of the great Sinhala Kings, Parakramabahu, Dutugemunu or Mahasena; declared Finance and Planning Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel winding up the committee stage debate on the Budget in Parliament yesterday. The Minister confirmed that Sri Lanka will receive Rs. 12,000 million in foreign aid. Thirty five per cent of this aid, including the financial commitment of Great Britain for the construction of the Victoria reservoir, will come in as grants which Sri Lanka will not have to repay. Police investigating the murder of Rowlands and his daughter Koomarina (10) said yesterday that the wealth of the Rowlands amounted to over a million rupees and that they were positive that the motive for the killing was to get at the last will, by which Koomarina was to inherit the biggest share. The government of Sri Lanka will annually save Rs. 1.1 million as a result of the agreement signed with the United Kingdom whereby the British government takes over the responsibility of paying pensions to expatriate officers and widows of expatriate officers who served in Ceylon at the time of independence. The Ceiling on Housing Property Law is to be amended

to exempt the houses owned by religious institutions and charitable trusts from the operation of that law. Efforts are being made to start the GCE (OL) and the GCE (AL) classes from the beginning of next year in the schools which were destroyed by the cyclone—CDN. Patients in government medical institutions were up in arms over the preferential treatment being given to private patients by several medical specialists who had earlier been channelled by them; this led to the neglect of other patients, they claimed. More clues in the George Rowlands murder case surfaced as police found access to Mr. Rowlands Will which stated that if the beneficiary of his will, his ten-year-old daughter Koomarine, was not alive to receive the benefits of his estate, that they should devolve on a school and a number of charitable organisations. A National workshop has been set up to promote the training of rural women in income-rising group activities. Proposals to increase the pensions of widows and orphans to two thirds of the monthly salary of the deceased public servant and to establish a Widow's and Orphans pension fund for the relicts and children of women public servants were now under consideration by the Cabinet. Within the next five years, Rs. 45,000 million would be forthcoming as foreign aid for the completion of the accelerated Mahaweli project, so said Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning when he wound up the budget debate in Parliament yesterday—CDM. Action on applications by tenants to purchase the house occupied by them is to be suspended by the Commissioner of National Housing, any proceedings in respect of these applications will also be stayed. The second budget of this Government will have to be changed accordingly after the destruc-

tion caused by the recent cyclone and the setbacks caused to the country's development programme as a result, Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. Ronnie de Mel told Parliament last night. Mr. Anura R. Weeraratne, has been appointed as the new Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries, he will assume duties on January 1, next year. Legislation will shortly be introduced in parliament for the establishment of a National Environmental Authority, Mr. A. C. S. Hameed, Minister of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday. The People's Bank and the Bank of Ceylon have held talks on setting up branches near Police stations. Police stations will be set up near banks situated on permanent bank buildings—DV. 400 more CTB bus drivers who have got employment in the Middle East have submitted their resignations—DM. The Department of Housing is taking steps to pay damages to the owners of houses and property taken over by the Commissioner of Housing—LD. The Minister of Finance stated in Parliament that the banks which were closed in the Northern Province will once again be opened when the situation improves; he was replying to the leader of the Opposition who asked why only banks in the North were closed when Bank robberies took place throughout the country—EN. A team of American officers will go to Taiwan next week to establish a new framework for relations between US and Taiwan and discuss future arms sales—CDN. Death-clearing shells and rockets whirled across the border between Israel and Lebanon yesterday in barrages that cost a cloud over new efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. The UN General Assembly called yesterday for an urgent meeting at the Security Council to consider comprehensive monetary economic societies against S. Africa including a ban on oil and

arms Shipment—CDN. Democratic Turnhall Alliance which won a land-slide victory in the recent fovest territory-wise elections in Namibia declared null and void by the UN demanding that the world body drop its support for SWAPO. Foreign Minister Sonoda yesterday said the security treaty between Tokyo and Washington would no longer apply to Taiwan following the decision to normalise relations between the US and China—CDM. India's former Interior Minister Charan Singh still regarded as the second-most powerful man in the Janata party after Morarji Desai today sharply attacked the Premier in parliament thus destroying any hope for a reconciliation between the two men. President Park Chung Hee of South Korea today declared the release of his arch political foe Kin Dae Sung as part of sweeping amnesty of more than 5000 people currently in prison—SU.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24:** The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. A. C. S. Hameed has told the Chairman of OFEC and all other Foreign Ministers of OPEC countries that it was urgent and imperative for OFEC countries now to formulate concrete measures of assistance to the oil importing non aligned and developing countries. The ceiling on foreign investment in the local tourist hotel industry is to be raised from its present level of 40 per cent. This is being done with a view to generate the required one and a half billion rupees for the hotel industry to keep pace with the projected increase in tourist arrivals by 1984. Sri Lanka will receive an outright non-repayable grant of between Rs. 2,500 million and Rs. 3,000 million from Britain, the highest ever given by Britain to any country, for the Victoria Project of the Accelerated Mala-

weli Scheme. The police yesterday made a breakthrough in the Rowlands Murder case with the arrest of the servant boy, Ananda at Waga in the Padukka area—50. The prices of invalid foods like malted milk and certain chocolate-flavoured beverages have shot up by 25 to 50 per cent. Legislation will be introduced shortly for the appointment of an Ombudsman with power to initiate investigations on his own into any infringement of a fundamental right or other injustices even though there be no written reference or complaint by the affected parties, according to the draft legislation now being finalised, the Ombudsman will be authorised to investigate or report only on complaints on matters that are alleged to have occurred after the commencement of the Constitution and not earlier. The excavation of limestone carried out in the Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts on a mass scale has been completely banned on a directive issued by the Minister of Fisheries Mr. Festus Perera. The All-Ceylon Union of Teachers has drafted a Code of Ethics which it has submitted to the Educational Reforms Committee as well as to 24 unions of teachers for their consideration—5T. The ones who should act as guardians of the law, the armed forces, were of late following a policy of attack; the leader of the Opposition claims that he is in the know of certain facts which prove that there is a secret organisation operating behind them. 50 army officers from Jaffna have been transferred south since commencement of a campaign to streamline the services in the North—VK. The Sri Lanka Police are soon to receive 100 Alsatian dogs from Germany; they will be used to stop drug smuggling—DP. The Central Bank has suggested to the CTB to print tokens stating the amounts of 5 cents and 10 cents to be used in buses as change until present

shortage of coins eases. Children whose parents have died because of cyclone will be sent to children's homes as a temporary measure—RR. The Ministry of Trade has decided to issue a bill book to pavement traders; they will be asked to issue a bill for every item they sell—SLDP. Pakistan's supreme court reserved its decision today as it completed the hearing of an appeal by ex-Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto against the death sentence imposed on him for conspiring to murder a political opponent. Bhutto might have to wait a month before hearing whether he will be hanged over the plot alleged to have occurred 4 years ago. Tens of thousands of farmers descended on New Delhi in a massive display of support for the former Home Minister Charan Singh. The US and the Soviet Union have reached virtual agreement on a new accord to curb the nuclear arms race, a US official said tonight—50. The OPEC may increase oil prices again if the dollar declines further, outgoing OPEC Secretary-General Al Jerielah said yesterday—5T. Egyptian PM arrived in Brussels today where at the weekend he is to discuss with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, possibilities of reviving the Peace talks. Yuletide Italy mourned the death on Saturday of an estimated 100 passengers and crew of an Italian "Alitalia" airline's DC-9 which plunged into the sea while attempting to land at Palero from Rome—WK.

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25:

The Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Ana Seneviratne, has drawn the attention of the rank and file of the police service to their duty of loyalty to the police force. The Government will begin high level consultations with the private sector beginning January 3 to work out a common holiday and work-

ing hour scheme expected to go into force from February 1. The new University structure will come into operation in early January, this is in keeping with the new University Act which was passed in Parliament; the salient features of the new structure are the appointment of Vice Chancellors to head the Campuses which have been converted into separate universities under the new Act. Helitours operated by the Sri Lanka Air Force have doubled the income this year, the income this year is four million rupees all received in Foreign Exchange as against Rs. 2 1/2 million earned last year.

Foreign travel by Sri Lankans continues to expand; in October 12584 Sri Lankans travelled abroad; when compared with the figure of 6934 recorded for the same month last year, this was an increase of 82.6 per cent in relative terms—CDN. Hundreds of thousands of Christmas shoppers in festive mood who thronged city shops and shopping arcades over the past ten days set the tone for Sri Lanka's most Christmassy Christmas in a decade today. The Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa who toured the sacred city of Kataragama last Saturday to review progress of the Development work announced that at least 75,000 more houses had to be constructed to replace the houses damaged due to the cyclone. The biggest ever development program in the history of this country surpassing even the achievements during the era of the great Sinhala kings has been undertaken by this government; in the next five years the government will spend Rs. 54,000 million on the development programme; said Minister of Finance in Parliament. Police investigating the Gothatuwa mystery murders yesterday recovered an iron rod, believed to have been used in the killings, following the arrest of

the Rowlands 16-year-old domestic Ananda at Waga in the Padukka police area—CDM. The Speaker, Mr. M. A. Bakeer Markar is to introduce a series of tough new security measures in Parliament from next year. Government has decided to involve a firm in Singapore as its collaborator in the Rs. 200 million Negombo town development programme. A radio and several items of jewellery believed to have been removed from the home of George Rowlands who was murdered along with his 10-year-old daughter Kumarine, has been recovered by the Police—SU. Plans are afoot to re-open co-operative bank in the Northern province; the TULF will ask the government to grant permission for this. The Police have received information that many suspects of the recent disturbances in Northern province are hiding in Colombo—DP. The government has decided to hold a high level conference in Colombo to find ways to solve the unemployment problem in the Asian and Pacific region countries—DV. The US yesterday accused Rhodesia of undermining prospects for peace in south Africa by conducting raids deep in to Zambia and Mozambique. A rally of hundreds of thousands of farmers, a sea of humanity that assembled in New Delhi was told today by the former Home Minister Charan Singh that he'd convene a meeting of former constituents of the ruling party members and likeminded persons next month to decide the future course of action—to be with the Janata or leave it. Senior Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping the apparent mastermind of China's current pace towards modernisation has been named Time magazine's 'man of the year' for 1978—CDN. Egypt and Israel yesterday started direct negotiations to revive their stalled peace talks. Soviet tanks can be protected from the lethal radia-

tion of a neutron explosion according to a Soviet Army Marshal—CDM. China announced new measures designed to speed up modernisation and confirmed the Foreign Policy Course set by government and Communist Party leader Hua Kuo-feng and his deputy Ten Hsiao-ping. Nearly 200 young people were staging a 30 hour token hunger strike in Czechoslovakia today in support of Human rights informed sources said—SU.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26:**

The servant Victor Dayananda arrested in connection with the double murder in Wellampitiya of the Rowlands has stated that he was responsible for the murders—VK. Investigations are proceeding in connection with the complaint made by the leader of the Opposition to the President that certain letters requesting Tamils to be attacked were being circulated in the North—EN.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27:**

A strong plea for reduction in the number of holidays and to "forget our comforts and privileges so far traditionally enjoyed by us and to work more and more for the country with devotion", has been made by the Deputy Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs Mr. Percy Samaraweera. Police investigating the Nallur Bank robbery and double murder yesterday reported having drawn up a list of 25 likely suspects, all of them hardcore criminals. Under no circumstances should any Examiner who is under the influence of liquor be allowed to enter the evaluation centres set up to mark the GCE O-level answer papers beginning today; this warning was issued by the Commissioner of Examinations. Thirty two cases of positive Cholera had been reported from the Jaffna and Mullaitivu districts up to date. The Social Service Department has already paid Rs. 22 million for those

affected by the recent cyclone for the purpose of reconstructing their houses. The Colombo Municipal Council has decided to implement rigidly the ban on smoking in movie houses—CDN. Foreign firms and non-nationals will not be allowed to purchase land vested in the Urban Development Authority under the Colombo Master Plan Projects; this decision has been taken by the Urban Development Authority. More Germans and Americans are seeking greener pastures to spend their retirement here: this was revealed by Mr. Newton Samarasinghe, Controller of Immigration and Emigration. The Minister of Food Mr. S. B. Herath, will open today at Welisara the first of the 14 food stores which the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Consortium is constructing for the Food Commissioner's Department—CDM. The Law Commission is now examining whether fresh legislation or further amendments to the Constitution are necessary in order to further consolidate the fundamental rights of people. A two-member sub-committee has been appointed by the Law Commission and is now examining the existing provisions of fundamental rights. The University Admission list is being finalised by the Department of Education and is likely to be released by early January next year, the Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Stanley Kalpage announced yesterday. Minister of Foreign Affairs, A. C. S. Hameed, yesterday welcomed the United Nations General Assembly decision to enlarge its general committee; the number has been raised from 17 to 21. Former MP Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara has said the Tamils today are living amidst untold hardships and atrocities committed against them which had led them to seek their own way by agitating for a separate state—SU. The cyclone relief and Rehabilitation Com-

mittee has decided to close down all arrack taverns in the Batticaloa district for three months—VK. The Ministry of Trade has found out that over 40 complaints to the Police against co-operative irregularities have not been investigated yet; some complaints are over 5 years old—LD. The Minister of Trade has decided to double the free ration given to people in the cyclone effected areas—DV. The Ministry of Agriculture is taking steps to appoint one Agricultural Officer and an Agricultural Technical Officer each for every 500 farmers. The Minister of Trade has ordered to import 1 million tiles immediately to be used in the cyclone affected areas to repair roofs damaged by the cyclone—DM. The government has decided to enforce a 6 day week to over 10,000 workers in the irrigation Department—ATH. China yesterday issued a stern warning to Vietnam to stop what it called provocations against China immediately or face retaliations from Chinese troops. Pope John Paul II in a Christmas greeting in 24 languages yesterday appealed for world peace and respect for human life. Most Israelis (6931) believe that Middle East peace cannot be attained without a solution to the Palestinian question, according to a public opinion poll released on Sunday. The official death toll from weekend rioting in the South Western Turkish town of Kchremaninares was put at 80 yesterday as the Cabinet met in emergency sessions to discuss the violence—CDN. President Anwar Sadat in a Christmas message to President Carter said Egypt would not abandon the peace process whatever the obstacles. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said yesterday, that the differences between Israel and Egypt in their peace negotiations could be bridged if both sides agreed to compromise—CDM. Former PM Indira Gandhi was released from Jail

today after President Sanjiva Reddy recessed the winter session of Parliament. India's Information Minister Lal Krishnan Advani resigned today in protest against the way demands for an inquiry into corruption allegations against PM Morarji Desai's sons have been handled in Parliament. The Turkish government today declared martial law in 13 provinces including Ankara and Istanbul Ankara Reuter announced—SU.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28:** Sri Lanka will actively negotiate for the establishment of an "Asia Airways" with joint regional co-operation with India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Iran. Twenty new foreign business projects, which are to operate outside the Free Trade Zone, bringing in foreign capital amounting to Rs. 78.2 million have received approval from the Government of Sri Lanka in the first eight months of this year. There has been an all round drop in grave crime in the city this year as against 1977; a Police spokesman said yesterday that latest statistics reveal that 7,354 cases of grave crime were reported upto December 21, 1978, as against 9,604 last year. World Food Programme's emergency assistance to cyclone victims of 5,400 tons of wheat flour and 540 tons of pulses has been approved. The cultivation of ganja in Sri Lanka is reported to be on the increase and the ganja belt which starts in the deep south now stretches to as far as Akkarai-pattu in the Eastern Province—CDN. Hoodlums masquerading as carol singers were known to have collected Rs. 1,200 in a single night during the festive season; this is stated by Mr. S. Vamadevan, Commissioner of Police. The Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ana Seneviratne said yesterday he would take a tough line to ensure that there is no break down of discipline

among policemen of all ranks; This is subsequent to an inflammatory circular sent to mess managers of several police stations in the north—CDM. The Government is to devise a series of new measures to help the local industry which may have suffered as a result of the Government's liberalised import policy. The Ministry of Finance is to introduce legislation to punish people who either melt or cause any other damage to currency in circulation. Batticaloa is still confronted with a high incidence of burglaries following the week-end floods. Dr. Kingsley Seevaratnam, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific of the League of Red Cross Societies has expressed satisfaction over the food distribution system in cyclone-affected areas, according to a statement issued by the Ministry. "Welkinderhilfe" a West German relief organisation sponsored by the German Newspaper "Extra Blatt" hopes to set up a workshop in Liddesdale Estate, Halgranoya to train estate children in vocational skills. Several laws pertaining to the system of legal education, administrative law, company law, the penal code, law of evidence hire purchase act, narcotics and abuse, mental health act and restitution and compensation to victims of crime are being reviewed by the Law Commission—SU. Areas affected by the cyclone—Batticaloa, Amparal and Polonnaruwa-will be given assistance irrespective of racial, religious and other considerations said the Minister of Rural Development who was on a visit to Batticaloa to survey cyclone damage—VK. The Minister of Rural Development said in Batticaloa that 75,000 persons would be sent to Batticaloa for rehabilitation work. Due to the heavy rain about 35,000 acres of paddy land has been destroyed in the Amparal area—DP. The price of



rubber is likely to increase in the world market because of the oil price hike. It has been estimated that payment for the local and foreign owners of the land acquired by the Land Reform Commission will be over Rs. 2000 million. The Plywood Corporation has taken steps to increase their production by five-fold next year and to recruit 400 extra workers—DM. A large number of high officials of Technical Section, drivers and trained technicians of the CTB are resigning and going abroad for better salaries—LD. A ministerial committee has been appointed to find out whether local industries have been affected by the government's free economy policy and also to suggest suitable steps to correct such defects—DV. The President has decided to sack the present members of the GCEC Commission. Former Land Commissioner P. D. Silva or Raju Coomaraswamy Economic Adviser to the President is tipped to become the next Director General of the GCEC—DK. The President has advised Mr. Cyril Mathew, Minister of Industries etc, not to go on accusing Tamils of irregularities in correcting examination answer scripts—JD. Houari Boumedienne the Moslem Socialist strongman who ruled Algeria almost unchallenged for more than 13 years died today after six weeks in a coma. Elections to Bangladesh's new Parliament which opposition parties have threatened to boycott have been postponed by two weeks for February 12. The National Iranian Oil Company announced today that oil products would be restored in Iran from today because of the strike by oil workers. A leading religious opponent of the Shah Ayatullah Montazeri predicted yesterday that unrest would continue in Iran as long as the Shah administration stays in power—CDN. It was not different from the other times I have been in Prison;

I have been inside of many jails but there were 19 locks all round the barracks I was kept in, said Mrs. Indira Gandhi after she was released from jail yesterday. 19 people were killed and more than 100,000 arrested in a country-wide demonstration in protest against Mrs. Gandhi's arrest. Martial law was declared in 13 of Turkey's 67 provinces yesterday after weekend political riots which claimed at least 97 lives in the south eastern city of Kahramanmeras—CDM. About 60 University Professors were reported arrested as street protests against the Shah of Iran resumed today. Israeli PM Menachem Begin said tonight Israel had invited 3 Arab nations to join in at the peace conference table but they had all refused to come—SU.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29:**

Building operations in the Free Trade Zone complex bordering the Katunayake International Airport are being adversely affected owing to a severe shortage of cement, steel, asbestos and other building materials, according to some building contractors; these contractors who have signed agreements with foreign and local firms to complete factories within a specified date claim they are compelled to turn to the blackmarket for their requirements of building requisites. There will be two GCE A-level (University Entrance) examinations next year; these are the GCE A-level examinations to be held under the old syllabus and the GCE A-Level examinations under the new syllabus for candidates who had received their education under the NCGE examination introduced by the former government. The Sri Lanka Airports Authority is to be established shortly, and will primarily be entrusted with the task of running the Katunayake International Airport. The Mahajana Pola is to be shifted to

Elvitigala Mawatha from its present premises at the old Race Course—CDN. The number of coconut trees destroyed by the recent cyclone in Batticaloa, Amparai and Polonnaruwa is estimated at 2,480,000, according to a survey by the Ministry of Coconut Industry. Sri Lanka has qualified to receive an increased quota of loan from the International Monetary Fund for 1979; under the increased quotas, Sri Lanka will be entitled to draw Rs. 960 million over and above its present quota. A cultural centre would be set up at the Jatika Pola site at the Old Race Course, under the Colombo Master Plan Project: Mr. R. Abeyratne Special Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council said. A modern three-storeyed market complex which will cost Rs. 50 million will be constructed at Kachcheri Road, Pettah under the Colombo Master Plan Project. Stories of police and army excesses in the North spread by certain politicians recently were incorrect, according to a report submitted by two senior police officers who returned to Colombo from Jaffna yesterday. The report has been handed over to the Defence Ministry. With an estimated 1200 pickpockets—among whom were a number of "light-fingered ladies"—Deputy Defence Minister T. B. Werapitiya last week gave instructions for an anti-pick-pocket police unit to be set up to combat the growing number of cases of persons who find themselves relieved of purses and valuables in buses, trains or crowded public places every day—CDM. Over 18,000 forged GCE (Ordinary Level) Certificates have been sold to persons who are now seeking or have sought employment in the State and private sector, a Police investigation has revealed. The Chief Magistrate of Colombo yesterday ordered Remand Prison authorities to produce the murder

suspect in the Rowlands case, Ananda before a Psychiatrist to examine and report on his mental condition. A new look Colombo City—the Garden City of the East is in the new programme of the Colombo Municipal Council. A well organised ring of shop lifters who have been active in the Pettah area were rounded up by the Police last week. Legislation will be introduced in Parliament shortly to enable the Government to deal more effectively with situations brought about by national disaster, Justice Minister K. W. Devanayagam announced yesterday. Government has revised the scheme of payments for cyclone victims; instead of paying Rs. 650 to each household affected by the cyclone the payment will now be made in the form of a token contribution to rehabilitation agencies to be utilized for the benefit of such persons, Justice Minister, Mr. K. W. Davanayagam said yesterday. The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna yesterday condemned the programme of action by the Government in respect of recent incidents in the north—SU. Four Police officers belonging to the Jaffna Police stations have been transferred with immediate effect; even before action is taken against those responsible for the circulation of communal circulars bearing the rubber stamp of the Jaffna Police, this action was taken. The rental for all telephones will be Rs. 600 in future—DP. The Colombo Municipality will run an auto-rickshaw service soon; it will cost Rs. 2.50 a mile—VK. A new scheme to settle unemployed educated youths in collective farms will be launched next year; 10 such farms will be opened. The construction of the TV centre will commence in March; feasibility studies have already been conducted by a team of Japanese experts—DM. Former Indian Home Minister, Charan Singh yesterday decided to boy-

cott a national executive meeting at the ruling Janata Party beginning today. China has reported a harvest of 295 million tonnes of grain this year which foreign experts said would be a record. The rich, poor and in-between nations of the world met in Jamaica today to try to find ways of restoring the stalled north-south dialogue on a new economic order. A group of young people yesterday brought to Peking the startling news of a general strike among 50,000 youngsters in South China over what they termed intolerable working conditions on state farms and their low standing in society. Women collapsed, and men fell to their knees in prayer yesterday as thousands of Algerians paid emotional homage to their leader President Boumedienne—CDN. President Anwar Sadat said yesterday that a new round of peace talks with Israel and the US would stand a good chance, adding that the prospects for such talks would be in the next two days. Tehran radio reported yesterday that the National Iranian oil Company had been forced to impose domestic rationing—CDM. Officials of the ruling Janata Party today tried to patch up a worsening row between former Indian Home Minister, Charan Singh and PM Morarji Desai.

American officials were attacked by Taiwanese demonstrators yesterday and suffered minor injuries when they arrived at Taipei airport to discuss the future of US-Taiwan relations. Albania is seeking good economic relations with China in spite of ideological differences according to a policy statement by re-elected Albanian Premier Shehu issued today. Mr. L. W. Advani was last night apparently persuaded not to press his resignation as Information and Broadcasting Minister pending efforts by a group of 3 or 4 of his cabinet colleagues to find a way out at

the impasse on the government's handling of the Kanti Desai issue in the Rajya Sabha—SU.

## OBITUARIES

Dec. 30 Jan. 4

Mrs. Lily Fonseka, Udubadde Road, Nattandiya; D. A. Gunawardene, Deepani, Butagama North, Ja-ela; L.S. Hamangvda, Wegoda Road, Kurunegala; Mrs. Rosammah John, Love Lane, Udovil; Jeramius Fernando, Palliyawatte, Yanthampalawa, Kurunegala; K. S. H. Kandamby, Aparekka; Mrs. C. Murugupillai, 174, Temple Road, Nallur; Mrs. Sumana Jayaratne, 2E/1, Flower Road, Colpetty; Mrs. Violet Kuruppu, 59, Sri Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana; Tudor Perera, 577, Talangama South, Talangama; Rita Perera, 268, Gallahanda, Gonawela; S. S. Rajapakse, "Jayasiri", Hatharaliyadda; R. A. T. Perera, 514, Paropakara Mawatha, Borelasgamuwa; J. A. Ariyadasa, 17-1, Main Street, Balangoda; Y. A. Joseph, "Alexandre", Velvatikeiyawa; Robert John Kennedy, Melbourne; Mrs. Victoria Miranda, "Lourdes Dale", No. 15, Merian Place, Negombo; T. B. Rambukwelle, Mahadome Walauwa, Rambukwelle; Mrs. Shanthi Fernando, 2nd Lane, Rawatawatte, Moratuwa; S. M. H. Haridh-182, Mahinda Mawatha, Dalupitiya, Kadawatta; A. R. Leonard, 229; Bolagama North, Bolagama, Ja-Ela. Mrs. K. A. Punchi-ona, Dodamparapapura; Mrs. Kamalawathie d; Silva, Highland, Kandawela, Katana. Mrs. Beatrice de Mel, 25/2, Shanmore, Kuduwamulla, Moratuwa; R. G. Gunasekera, 97, St. Michael Road, Colombo 3; A. H. C. Jayatilleke, 75/18, Waluwatte Place., Nawala; Seevarani Khan, 11/1, Sri Nagavihare Road, Pagoda, Pita Kotte. Mrs. Hilda Perera, 441/1, Thimbirigasyaya Road, Colombo 5; R. M. T.

Rajamanthrie, Gamapura, Hamma, thagama; Mrs. Sussie Chelliah, 45-Mission Road, Kotte; Walter Jayewardene, Lalwala lhal, Wanduramba; Victor Perera, 218, High Level Road, Nugegoda; S. B. Ratnayake, Prethi Mawatha, Watapuluwa; Hema Opanayake, Veraaja, Mirigama; Martin Wijesuriya, 250/3, Udawatte, Viharagoda, Badulla; U. G. G. Ariyaratilaka, Nugeduwa Estate, Galle; A. C. M. A. Cader, 15, Wilson Street-Colombo 12; S. M. Fernandez-151/7, Sri Dhamma Mawatha, Colombo 14; K. A. Maumahami, Demuwawana, Rakwana; C. Nagalingam; 11, Gregory's Place, Wellawatte, D. E. Subasinghe, "Sirimedura", Madampe; Zilla Arnolda, 19A, Chapel Lane, Nugegoda; Mrs. Beatrice Fernando, 95, Walana, Panadura; Mrs. Mary Jayasundara, "Kam; nelli", Werahara, Borelasgamuwa; T. W. Leeniyagoda, 101, Nagolla, Kegalle; K. A. Madumahami, Demuwawana, Rakwana; Mrs. Christine Macqueen, 21, Waller Crescent, Campbell Place, Colombo 8; A. Rajah, expired in Singapore; R. Rajasuriya, 26, Nelson Place, Colombo 6; Edwin Wijesekera, Noel Senanayake, 57, Angunawela, Peradeniya; Lionel Alwis, Telecommunication Inspector's quarters, Panadura; P. M. Paramasivam, 58, Vivekananda Hill, Colombo 13; H. A. Hemachandra, 2A, Pieterz Place, Nugegoda; George Sabaratnam, 374, Point Pedro Road, Nallur, Jaffna; Mrs. Missinona Somarage, "Sudutta", Piliimefa, Boosa; Mrs. Margaret Silva, Tudella; Nona Thurgood, 35, Station Road, Wattala; K. B. Elkaduwa, "Sannas Walauwa", Hapugamuwa, Matale; Rohan Perera, 14A, Charlmont Road, Colombo 6; Mark Percra, "Sarath Sevana", Kandana; W. M. Sugathapala, 26, Samagi Mawatha, Ratmalana; Nambikai Perera, 54, De Alwis Place, Dehiwela; P. B. Dissanayake, Giragama, Weligalla; Reginald Fernando, "Carmal" Martin de Porres Road, Wennapuwa; Percy Jansz, 37, Picadilly

Crescent, Nobel Park victoria 3174, Australia, Anthony Motha, Kuliyaipitya; Edwin Mann apperuma, 280, High Level Road, Kirillapone; Ducat Perera, 369, Tawatte Road, Ragama; Anura de Silva, "Siriawasa", Mawathayaya, Melsiripura; Phyllis Wetasinghe, "Wijayamandira", Arugoda, Panadura; Rohan de Silva, 43/2, Sirimangala Road, Walpola, Mahara; H. K. P. de Soysa, "St. Jude" Kimbulapitiya Road, Negombo; Mrs. Margie Pereira, C/o. A. F. Raymond, Kanatte, Colombo.



### FLASHBACK

## The 1957 Floods

by W. Lionel Fernando

BATTICOLOA had a devastating flood in December 1957 and just twentyone years after in December 1978 Batticaloa was reduced to shambles, or a Hiroshima as someone said, by cyclonic weather. In 1957 in addition to the normal rain which the dry zone experienced in the North-east monsoon, the country as a whole had heavy and continuous rain for three months from October to December. By the middle of December a "trough" had developed in the south of the Bay of Bengal resulting in abnormally heavy rain particularly in the Eastern and the North-Central Provinces submerging most parts of the two provinces in flood waters. By Christmas night some roads had thirty feet of water above the road level; buildings had many feet of water over their roofs; one hundred and seventy five persons were reported dead, eighty thousand houses were completely or partly damaged, Senanayake Samudra in Galoya had seven point two feet of water over

its spillway, three hundred thousand (300,000) acres of cultivated paddy were washed away, and communications were completely cut off. Batticaloa and Anuradhapura were reduced to shambles. The damage ran into many millions.

How did all this happen in such short time? The Met. Department explains: "By 5.30 a.m. on December 24, the trough was concentrating into a depression near 03°N85°E. surface winds along the east and south-east coasts and upper winds over Ceylon, however, remained unchanged and the pressure gradient across the island was normal. At 8.30 a.m. conditions had not changed, but by 11.30 a.m. the gradient had steepened. By 5.30 p.m. the gradient has steepened further and the surface wind at Hambantota had backed to west and at 2,000 feet the wind had strengthened considerably. The 5.30 p.m. synoptic data for Dec. 24th fixed the depression at 06°N83°E, and by 8.30 p.m. that evening it had moved towards Batticaloa. Surface winds at Batticaloa had become strong north-westerly and the gradient had strengthened still further. During the next three days the depression remained stationary over Ceylon. Winds strengthened on December 25 but moderated the following day." Rainfall figures recorded during December that year in some areas in the Eastern and the North Central Provinces were as follows: E.P.—Unichchai 63.88 inches as against normal of 19.01 inches; Kanakadu 57.19 inches-14.58"; Kalmunai 55.30"-14.39"; Vaganeri 49.05"—17.88"; Rufuskulam 48"—12.82"; NCP: Hingurakgoda 52.81"—13.50; Maha Illuppalama 42.38"—8.06"; Anuradhapura 36.50"—7.52"; and Kahatagasdigiliya 37.06"—11.18."

WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS? Communications were cut off. Roads bridges, railway tracks, and telegraph posts were completely sub-

merged for days or were washed away. Colombo was cut off from the rest of the country except Kalutara in the South and Negombo, Polgahawela and Kurunegala in the North and North-West directions. Between Colombo and Kandy, the Telecommunications Department reported, only a solitary telegraph line was available. All the Indo-Ceylon channels were out of order. The estimated cost of repairing the communications was Rs. 2,900,000 and the quantity of copper wires required was sixty tons.

Over two-thirds of the normal mail transport organisation came to a standstill on Christmas night, as over 500 miles of rail roads out of the island's little over 800, and numerous trunk road routes ceased to function. "The seriousness of the situation", the authorities said, "will be realised when it is known that the mail services of the North-Central, Northern, Eastern and Uva Provinces and the parts of the Central and North-Central Provinces were very seriously disorganised and cut off from Colombo, the heart of mail circulation. Mails were held up in trains and Travelling Post Offices in mid-journey. Service between important towns in these provinces were also seriously affected not only because of interruptions of transport but also because certain towns and adjacent areas were marooned by floods. The devastation caused to the Railway by the floods was of an unprecedented magnitude. The extent of damage to tracks and bridges was so great and widespread that the traffic beyond Ambepussa to Kankeasanturai, Talaimannar, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Badulla and Matale became impossible after the 25th of December. The tracks in quite a number of places were bodily lifted, twisted, turned-over and thrown off the formations. The approaches to most of the bridges were washed off leaving breaches in some places between 20 and 30 ft. deep; some subsidences

were between 50 and 75 ft. deep. A few small bridges and culverts were completely washed away. On the Kadugannawa incline, for instance, within a length of about 13 miles there were 26 spots which suffered serious damage either by subsidence, washouts or rock-slips. "A number of workers' quarters were completely washed off, and several buildings at Anuradhapura and Galoya, particularly, were badly submerged. Heavy damage both to steam diesel locomotives, carriages and waggon stock, turn-table, signal equipment and other railway property was caused at Galoya junction. While the damage to the railway system was widespread, the sections that suffered very heavy damage were the Galoya junction on the Batticaloa-Trincomalee Light Railways, the Mahaweli Ganga Valley at Manampitiya, the length between Valaichenai bridge and station, the sections between Galgamuwa and Medawachchi, on the Northern Line, Medawachchi and Murunkan on the Mannar line, Rambukkana and Kadugannawa and Ella and Demodara on the Main Line and between Kandy and Ukkuwela on the Matale Line.

"THE RAILWAY AUTHORITIES felt that it would not be possible to assess with any degree of accuracy the total damage caused, but a rough estimate to carry out the necessary replacements, permanent repairs and restore the railway to the pre-flood standards would be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 25 millions. All trunk roads from Colombo to the North and Central areas were entirely cut off from a distance of about forty miles. Important towns, such as Batticaloa and Kalmunai, were cut off from each other and from the rest of the country. Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Mannar and Puttalam were other important towns which were similarly affected. On the trunk and main roads twelve bridges had been completely washed away and eleven more rendered unsafe

for traffic. The largest wash away was in the Anuradhapura town on the Anuradhapura-Trincomalee road. Washaways and breaches had occurred in fifty-four trunk and main roads, and it was estimated that about 130 miles of road have been substantially damaged. In some of the submerged areas, the flood water rose to levels of over 30 feet above the level of the road. On the Badulla-Batticaloa road near Cherikaladi, the high road embankment was breached in seven places within the space of three miles. The breaches varied from about 300 feet to 800 feet", the authorities stated. "Service water mains and other water supply installations in towns such as Batticaloa, Mannar, Vavuniya, Hambantota and Anuradhapura suffered considerable damage. The estimated cost of emergency work in restoring vital road communications was in the region of Rs. 2,000,000. At that stage it was still not possible to evaluate with accuracy the estimated cost of restoring the damages caused by floods to the roads, bridges etc. However it was expected that the total cost of such reinstatement would be not less than Rs. 20,000,000.

THE FLOODS also caused considerable damage to Government buildings in the Eastern and the North-Central Provinces, flood waters rising several feet high above the roofs of the buildings, destroying records, files, stores etc. The worst effects of the floods were on the country's irrigation works. Serious damage was caused to 35 major irrigation schemes and minor damages to 53. Over 1,300 minor irrigation schemes were either breached or seriously damaged. The Senanavake Samudra in the Galoya Valley was equally affected, its water rising over the spillway to seven feet two inches, which the authorities described as "phenomenal". The damage is estimated

to cost about Rs. 20,000,000 for repairs. The damage to paddy lands under the major schemes was estimated at 200,000 acres and under minor irrigation schemes 100,000 acres making a total of 300,000 acres. The restoration of the schemes was estimated at Rs. 60,000,000. There was also considerable damage to archaeological property in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya.

THE 1957 FLOOD was widespread and was not confined to a few areas in the Eastern Province. The then Government of the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike took immediate steps to deal with the situation and a sub-committee was set up on December 26th with the late Mr. Sarath Wijesinghe, who was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance then, as its head. Others in the Committee were the Ministers of Home Affairs; Lands and Land Development; Defence and External Affairs; Transport; Labour; Housing and Social Services; Agriculture and Food; Post and Telecommunication and Health. Mr. Shirley Amarasinghe was appointed Special Commissioner to direct "the operation flood" and to administer the National Flood Relief Fund which was set up promptly.

Assistance began to pour in both from foreign countries and from local organisations following an appeal from the Prime Minister for such assistance. The National Relief Fund swelled to Rs. 3.9 millions within a few months. The immediate task of the government was to deliver quickly food and medical supplies to the affected areas and in this task the governments of India, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada came to the prompt assistance of the government. India, which was the first to respond made available three Fairchild Packet Planes, six dakotas, two helicopters, 16 folding boats and 18 assault boats for relief

operations. The Indian team was under the charge of Air Commodore Arjun Singh, assisted by Wing Commander Andrews. The Indian army also lent its hand.

The U.S. Government sent the Air Craft Carrier "Princeton" under Rear Admiral Briggs and two destroyers with food and medical supplies. The aircraft carrier, which had a complement of 28 helicopters and a medical team, 12,000 pounds of medical supplies, 16 tons of emergency food and 137 tons of other foodstuffs operated from Trincomalee from January 2nd 1958. In addition the United States Government offered through its representative in Colombo, Mr. Maxwell H. Gluck, 68 million pounds of foodstuffs valued at more than Rs. 15,000,000 and consisted of at least 33,000,000 pounds of rice. The CARE organisation of the U.S. gifted 200,000 pounds of flour and 2,000 blankets; the American Red Cross had donated \$ 10,000 to the League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva, for the purchase of tents, cooking utensils and protein concentrates to be sent to Ceylon while the Lederle Laboratories Ltd., had offered medical supplies.

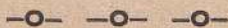
The United Kingdom further made available two Valetas, one Pembroke and three helicopters, £10,000 worth of medicines and another £10,000 worth of tractors. The Royal Air Force itself offered twelve three ton lorries, heavy earthmoving equipment and a fully trained jungle team. The Government of Canada sent a Catalina aircraft. It also sent two planes loaded with medical supplies and concentrated foodstuffs and 38,000 tons of wheat flour. The People's Republic of China offered a loan of Rs. 30 million for flood rehabilitation work at 2½ per cent interest to be repayable in ten years and a further donation of 80,000 JMP (Rs. 154,210.18). It also offered a ten-member medical team for relief work. But as their services

were not required at that time, medical supplies were asked for instead. The National Red Cross of China also offered 20,000 JMP (Rs. 38,000). The Soviet Union granted a loan of Rs. 142 millions for the general economic development of the country, a part of which was to be utilised for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas. It also offered medicines to the value of 200,000 roubles. The All Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR sent 2,500 tons of rice while the Red Cross made a donation of Rs. 15,000. The Vice President of India, Dr. Sarvapillai Radhakrishnan donated one million rupees worth of goods for rehabilitation while the Government of India further made available cement, handloom and mill made cloth, raw sugar, small power-looms and sewing machines. The Bombay and Ahmedabad Mill Owners' Textile Merchants' Association donated Rs. 40,000 worth of textiles. Medical supplies were made available by Khandewell Laboratories, Bombay; Bihar Pharmaceuticals and Park Davis & Co., Bombay. The Indian Red Cross also gifted textiles and medicines while Rajah Sir Mutiah Chettiar of Chettinad gifted Rs. 25,000.

Other countries which promptly responded to the Prime Minister's call included Australia, Burma, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaya, Maldives, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Rumania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria and Thailand. Among the International Organisations which answered the Prime Minister's call were the Asia Foundation, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the War Veterans Association. Practically all local organisations like the Y.M.B.A., the Mahila Samitis; the Red Cross, the Junior Chamber of Commerce; the Colombo Archbishop's Flood

Relief Committee and a number of other local organisations. Among the religious dignitaries who had contributed to the fund were His Holiness the Pope who had contributed Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 50,000 by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman.

Within two days of the flood catastrophe "Operation Flood" moved into action and all available land, air and sea transport facilities were put to the distribution of food, medicine and other articles. The Prime Minister himself with some of his Cabinet colleagues visited the devastated areas by helicopter on January 4th 1978 and on the spot decisions were taken to commence rehabilitations along with reconstruction. The Parliament voted Rs. 46 millions for immediate relief needs.



#### THE CYCLONE THAT SHOOK BATTICALOA—2

## On Rehabilitation And Reconstruction

by K. Kanapathi Pillai, B.A., F.R.C.S

ON a very humble estimate, it will take fifteen years for Batticaloa to regain the position occupied by her coconut industry, and fifty years for the people to forget the horror of this veritable disaster that overtook a very peaceful, yet lethargic and indolent people. It might have taken nearly a week for one to travel on foot from one end of the District to the other.

Man has been brought face to face with the fiercest forces of Nature: the wind and the water; 'Vayu' and 'Varuna', which normally, though so kindly and so benign, have it would seem, purposely wrought this havoc to give indiscreet man the rudest shock of his life; man so

lazy, so lethargic, so unenterprising and so indolent in this luxuriant, yet benighted region of Sri Lanka. Man through sheer necessity has invited this shock so that he may live a life worthy of being lived.

The gale has come and gone; it has ravaged and left in its wake nothing short of a barren desert in place of what was once a vast stretch of luscious vegetation; of a single, continuous stretch of waving palms fronds and surging crowns of spreading gigantic Mara, Tamarind, Margosa, Neem, Bo and Banyan trees. Not a single umbrageous tree stands to tell the long tale of sorrow of the region from Portuguese times to the present day. Even the Aeolian voice of the Batticaloa Singing Fish appears to have been hushed for ever. Seventyone years is not a long lap of time in the history of a people. Nearly 71 years after the cyclone within living memory that is said to have raged in 1907, this one came and ravaged and destroyed; devastated and razed to the ground all that man has reared and built and planted and designed and developed; all that he had digged and delved and striven and reared during the last 72 years. It might seem that the history of Batticaloa has to be re-written, with these two events of Nature as the two major points in its time slot.

*A people who had, from a state of innocence, grown up to be vile and hideous; wasteful and indolent have, by the advent of modern political trends, all extraneous in their origin, been reduced to a viler, more deceptive, more cynical, more grovelling and more abject group of people. Bribery and corruption: deception and dissembling, cheating and looting and waylaying, all negative emotional trends, have succeeded, but slavishly, laid siege to a people's way of life.*

*Nature, in her solicitude for her dearly begotten children, must certainly have thought it fair to*

*teach man; so lethargic, so malicious, so indolent and so wicked, a very severe lesson. She has dealt him a stunning blow; and he has only now been awakened and brought to his true senses. The time has come for man in this region to assess and re-assess his achievements and his failures; the outcome of his crumbling and crooked aspirations. He has been compelled to re-think, to re-fashion, and to re-live his life, after having designed it and founded it on a better, surer and nobler foundation. Let him think "as if on a mountain and he reborn and reawakened and be the true and rightful heir to the greater life that he is destined to live."*

On the crumbling and decaying debris of a cyclone ravaged Batticaloa, let the people think anew with immense courage and perennial and undying hope, and rebuild a city and a nation of clearheaded thinkers and sane statesmen. This region shall once again be restored to her pristine status, her former glory. It is no doubt disheartening to think, that the edifice of a community that had taken over a century to build had been razed to the ground in a matter of a few hours in ten hours of fierce and mad hurry on the part of the two major elements of nature.

**How can this be done? How is man to set about this arduous yet noble task of rebuilding and recuperating the health of a sickened community? Undoubtedly the State, benign in its nature, and generous in its attitude towards its members, and solicitous for their well-being will have to come to man's aid.**

The State will have to see to it that, at this hour of horrors it provides the people with their bare necessities: good shelter, sufficient clothing and nourishing food. The weather continues to be damp and windy and chilly and hence the first and foremost rehabilitation scheme that should be set afoot,

almost immediately is provision of carefully planned shelters. This may take the form of prefabricated huts with galvanised sheet roofing and low walls of asbestos sheets. The next one is the supply of rice, flour, sugar, dhal, kerosene and dried fish in sufficient quantities, free, for a reasonable period of time. The poorer classes will have to be provided with adequate clothing. These will have to be distributed through well organised representative vigilance committees and rehabilitation councils.

The Health authorities should see to it that their services are re-organised after they have planned their activities. A clean and pure water supply; sanitary facilities, proper methods of disposal or sewage and medical facilities at the village medical clinic level should help to maintain the health of the people. All man-power and technical skill available should be utilised for the purpose of clearing the fallen trees and debris of damaged buildings and for erecting the prefabricated dwellings and repairing the damaged ones. Law and order should be maintained so that vices like looting, burglary and black marketeering and hoarding of essential goods may be completely eradicated.

This is the emergency phase of the rehabilitation programme. This should be followed by the second and more important part of the programme and that is the Rebuilding of the Community Programme. Towns and villages in the affected area must be properly planned and each and every dwelling house business building, godown and store and office should be so rebuilt as to be provided with a cyclone-proof, flood-proof structure; circular in form; cast in concrete with reinforced concrete walls and roof.

Business areas and residential

and industrial areas should be so planned, designed and mapped out as to serve as a guide to future builders to construct their buildings in keeping with the set plan. All provision and cloth stores, Public libraries, Banks, State Record rooms Hospitals etc., should be housed in cyclone-flood-proof structures. A cyclone-flood emergency service should be kept in readiness to serve in times of such calamities. Building, planting and industrialising programmes should be carefully planned and promoted, so that the entire economy of the affected area may be restored and put on a sound foundation in five years' time.

This period of rehabilitation may be considered a period of emergency, so as to avoid any kind of political interference on any party basis. All party political activities of a disruptive nature should be banned in this region during the five years of the rehabilitation programme.

Concluded

52, Angle Road,  
Batticalao,  
26.12.78.



SPOTLIGHT

## On Pressmen And The Press

by Canax

**MAKING THE HONOURS LIST.** The recent press publicity about five Sri Lankan journalist colleagues chosen for honorary membership in America's famed Central Intelligence Agency has created serious family problems for me. I admit I'm a bit sore myself, having been in the business longer than some singled out for the honour.

My wife isn't sleeping in the same room anymore, which, I try to tell myself philosophically, may be a blessing in disguise. What I can't stand, however, is the way she keeps calling me. 'The Great Pretender' under her breath. My daughter, on the other hand, dreads the day school reopens. She's boasted about me so much, she told her grandmother, she doesn't know how to face her friends.

Yesterday my wife came right out and accused me of not having any consideration for her feelings. "Imagine how proud your friend Manik's wife must be right now," she goaded me.

"Manik isn't married," I said matter-of-factly.

"You're just being technical," she complained, starting to cry.

Come to think of it, I'm convinced my in-laws were taking a swipe at my journalistic pretensions when one of them asked me the other day, "Written anything good lately?" Why, even the neighbours must think me a fraud unworthy of notice, because they failed to wish me 'Good morning' yesterday. My mother tried to fool me, and dispel my suspicion, by saying they skipped the usual greeting only because we happened to pass each other down the lane at night. I told her she was just being technical.

Goodness knows I try hard, and I cannot think what I've done wrong to be so humiliatingly ignored. Nevertheless, I rang Manik de Silva at Lake House and, in a voice which I hoped did not betray my feelings, congratulated him most heartily.

After accepting my good wishes, he added, "I really am sorry about you, Canax."

I don't think he heard me sob. Manik hadn't known anything until the papers-splashed the good news. "But it's a wonderful Chris-

mas present," he admitted. His only problem now is coping with the flood of invitations for lunches and dinners. Even some of his closest friends have had to settle for mere breakfasts. He sounded genuinely sorry he couldn't come over to my place, just for drinks only, till after the first week of March '79.

My own discreet enquiries reveal that one has to be nominated for honorary membership the same way one is nominated for the Nobel Prize. Except that, in this case, nominations are made by the local committees of two organisations, one the CIA and the other the KGB. It is a measure of the confidence and understanding between the two organisations that honorary membership in, say, the CIA can only be proposed by the local KGB committee, and vice versa. This procedure is no doubt intended to prevent attempts at favouritism or family-banishment. Or else you-know-who would be the first in the queue—nominating yours truly, who else?

Persons picked for nomination are never sounded out in advance, the way the Nobel people do. That automatically cuts out the lobbying menace. The rule about secrecy is so strictly observed that the local KGB committee would never, for instance, admit having nominated Manik for CIA membership. Seems the CIA rules are no less demanding, which is probably why the two local committees work in such harmony.

I explained all this to my wife, and now she's more angry. I have also been presented with an ultimatum: if I wish to win back the family's respect, I must get honorary membership of the CIA and the KGB. Both in time for next Christmas, too.

I must say there's method in her madness—sometimes.

**THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF RUMOUR.** Reading about the recent Trade Pact with China, I find that the entire Press has focused attention only on the drab details about what the two countries will swap with each other in '79, and how much the whole exercise will be worth in dollars. People don't, in my view, buy the papers to satisfy their appetite for such trash; they tune into the radio for that. Since no publication has even so much as hinted at the wonderful variety of rumours about the trade talks, I've decided to put things right and give readers their money's worth.

First, I want to deny the superb rumour going the rounds about why we won't buy Chinese rice anymore; it seems such a beauty that I feel sorry to have to smother it out of existence. The story is that we banished rice from the Pact after 25 years on the basis of intelligence reports, compliments of a comradely embassy, that Chinese rice could, over a period of time, produce in its consumers a passive acceptance of authority—a trait must surely be considered most desirable by governments the world over, let alone in China. But, as I said, it isn't true.

So there can't be any truth in the follow-up yarn that our negotiators managed, with consummate diplomatic skill and without hurting Chinese sensibilities or in any way belittling their system of democratic government, to get the message across that Chinese rice was not quite what we were looking for—not after July '77, anyway.

Rumour even had it that the Chinese delegation was quick to grasp and gracious enough to accept unreservedly the vital democratic principle that the party in power in a country had the sole, sovereign and inalienable right to decide how best to govern its own people; if our government

chose to keep Sri Lankans in line by using its own home-grown rice, that was okay by them. All this, alas, is not true.

Another good rumour the Press failed to mention, or deny, was that the Chinese had offered to divert the Mahaweli—all the way to Peking, and within five years, too.

I have it on the highest authority that China did not offer us nuclear submarines and missile-carriers to police the Indian Ocean and make sure it remained a Zone of Peace. So it can't also be true that we, in turn, told the Chinese that the job was already being done quite effectively by the Fisheries Corporation trawlers ever since our Navy took the world lead in unilateral disarmament when, as a matter of policy, it gave up its offensive capability and took to the land.

I am surprised that no newspaper thought it fit to refer to or refute the charge that China had wanted to either rent or lease, for an initial 100-year period, a small area of about 25,000 square miles in Sri Lanka, and that we had declined because it would interfere with our ambitious plans for a Free Trade Zone. I am happy to reveal that the Surveyor-General was never consulted on the matter. Nor did he advise the Cabinet, in the event of our wanting to please China, to obtain suitable alternate accommodation outside the country to keep the Sri Lanka flag flying, the way General de Gaulle moved his Government into little London office after his beloved France was given over temporarily to Germany in the 1940s. The whole story is pure fiction. I can tell you, because China never makes the same mistake twice; there's been no end to the problems she's had after taking a long lease on Tibet.



With all this wealth of rumour, I don't know how the Press could refer only to China's interest in 45,000 tons of our rubber, 5,000 tons of coconut oil, some cocoa and medicinal herbs. We buy kerosene, diesel, textiles. Total value of two-way trade; 110 million dollars.

Now that I have put you in the picture, be honest and ask yourself: given a choice, which would you rather have read about?

As for me, it's rumour that makes the world go round.



### IT HAPPENED ONE DAY

## Gentleman Junior

by R. C. Thavarajah  
Retd. Suptd. of Police

It had been a bad day. Things had gone wrong from morning. This sort of fretting often comes with advancing years and a limited source of that additive that makes the mare go. I had that miserable, crotchety feeling of being angry with the whole world—the effect of dotting age!

"Sing your cares away" some pontificate. Easier said than done. Not endowed with a voice as smooth as silk like the late Jim Reeves or Bing Crosby, my attempts with the vocal chords, may bring disastrous results. One possible consequence will be the neighbours stampeding to the nearest 'Cop Shop' (the Mod term for Police Station) to allege that I was disturbing the peace and tranquility of the area. I may also be rendering myself liable to a delictual action under the Law of Nuisance either for damages or action for interdict. What is worse, in English Law, the liability for nuisance is a strict liability which means that a person may be liable for nuisance without proof of fault!

I therefore, decided to step out of the house to walk my troubled thoughts away. A young voice, clear and appealing, rent the air—"Last Day, Last Day". After the recent cyclone had made its vicious visitation, there was another rumour of its return. I had also been told that some prophets of gloom had predicted the possible collision of planets and the total destruction of the world. Happily, Sir Arthur Clarks, Space Scientist 'Par excellence' who has given us the honour of making Sri Lanka his home, has dispelled all such fears. By god, sir, he knows his onions, the sea around us, the sea bed, the space, outer space and even our beaches. To those who have postulated that there is no business like "shore" business, he has cautioned that we should not convert the Pearl of the Indian Ocean into Blue Hawaii with grass skirted beauties hip swinging in the golden tropical beaches to the lilt of strumming guitars to the tune of the swaying palm trees. Those dreaming in technicolour of making a quick buck might as well say "Aloha" to their pipe dreams and think of a more dignified way of earning VFE.

Prompted by the typical insular curiosity, I went closer, dodging the almost jet propelled limousines murderously burning up the asphalt. A very young sweep ticket-seller accosted me with a ticket in the fashion of the Ancient Mariner and insisted that I buy one. I brushed him off with a somewhat irascible "Go Away". It was then that I got it—the most effectively eloquent chastisement! "APOI", he said with his hands akimbo, "*Hariyetta tharaha geehela waagay*" (Gosh, the man has really lost his temper). This salesman, hardly eight years old, looked me straight in the eye and with the devastatingly disarming smile most deftly exe-

cuted the 'coup-de-grace' with the addendum "You are not obliged to buy a ticket Mister, but you do not have to blow your top". It is not good. It was simple, polite and straightforward!

I have always tried to be guided by the maxim that rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength. Under trying conditions, unjust condemnation and being judged by very "handsome" men without being given a hearing, I have tried to follow the advice of the great writer Ernest Hemingway—"GRACE under pressure". This was one moment I failed. I deserved what I got. The little brat was dishing out a simple sermon consonant with what the Bagavad Gita says:—

*"Be angry, and you confuse your MIND;*

*Confuse your mind, you forget the lesson of Experience;*

*Forget experience, you lose discrimination;*

*Lose discrimination, and you miss life's ONLY PURPOSE"*

I quickly tendered my apology. I tried to make amends. I did something which I normally do not do, not only because I do not believe in short cuts to success or wealth, but also because I have better use for the rupee. I bought a ticket. In a further attempt to ease my conscience, I dug out a twenty five cent coin and gave it to him. For a moment, a quizzical knitting of the eye brows creased his cherub face. "Why the extra —/25 cts?" he asked. There was character in the look he gave me. He may be poor but he certainly had his pride and self respect.

"Please accept it—it is part of the apology" I pleaded. "OK, Mister—if it makes you feel better" he snapped, shoved the coin into the pocket of his tattered pair of shorts, thanked me profusely and was off like a gazelle.

I later learnt that he was one of the youngsters who go out bare-footed, bare headed in the sun and in the rain, without a meal, sell sweep tickets, earn a paltry —/08 cents on each ticket sold to augment the family income. This brave littler hero helps his mother to keep the home fires burning. He has two younger sisters. His father, an unmitigated vagabond, had deserted them a year ago.

In the falling shadows of dusk approaching nightfall, and in the bustle of people scurrying on the side-walks, I lost sight of him. Somewhere in the distance, I heard his voice again trailing off to a pleasantly soothing diminuendo "Last Last Day, Rupiyalay Vasanawa."

As I retraced my steps homeward, I felt elevated from the quagmire of depression, bitterness and self-pity. The exhilaration was not only the joy of making amends for a light misdeed. It was also the distinct ecstasy of having met someone really outstanding, of the genre that will make admirably dynamic leaders of tomorrow. Little Priyantha of Kopyawatte had not merely sold me sweep ticket. He had administered the remedial resurgence and made the way more pleasant to my journey's end. The late Maurice Chevalier, most beloved French actor and singer, sang "Thank Heaven, Thank Heaven for little girls". He might have added the little boys of Sri Lanka.

In a burst of exuberance and careless abandon, I almost broke into song!

## GEORGE MARZIPAN—9

### On Human Frauds

by Glucorasa

"You gave me superb advice when I met you last. Your Assistant is a master tactician. Both of us dropped in to see VHF, the Working Director, as suggested by you. He had found a bottle of Martel and had it with him when we called on VHF. His office was air-conditioned, well furnished and the window drapings have been chosen by someone whose tastes can only be described as sensitive—like that of an artist, like a Goethe or a Rembrandt" said George as he walked into my office.

"Fine"

"But, Sir, do you know how all the expenditure is being met? From a new credit line opened by the Corporation with an Aid Consortium member." George pulled out his note-book turned over a few pages and declared "O tempora O mores. I hope you understand that Sir." I nodded. We were both silent for some time because Walrus the cook had brought in the brew and one of my Black & White was going up in smoke. I never grudged this, because George's company is exhilarating—in a government office particularly. In such offices, there is much throat-slitting, back biting, tale carrying boot-licking and worst of all it is utterly drab—inhuman, like dehydrated potatoes.

"All government's make the same same mistake in Sri Lanka". Your mean "Sri Lanka" I corrected George. "Yes." "Such as what George". "Immediately they assume office, many declarations are made. Taking over estates, nationalising insurance, creating job banks ostensibly to give appointments only on merit, and extend income-support to the unemployed. St-

range other forms of support are also not given."

"What's wrong about all this". "Nothing—absolutely nothing. But, I what am concerned about is that the implementation is in the hands of chaps, bureaucrats as they are called, who do not know and are utterly incapable of feeling the pulse of the people". "You mean they have to feel the pulse of the 14 million." "I am quite serious and you are joking". "George, remember there are jokers in every pack". "With the passage of time, governments lose touch with the people. It's something like this. Remove the fuse, the circuit is broken. The aerial is dismantled and signals cannot be received. Gradually, but surely, they are isolated and do not know what's going on around them. That is the beginning of the end; of all governments all over the world. Like an ostrich." "Have you seen one, Marzipan." "I have seen them here". "Well, George, all that is not our business. You and I must work, at least earn our pay. You are earning yours doing work for the Union and I, mine like what you see every, time you came here."

"I wish really, Sir, that the mass media..." "Where did you pick that up" I interrupted. "I do sincerely hope that the mass media will tell the truth and keep the government informed. There should be criticism, not destructive—constructive criticism. That is the purpose of sponsoring and encouraging an Opposition in a democratic country." "Good George, very good. Thank God we" have an Opposition in Parliament.

An acquaintance walked in, unannounced. I knew him. He was the Secretary of another Society in Sri Lanka that claims to cater to the needs of the sick. "Hello—come in. What is the reason for this most pleasant surprise?" I said, all the time wishing that this

fellow would leave soon. George had already wasted over an hour talking politics, over which we have no control except when the ballot box is put out. I thought it prudent not to ring for another cup of tea for this intruder, fearing he might make it a practice. George was of course a different kettle of fish.

"Well, I was passing this way to attend a meeting of the Society. We will be formulating the implementation programme for 1979. It is important that I do not miss it. I have half an hour to go. So I thought I might as well spend that time here. You can't be having much work here—do you? Most government officers are busy doing nothing!" This fellow was irritating me. I wanted to hand him over to Marzipan. "Permit me to introduce you to my good friend George Marzipan. He is a keen Union man."

With infinite grace and charm Marzipan rose to great heights. "I am honoured to make your acquaintance. How many employees are there in your Society? Do they have a Union of their own? How often have you been abroad to study trends in other parts of the World? I have heard that the first assignment given to an office bearer in your Society is to send him, or sometimes her, on an observation tour to other countries where conditions are totally different from ours, so that the missing links can be found, isolated and grafted? Is that so, my dear friend? You see, I am the Hony. Secy. of one of the powerful Unions in Sri Lanka today. My Union was in the vanguard of the opposition to the White Paper on Employment Relations put out by the Government some months ago." George continued "Now, I deeply regret that I did so. The Bill should have been allowed to go through and then the Unions and the wor-

kers would have united and created trouble for the government. Do you know what would have been the outcome?"

The poor Secretary of the Society (I did not know his name) was stunned. He was speechless. He looked hard at George. "No, I do not know". "There you are. You are capitalists, who do not know the hardships of the poor workers. The Union officials ride on their backs. We would have created such a noise that the government would have had either to lock us up or send us all on scholarships—see my dear fellow. But our country being a Democratic Socialist Republic will never put us behind bars—Paget Road in any case is closed. We would have gone abroad to see how unions functioned in other countries, am certain we would have met in Moscow or London or somewhere else. Who cares? We would be more open to new ideas. Tell me are you all discussing scholarships or observation tours at the meeting today?"

My visitor was clearly embarrassed. He rose, "I am glad I met you today, Mr. George Marzipan. I hope we shall be seeing each other more often". "Pardon me, dear Secretary, my name is George Leopold Robilac. Marzipan is the name conferred upon me by this gentleman whose time, you and I have both wasted." "Does this mean that you manufacture paints?" "I am indeed a manufacturer—but not of paints. I have manufactured 8 human beings and I am told that another one is on the production line being processed". "Mr. Robilac, you are indeed a very interesting person. Why do you not become a member of our Society. I will give you a membership form right away." "That is very kind of you. But, just now my interests are in another direction and I must give

my undivided attention to that undertaking. I hope you will not be inquisitive to know what those interests are. For the present I would much rather keep that to myself—and of course, this gentleman, whose time we are continuing to waste."

I cut in at this stage. "Certainly your visit has been most unexpected. I happen to know some members of your Society. Some of them are pompous so and sos, whose only interest in the Society is that it takes them a couple of notches up the social ladder, of course you are not in my mind when I say this." The visitor was aghast. I said this deliberately, for I had no wish to have this fellow walking into my office, because he had nowhere else to spend his time before going to the Society headquarters. I added "I am very glad indeed that Marzipan declined your very kind invitation to enrol him as a member of your Society. Please forgive me if I have sounded discourteous. I have only spoken the truth".

When the Secretary left, I thanked George for his adept handling of this fraud. George and I walked down with this fellow to make the exit more courteous than the entry. A car was waiting for him. It was the Society car and the driver jumped out to open the door for him.

"Well George, are you coming up again, or do you propose to leave?"

"I must pick up my bag which I left in your room. I was certain that this fellow needed the treatment I gave him and am glad you approved. Good day Sir. We are still on the same wave length."

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IN NEW DELHI

## International Conference Against Apartheid

by T. Duraisingam

"AFRICANS are winning one State after another—that is certainly important and necessary. But what is more important is that we have states in Africa with socialist orientation". So said S. A. Dange, Chairman of the Communist Party of India, while extending greetings on behalf of his Party at the plenary sessions of the International Conference for the Liberation of Southern Africa and Against Apartheid. He further stated that it was the advance of socialist states which had led to the collapse of colonialism, the expansion of freedom and the contraction of racism now confined to two or three states. He paid rich tributes to the glorious victories achieved in Ethiopia and Angola and described how the Chinese leaders were trying to "develop the socialist revolution in the company of American imperialism" and trading with the racist powers in the name of revolution. "What was most reprehensible" he said "was their trying to threaten even Vietnam which had defeated American imperialism in the fiercest of recent battles".

This International Conference was held at New Delhi from September 28—October 2, 1978 and was the biggest and the most significant international event held to further the aims of the United Nations anti-apartheid year. It was also the most important world assembly so far organised in support of the Liberation movements of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. The New Delhi conference was organised by the World Peace Council, Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation and the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisa-

tion in cooperation with the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. Representatives of political parties, peace and solidarity movements, trade unions, women, youth, students, religious, social and cultural organisations from about 70 countries took part in the conference. The total number of delegates were more than 800, of whom about 600 were from different parts of India. Vivienne Goonewardene and I participated at this conference as delegates from the Sri Lanka Peace Council and from the Afro-Asian Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka.

THE FIVE DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE was inaugurated by N. Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India. In his speech he reiterated India's "unqualified support" to Liberation struggles and total identification with all nationalist movements fighting against apartheid, racism and neo-colonialism. He spoke of Mahatma Gandhi's pioneering struggle in defence of the persecuted populace of South Africa and highlighted his principles of non-violence and brotherhood of man irrespective of colour, religion, caste and creed. Amidst applause he said India had "condemned apartheid as not only a crime against humanity but also as a potential threat to world peace and international security". He welcomed the prospects of early independence for both Namibia and Zimbabwe and hoped that the peoples there will prosper following self-determination.

The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid and the United Nations Centre against Apartheid gave their full cooperations in organising this conference and joined it as full participants. Leslie O. Harriman, Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid in his statement said that "the apartheid regime has constantly escalated repression in the vain

hope of suppressing the growing resistance of the oppressed people against apartheid. It has enacted a series of obnoxious laws—such as the Unlawful Organisations Act, the Sabotage Act, the Terrorism Act and the International Security Act—which violate all principles of the rule of law. It has banned the liberation movements and many organisations opposed to apartheid. It has subjected numerous patriots to imprisonment, restrictions and brutal harassment. Resorting to systematic sophisticated torture of political detainees, it has murdered many black leaders. It has massacred peaceful black demonstrators against apartheid, including school children."

On 31st October, 1977 the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 417 (1977) demanding that the racist regime and violence and repression against the black people and other opponents of apartheid; release all persons imprisoned under arbitrary security laws and all those detained for their opposition to apartheid; cease forthwith its indiscriminate violence against peaceful demonstrators against apartheid, murders in detention and torture of political prisoners; and abrogate the bans on organisations and the news media opposed to apartheid. The apartheid regime has flagrantly this resolution, and has continued its crimes. Mr. Solomon Mahlangu, a young militant, has been sentenced to death and several more political detainees have been killed. A series of trials have been instituted against hundreds of persons under the notorious Terrorism Act which provides for a minimum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a maximum sentence of death. The apartheid regime has, thereby, aggravated the explosive situation in South Africa and flung an inescapable challenge to all men and women of conscience.

Leading figures of the national liberation movements from Southern

Africa actively participated at the conference. Front line fighters gave first hand reports about the present situation in Southern Africa. Alfred Nzo, Secretary General of the African National Congress of South Africa, spoke of the crucial stage the South African liberation movement had reached with growing crisis of the apartheid regime and the mounting advance of the revolutionary struggle alongside a spurt in the extreme fascist measures adopted by the minority rulers. He reaffirmed the ANC's determination to continue waging armed struggle against the current fascist Botha regime and declared that the mass political action of the South African people would grow in depth in the coming days with the expansion of the revolutionary struggle both in scope and intensity. Mr. Nze spoke of the heightened war psychosis in South Africa with the fabulous growth of its defence budget by almost 200 per cent over the last four years. The Botha regime was getting arms from all its traditional Western imperialist patrons along with Israel and Iran. He also called for an international campaign to save the life of young Solomen Mahlangu, a member of the ANC military wing, and demanded the release of all political prisoners. He expressed sincerest gratitude to the USSR and other socialist countries and non-aligned nations like India helping the cause of the liberation movement and roundly condemned the deeds of the Peking rulers vis-a-vis the racists.

Samuel Munodawafa, National Chairman, Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU), said that the regime in Rhodesia was in the doldrums and the whites were running for their lives. As a result, Mr. Ian Smith was resorting to barbarous tactics and daily about 50 people were being butchered. Mr. Munodawafa pointed to the fact that the revolutionary

forces of Zimbabwe had achieved significant victories across the country and were presently operating inside the capital—Salisbury—an event of extraordinary importance. The resounding successes, he said, were traceable to the selfless aid of the socialist countries, in the first place the USSR, Cuba and the GDR. The impressive results of the armed struggle, he said, had forced the Smith regime to revise the so-called internal settlement with the imposition of Martial Law and savage repression. Shapua Kākungua, member of the leadership of Namibia's militant organisation SWAPO, called upon the international community for total economic sanctions against the South African rulers, especially absolute oil embargo. He also declared that the SWAPO will never participate in any election in Namibia under South African supervision.

The 800 delegates attending the conference divided themselves into three commissions discussing (a) South Africa and the Arms Race underlining the apartheid regime's threat to security of Africa and the world (the role of the NATO, plans to create the SEATO, and the problem of militarisation of the Indian Ocean), (b) Southern Africa and the struggle for Economic Liberation highlighting the operation of multinationals in South Africa and the apartheid regime's threat to the struggle for economic independence of Asia, Africa and Latin America, (c) violations of human rights in Southern Africa (apartheid and racism—crimes against humanity, the question of political prisoners, torture).

Alongside the commission meetings the plenary session of the Conference was simultaneously held in order to enable the foreign delegates and representatives of various mass organisations to greet the Conference. Mrs. Vivienne Goonewardene and I actively participated

in the plenary sessions and in the commissions. I was called upon to preside at a plenary session of the International Conference. Mrs. Goonewardene was appointed reporter to the commission of Southern Africa and the struggle for Economic Liberation. Romesh Chandra, President of the World Peace Council, in his address to the Conference said that the urgent need of the hour was the international mobilisation of all anti-imperialist forces, governments and non-governmental organisations, against all collaboration with the racist regimes.

"The apartheid lives and continues to exist only because of the financial and economic support of imperialism. It is vital to emphasise this fact. The imperialists was eloquent now-a-days about their supposed "opposition" to apartheid, about their desire to ensure "majority rule" in Southern Africa." Faced by the victorious armed struggle of the liberation forces poised for their final assault, the imperialist powers, aided by their reactionary partners, desperately seek to maintain their economic and financial interests in Southern Africa—using new methods, new conspiracies.

There is only one solution in South Africa, only one solution in Zimbabwe, only one solution in Namibia. That solution is full and total liberation now."

In one of the most rousing speeches heard at the conference, Mr. Feinglass launched a vitriolic attack on the US administration for its shameless hypocrisy in assisting the regimes of apartheid to crush popular revolts with the vilest forms of butchery and massacres, posting 40,000 US troops in Iran to help the Shah to survive and then shedding crocodile tears over what happened in Katanga. He demanded total boycott of "every company that deals or trades with African racists", and called for all encom-

passing unity of the forces fighting for freedom and equality and against war. "The struggle", he declared amidst prolonged applause, "is worldwide. When we win at one place we win everywhere. But when we win the struggle against apartheid, we win the world. It's worth fighting for that!"

In the plenary sessions on the last day of the conference reports from the various commissions were adopted. On the basis of discussions had at the Conference it was decided to send messages to the General Assembly of the United Nations, to the Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries, to the Organisation of African Unity and messages of solidarity among others with the peoples of Chile, Vietnam and the patriots of Iran. Resolutions on the Middle East, on Southern Africa and on solidarity with African front line states were also adopted.

The New Delhi Declaration adopted at the Conference declared that the peoples of the world condemn the sinister forces of imperialism and its allies, which seek to split and divide the liberation movements. The unity of the liberation movements has already resulted in resounding successes. The further cementing of that unity is the guarantee for final victory. It paid special tribute to the Front Line States of Africa—Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia—for their steadfast solidarity with the liberation movements, despite the constant aggressive attacks by the racist regimes. It stated that the liberation movements enjoy the support of the most powerful forces in the world: of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, of the anti-imperialist non-aligned states, of the democratic and progressive forces right inside the countries ruled by imperialism and reaction, of the vast movement for peace and solidarity.

The Conference declared its full solidarity with the liberation movements of Southern Africa at this crucial moment, when they have launched their final assault on the illegal racist regimes of Pretoria and Salisbury and called for the urgent total mobilisation of all anti-imperialist governments, political parties, mass organisations, peace and solidarity movements, all inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations for all-out support to the liberation movements and a full-scale offensive against all collaboration with the racist regimes.



### CHINA REVISITED—3

## Implications Of Modernisation

by Nikil Chakravartty

WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN the pace of industrialisation, the living condition of the working people in the urban areas is something for any Indian to admire. Although there is considerable housing shortage in relation to the growing need—the old tenements jostle side by side with new flats in Peking and other cities—I could get interesting details when visiting a couple of newly built flats for workers in Peking. In a two-roomed flat with kitchen and toilet, four persons live—the old father retired from the Air Force, his two sons, one a turner and another electrician, and the mother. The total monthly income of the family comes to 200 yuans (one yuan is equal to Indian Rs. 4.35): the rent of the flat is 17 yuans and this includes water and electricity charges. The family saves 40 yuans a month. In the flat next door, three persons live—the husband who is an employee in a Ministry,

the wife who has retired, and their teen-aged daughter who is an apprentice in a clothing shop. The total income of the family comes to 170 yuans a month, out of which they pay 12 yuans for the flat together with water and electricity charges.

The local activity in an urban area is under Street Committee. Hoping Lee Street Committee that I visited is located in the East Peking City District. Previously, these were called Revolutionary Committees and were elected, but now they are called Administrative Committees and are appointed. The Street Committees are under the District Committees. Peking has nine District Committees which are under the City Committee which is directly responsible to the State Committee. The Street Committee has wholetime paid staff of about 100 and a functioning office building: the one that I visited look after 16 thousand families, roughly 70 thousand persons living in six square kilometers. It manages service stations for the tenements, health centres, a hospital, cultural centres, handicraft units, and schools in the area.

Under the Street Committee, there are Residential Committees, each of which apart from looking after the maintenance of houses, undertake cultural activities, run the laundry and a clinic. The Residential Committee tries to bring about harmonious social life, and campaigns for family planning and against over-drinking. On enquiry we found that among the cases pertaining to the residents it has to take up, is the eternal conflict between the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law.

THERE IS IN PEKING TODAY a sense of welcome relaxation from the tense intolerance of ultra-Leftism that started with Mao's Cultural Revolution and reached its bizarre climax under his wife,

Ching Ching, in the last two years of his life. The banned Peking Opera has come back. And so has Confucius: the blame for outlawing him is now foisted on the Gang of Four who, through t'is campaign, wanted to hit at Chou En-lai. But in Peking, I heard that the first salvo against Confucius was fired by Mao himself in an unsigned article.

New trends are appearing on the stage. For instance, during my visit, a one-act comedy called *Appointment* was drawing packed houses in Shanghai; it is all about the dating by two young people in a park—a research student with a librarian who is the heroine. The writer, Shan Yeh-hsin while holding that love and marriage are “social events”, claimed that his play would help people “sort out their values and priorities”.

In 1956, I had noticed ballroom dancing very widely in vogue—even at functions attended by high-ups—whether in a public park or on a steamer trip up the Yangtze, it had not yet come back, though its early rehabilitation is eagerly awaited by many in China. The most interesting of all is the news I got that the Society of Philosophers has set up a sub-committee to define Truth. This would have been a blasphemy three years ago.

THERE ARE MANY INTERESTING ITEMS on a tourist itinerary in China: the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs, for instance. All this I had done in my eight-week trip in 1956—travelling from Shenyang and Anshan in the north, to Shanghai the most crowded city in China with a population of eleven million, and then up the Yangtze to Nanking, Wuhan, Hangchow and Kunming. This time, therefore, my Peking rounds included what is new. One of these is the underground railway. The 24-kilometre long project was started in 1965

and was opened in 1969, with a standard fare of 10 cents (43 paise) for all stations; the trains run only between 6 in the morning and 9 in the evening. Peking goes to bed early, even the banquets are over 9:30 p.m. The underground is a clean service, not much rush, and with typical Chinese touch, the compartment walls carry paintings and quotations from leaders. The one that I boarded had a poem by Chou En-lai.

Talking of Chou En-lai, a visit to the permanent exhibition on his eventful life in Peking's Museum of Revolution was indeed rewarding. With pictures and writings, one could see the making of a revolutionary from the days of the May 4 movement, to commitment to Marxism in Paris, and then revolutionary action in the uprisings at Canton, Shanghai and Nanchang, on to the Long March, Yenan, negotiations with Chiang Kai-shek at Sian and tense days in Chungking, and then to Liberation—a new Chou as the world statesman and one of the architects of New China.

*Jostling with the crowd that was avidly devouring every word of the Chinese guides, I was rather surprised at the absence of any picture of Chou's three visits to India, or of the Bandung Conference; while pictures of other world leaders in the Company of Chou are shown, none with those of Nehru, Nasser or Sukarno. As for the annals of the Chinese Communists, no picture of Chou speaking at the Eight Party Congress in 1956 where I had heard him deliver the major report on the National Economic Plan.*

On the entire wall of the last hall of the exhibition is a magnificent painting with snow-capped mountains on top, dense forests on the foothills, then lush grasslands, with rivers flowing on to the ocean. The Chinese script on the side taken from Chou's testament (the full text of which, I was told, is not yet published) enjoins that his

ashes were to be strewn over “five continents and four oceans”—reminding me of Nehru's memorable testament.

Chou En-lai was *par excellence* a modern statesman. Although it would perhaps be a heresy to say so, his adjustment to Mao's theory of peasant socialism via the Cultural Revolution with its back-to-the-village emphasis, was really an exercise in making a virtue out of necessity. He had neither the resources nor the inclination to pit himself against Mao, but his immediate followers were all modernists, technocrats in the real sense.

One of Chou's associates from the early Paris days was Teng Hsiao-ping, who after being made General Secretary of the party in 1956, and ousted during the Cultural Revolution, came back to the Politbureau in 1973 and became a Vice-President mainly on the initiative of Chou En-lai whose death in 1976 led to Teng's second ouster within three months. His return to leadership in July last year marks not only a new opening for a chequered career but a significant landmark in China's politico-economic development. Way back in 1962, while stressing the need for raising production by all possible means, Teng was reported to have said: “It does not matter whether a cat is black or white. The important thing is whether it catches mice.”

In Peking this time the most talked-about Chinese politician I found is Teng Hsiao-ping. The same test of catching the mice he is applying today in his jet-speed drive for Four Modernisations—of Agriculture, Industry, Defence and Science and Technology. In place of the Maoist concept of self-reliance based largely on the rural economy, the present Chinese leadership is

going in for foreign collaboration deals for no-nonsense industrialisation. From West Germany to Japan, from Britain and France to Canada and Sweden, numerous contracts are being signed, and turn-key projects are allowed to be set by multinationals. Even plants are being bought outright with the usual royalty or patents. From coal-mining to colour TV, steel and electronics plants, China's industrialisation today embraces massive foreign collaboration. Japan alone would be accounting for 20 billion dollar worth of deals of China.

To meet the cost of this gigantic programme, the Chinese Government for long had held on to the principle of deferred payment credit for specific projects. But during my couple of weeks in Peking, I came to learn that China is now getting ready for large-scale foreign loans from international banks in Tokyo and Paris, while soon after British Trade Minister Dell's recent visit to Peking, the City of London has been preparing to immediately arrange for China credit of over 200 million dollars. Modernisation enforces its own compulsions, particularly when Peking has discarded its inhibition about the foreign devils—except, of course, the Red Devil from Moscow.

The most startling aspect of the modernisation campaign is to be seen in the field of education as also science and technology. The old University structure, shattered under Mao's order during the Cultural Revolution, is being restored, and the old educationists, mostly over 70, are being brought back. The old curricula and the system of admission are being revived. Displaced scientists are being rehabilitated and asked to renovate the neglected laboratories.

EARLY IN JULY, the Chinese Government approached the Western missions for immediate admission into science and technology

courses in their universities of an unprecedentedly large number of Chinese students totalling ten thousand. This crash programme will continue till 1985 with the specific proviso that the Chinese students must be kept and treated as any other students in the Western universities and all their expenses would be paid for by the Chinese Government.

There is plenty of exciting talk about this decision in Peking's foreign community. Among the Socialist countries, only Rumania and Yugoslavia have been selected for the despatch of the Chinese students; the biggest contingent of one thousand is earmarked for Britain. It is a long march indeed from Mao's order to send ten million school-leaving youth to villages, to flying out thousands of them to alien Western campuses.

Little doubt this plan for the creation of an elite with its calculated risks, is perhaps the most daring aspect of the modernisation programme. In place of the idealisation of the peasant as the revolutionary hero, the technocrat is going to replace him in the modernised China of tomorrow. A new ethos is sought to be enthroned, and in the process, who knows, social tensions of imponderable magnitude may be unleashed in the most populous country in the world.

(To Be Continued)



**NEXT WEEK**

- ON DISTRICT MINISTERS  
— by R. Kahawita
- IRAN, CHINA, VIETNAM  
— More Information
- PRELUDE TO UNCTAD  
— Anti-Protectionism

**FOR THE RECORD**

● Jaffna ● Plantation  
Workers ● Colombo  
Campus

**A COPY OF LETTER SENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA BY THE JAFFNA DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SRI LANKA ON 21st DECEMBER 1978 ON "CURTAILMENT OF FACILITIES."**

"We have the honour to request you to re-open all banking and pawn-ing institutions which have been closed recently in the Northern Province, to stop all excesses by the Police and the Armed Services and to restore the civil aviation service connected with the Kankesanthurai Air Port. We urge the following reasons in support of the above request:

**Closure of Banks:** Majority of the Branches of the People's Bank including all rural banks, and of the Bank of Ceylon in the Northern Province have been closed since 11.12.78. Pawning activities and loan facilities including agricultural loans have been stopped. This action seems to have been taken consequent to the robbery of the Nallur Branch of the Peoples Bank. The withdrawal of the hitherto existing Banking facilities will tend to strengthen the hands of the unscrupulous middlemen and money lenders. This defeats the whole purpose for which the Banking facilities were extended in the past. Normal customers are compelled to spend several hours and travel long distances to transact their normal business. Farmers in particular will be forced to get their loans and other credit facilities from



the village sharks. It is a fact that a greater number of bank robberies has taken place outside the Northern province. Hence it is difficult to understand why banking activities should be reduced, the public harassed and the customers inconvenienced only in the Northern Province.

**EXCESSES BY THE POLICE AND THE ARMED SERVICES :**

These excesses have been referred to in Parliament and in the National press. In this regard even the I.G.P. was compelled to issue a circular to the police force. Nevertheless, there are reports of unprovoked incidents against the public in places like Jaffna town, Vasavilan and Valvettithurai to mention a few. As a result of all these the people of the Peninsular are living in fear. Statements made by certain Government Members of Parliament and even Ministers confirm the fear that such excesses may have official patronage. Action should therefore be taken to immediately stop these excesses. It is the duty of the Police and the Services to maintain peace, law, order and normal life without harassing the public.

**AIR TRANSPORT :** Following the Avro incident of September 7, 1978, all civilian Air transport by Air Ceylon has been stopped. This stoppage has seriously handicapped the longest Air route in Sri Lanka (Colombo to Jaffna) and civil transport between India and Sri Lanka (Particularly between Jaffna and Trichy) which service was popular among all sections of the people in Sri Lanka and India. On the other hand confining Palaly Air Port for only military purposes is eminuous and not only tends to create a sense of fear among the people but also dislocates economic life.

**CONCLUSION :** While no sane person can condone bank robberies and excesses by the Police and the Armed services, it is the duty of the government to restore normal conditions by winning

the confidence of, rather than harassing the public. Failure to take such remedial measures and restore normal conditions is likely to endanger national unity. In view of the importance of the issues involved, the release of this communication to the press, we hope, will not be considered improper.

A. VAIDIALINGAM,  
Secretary,

Jaffna District Committee,  
Communist Party of Sri Lanka.

72/2, Hospital Road,  
Jaffna.  
31.12.78.



**A STATEMENT BY THE  
DEMOCRATIC WORKER'S  
CONGRESS.**

*Mr. Aziz, President of the Democratic Workers' Congress (Political Wing) issued the following Press statement :*

"The Democratic Workers' Congress (Political Wing) has decided to put forward candidates to contest seats in the forthcoming local elections in the Plantation Districts of the Hill country as well as the low country. The symbol "Ladder" which has been allotted by the Commissioner of Elections as the approved symbol of our Political party, is no doubt, symbolic of our progressive policies. Our efforts both within and outside Parliament to bring the plantation worker into the arena of local politics have seen fruition. For the first time in the political history of the island, the doors of local politics have been open to plantation workers who have acquired Sri Lanka citizenship. Our party shall leave no stone unturned to obtain for the estate worker full participation in local politics alongside with the Sinhala brethren".

14, Sunethra Lane,  
Thimbrigasaya Road,  
Colombo 5.

**A RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE SCIENCE TEACHERS, ASSOCIATION, COLOMBO CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA, HELD ON 21.12.1978.**

"This House resolves to request the Hon. Minister of Education and Higher Education to institute immediately a full and impartial inquiry into each and every receipt allegation made in and outside Parliament regarding the University and G.C.E. (A/Level) examinations. Further this House requests the Hon. Minister of Education and Higher Education to examine the propriety of any person making public allegations of this nature prior to proper inquiry".

Dr. L. M. V. Tilekeratne,  
(Hon'y. Secretary).

Colombo Campus,  
University of Sri Lanka,  
Colombo.  
26.12.1978.



**"Capital Export" by Iran's Former Ministers, General Teheran, Dec. 21.**

The Iranian authorities here on Wednesday charged 100 persons including four former Ministers, three generals and the former navy chief, with "illegal export of capital", it was officially announced. Those charged, also include two sons of Princess Ashraf, the Shah's twin sister, and many business figures. The Government action follows the publication of a list of persons alleged to have sent major sums abroad by Iran's Markazi bank. Sums illegally exported were alleged to have totalled about 35,000 million rials (around \$ 500 million) —AFP.

# Confidentially

## Mystery Of The Chinese Broilers

IS IT NOT A FACT that the CWE import of Chinese chicken threatens to become a scandal of the first magnitude? That the whole business is shrouded in mystery so far as the public is concerned? That it is hoped that some public-spirited MP (all MPs must be regarded as public spirited!) will ask the relevant Ministry to furnish answers to the following among other questions (that will arise from the answers)? That information is needed about: (a) the actual quantity of broiler chicken meat ordered by the CWE from China—whether it was one order for 300 tons, and another for 500 tons or just one order of 300 tons; (b) the total quantity of broiler chicken already received by the CWE from China; (c) the amount, if any, still on order; (d) whether the order or orders were placed through the accredited agents of the Chinese Export Organisation in Sri Lanka or whether the order, or orders were placed through a free lance agent in Hongkong; (e) the actual cost of import of this broiler chicken meat; (f) the actual quantity of broiler chicken sold at the different selling (wholesale and retail) prices of Rs. 9.50 a lb., then at Rs. 9.00 a lb., then Rs. 8.50 a lb., then Rs. 8.00 a lb., and finally at Rs. 7.50 a lb.? That the first news was that 300 tons had been ordered and that would sold at Rs. 9.60 a lb? That in October 1978, there were enthusiastic press reports that the CWE was importing more broiler chicken for Christmas and it

was said that the price would be lower than the broiler chicken meat from the USA and Australia imported by Elephant House?

IS IT TRUE that the CWE's broiler chicken did not sell as fast as hoped? That, in fact, there was a tremendous consumer resistance to the CWE's broiler chicken? That after an initial spurt of boasting that the broilers were from China, the CWE advertising discreetly dropped all reference to the fact that the broiler meat was from China? That whilst Elephant House continued to say which of their broilers were from the USA, or Australia or were local, the CWE spoke only of "imported broiler chicken?" That many suspect that the CWE retreated behind the smokescreen because of the "rumour" or "story" that was widely circulated that Chinese broiler chickens was hormone-treated and that the Food and Drugs Act in many countries banned the import and sale of such hormone-treated broiler meat? That the "rumour" was that such hormone-treated chicken led to infertility in man—the more hormone broilers and less family planning needed? That instead of meeting this whisper campaign fully and squarely by (a) publicly denying that the broiler chicks in question had been hormone-treated; or (b) asserting that such hormone-treatment did not lead to sterility, the CWE embarked on a vast and costly advertisement campaign to sell this Chinese chicken by dropping the Chinese out of it? That advertisements in December spoke only of "imported broiler chicken—a fresh stock, hygienically packed and stored and offered at specially reduced prices"? That to induce sales the CWE offered "a hundred weight of imported mysore dhal at Rs. 4/- a lb. for every purchaser of 25 cartons of broiler chicken?" That

special "discounts and wholesale prices to the trade" were offered—the Pettah gossip was that large dealers of poultry meat and buriyani hotels were offered this CWE broiler at Rs. 6/- or less a pound through brokers and catlers who haunt the CWE and who have cast an evil shadow over its dealings? That the gossip in business circles is that neither the offer of dhal nor special discounts helped to push up sales? That at the end of Christmas season, the CWE seems to have realised that it was stuck with many hundred tons of broiler chicken meat? That of the 800 tons of CWE broiler less than a dozen tons had been sold? (That this may be a malicious piece of under-statement, but there is no doubt that it neither individual consumers nor hotels bought the CWE chicken in large quantities at the low prices advertised? That a report in the Sun of January 1, proclaimed that frozen Chinese chicken was being sold "at a price below cost?" That this has set in motion a holocaust of rumour and gossip about the way the CWE has handled the import of these broiler chicken? That one juicy story is that part of the order was placed through an agent in Hongkong at a higher price? That if the order had been placed through the local authorised agent, the CWE would have saved US \$ 175,000 on this order? That stories of this kind have begun to proliferate and in the interests of the good name of the CWE and the Government it would be best if the CWE furnishes a full statement about this broiler chicken adventure?

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