

Vol. 23 No. 31 — February 3, 1979 — Rs. 2-00

AIR MAIL EDITION

# TRIBUNE





# TRIBUNE

can be obtained

**ARULNAYAKI BOOK DEPOT.**

12, Bus Stand,  
Kodigamam.

**SIVARAJAH & CO.,**

No. 4, Welimada Road,  
Bandarawela.

**S. V. THANGARAJAH,**

News Agent,  
24, Regal Building,  
Nuwara Eliya.

**THIRUPPATHY BOOK DEPOT,**

Central Market,  
Manipay.

**MALLIKAARATCHY & CO.,**

40, Main Street.  
Haputale.

**CROWNS,**

27, Station Lane,  
Badulla.

**GAMINI RECORD BAR &  
BOOK SHOP,**

297, Maha Veediya,  
Matale.

**PEOPLES BOOK DEPOT.,**

Dharmapala Mawatha,  
Anuradhapura.

**MEENAMBIKA NEWS AGENCY,**

235, Lower Street,  
Badulla.

**ESWARY CAFE,**

5, Maliyadeva Road,  
Kurunegala.



## Letter From The Editor

WAS THE FACE, on the cover this week, one that launched a thousand ships or hundred thousand men into battle? Or was it only the face of a beauty who inspired the artist to perpetuate her memory in fresco on a rock surface? Or was it only a drawing done by an artist or a group of artists employed by kingly patrons to beautify temples and palaces? Archaeologists and pundits will argue why, how, and when the fresco drawings appeared in Sri Lanka. So far as *Tribune* is concerned the chief virtue in the work is that it was executed in an era when the names of the artists were not considered important. The work was the only thing that mattered. And this also was so in regard to all other works of national or historic significance. Mighty tanks and temples were built in our land, but the names of the artists, craftsmen, engineers and others connected with the construction remain unknown. This is as it should be. The part played by kings in whose reigns some of these works were initiated or were completed have been remembered in the chronicles, but Sri Lankan and Indian traditions have taken personal anonymity in such works as the true hallmark of achievement. In a sub-continent which believed in a cycle of births and rebirths, the name or identity of a person in one single birth did not really matter. What was accomplished was regarded as the knowledge and experience that had accumulated in one or more persons over several births. Western rationalism and Christian concepts of the supremacy of the individual having only one existence on earth not only undermined all the traditional beliefs of this country, especially among the leading elite, but also grafted occidental notions of individual immortality. In the past we have had a Dutugemunu or a Elara, or a Parakrama—and their names are remembered only because of the Mahavamsa. But the names of ministers, engineers, generals and others rightly remain unknown. The merits of that system are brought forcefully home to us at this time when every functionary from the lowliest to the highest wants the biggest possible publicity in the media and the radio even for the smallest and meagrest of their actions. Far too many public servants want their names mentioned as often as possible in the press and over the air. Some public officers know the art of pushing their names into the news columns. There are police and customs officers whose names are repeated with unfailing regularity in the daily papers in respect of every detection or arrest made. The names of a few of their colleagues are thrown in for good measure on rotation basis. News reporters and journalists are pressurised to publish names of officials who want to strengthen their claims for promotions or foreign scholarships (or jobs) by citing press cuttings in which they figure. This mania has also spread to the private sector. Getting names into the news columns of our daily papers has become a fine art with machiavellian overtones. But, unfortunately, this game of name-dropping has become a pastime that inhibits genuine constructive work. Officials are satisfied once their names are in the news columns—after that they aren't in the least concerned what goes on. Officials are not worried about completing the work—they only want adequate publicity to enable them to get their next promotion or selection for a better job. The press plays up to these officials to get "leaks" and "inside stories". Officials however, are not the only guilty parties. All politicians and would-be politicians also play this publicity card. If the press—as they do in some countries—play it both ways giving the pros and the cons of any matter it is one matter, but in Sri Lanka it is only a one way street with the traffic going the way of the government in power for the time being. The result is a permanent credibility gap so far as the daily papers are concerned. It is time something is done to rectify such imbalance. It will not be possible to go back to the total anonymity of the past, but it will not be difficult to eliminate the scandals of petty personal publicity and thereby emancipate our daily press.

## TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review  
Founded In 1954

**A Journal of Ceylon and  
World Affairs**

Editor, S. P. Amarasingam  
Every Saturday

February 3, 1979  
Vol. 23 No. 31

TRIBUNE  
43, DAWSON STREET  
COLOMBO - 2  
Tel: 33172

### CONTENTS

#### EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

—Only The President p. 2

#### IN THE TUB

—The Master's Questions p. 5

#### BETWEEN THE LINES

—Press & Courts, Air Lanka p. 6

#### SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

—Jan. 12—17 p. 9

ISSUES, SOLUTIONS, TRENDS-6

—Towards UNCTAD V p. 15

#### THE WORLD TODAY

—Pahlavi Fortune p. 18

#### WINDOW ON INDIA-2

—Desai Visit p. 21

#### BATTICALOA LETTER

—Relief And Rehabilitation p. 23

#### MARGINAL COMMENTS

—Drunks, Prostitutes, Cheats p. 25

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

—Reviewed p. 27

#### LAW FOR THE LAYMAN

—Kalawana, Sentence p. 29

#### SPOTLIGHT

—God And Transport p. 30

#### CONFIDENTIALLY

—Unique Or Unic p. 32



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

### Only The President Can

Colombo, Jan. 29.

Government activity is now chiefly directed to the National Day celebrations on February 4 and the visit of the Indian Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai. He arrives on February 3 and will be in the island for three days. Very careful and meticulous arrangements have been made in regard to the visit of Mr. Desai whose thinking and attitudes our President has described as being on the same "wave-length" as his. Elsewhere in this issue we have published a piece by PTI correspondent in Colombo, R. Varadachari, which the SLBC had put on the air last Saturday. In this article is set out all the factors relevant to Mr. Desai's visit and to the relations between India and Sri Lanka which have grown in intimacy and cordiality after Janata and UNP came to power.

(Incidentally, the SLBC has in recent times shown a welcome desire to introduce new features in its programmes. The 15 minute news-broadcast at 9.30 p.m. is a change for the better that must be commended. Though the quality of the news items in the English newscasts still call for a great deal of streamlining, it must be said that the handling of foreign news has shown remarkable improvement. Channel 1 in English has many weak links, but Channel 2 is livelier than ever).

The Desai visit will promote increased trade and economic co-operation. The present Sri Lanka government does not have inhibitions some earlier governments

had about investment by Indian capitalists and even government undertakings. If one accepts a mixed economy and a place for private enterprise, this development is only a natural outcome of a desire for economic development.

Whilst the spotlight has been turned on the Desai visit, the President has been at pains in his recent speeches to stress on some matters which have begun to undermine the popularity of the government and more especially its credibility. With the disappearance of the July 1977 euphoria even ordinary people (not opposition politicians alone) have begun to ask why nothing has really begun to move. A great many projects have been launched (i.e. foundation stones laid etc. etc.), but the impact on the economy has been negligible—to the point where it has not had any real impact in the way people had been led to expect by the rhetorical outbursts and proclamations of many government spokesmen in the last 18 months.

In the *Ceylon Daily News* of Saturday, January 27, it was reported: "The country needs more skilled workers to man the vast development projects undertaken by the Government, President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday. He was speaking at a meeting which followed the ceremonial opening of the Vocational Skills Development Centre at Orugodawatte. The President said that plans had been drawn up to start several development projects this year. Money had been found and what was needed now was more technically qualified personnel to man these projects. He added that the Government was gradually taking steps to improve the lot of the skilled worker. He suggested that not only men but women should also be

trained in vocational skills at these centres. He said: 'One and a half years ago only 200 were trained here. Now it is intended to train 600. I think not 600, but 6000 should be trained. Even this number is not sufficient when one thinks of the vast development projects undertaken by the Government.' He added that it was the government's intention to give technically qualified persons higher salaries. Today they wore trousers and checked shirts. They must be given all encouragement to better themselves, the President said. He said that on his visit to Australia last year, he found that men who worked on the roads and in the construction of buildings lived in palatial residences. The Government was taking steps to gradually improve the lot of technically qualified personnel. Today there was an immediate need for 6,000 of them to man the development projects of the Government. Already fifty industries had been approved in the Free Trade Zone and 30,000 skilled personnel would be needed for them. Such personnel would also be needed to the Greater Colombo Development Scheme, he said. The President said that they would witness a vast change in the country within the next four and half years. That could not be achieved by strikes. They must all work and that work had to be rewarded."

The President's repeated stress on the urgency to have technically qualified personnel must be viewed in the perpetual brawn and brain drain which has continuously sapped the manpower resources of this country for a long time and more especially in the years after 1973 when OPEC countries suddenly found themselves with billions to spend on trained manpower for the development projects in their



countries. There was a lull in the brain drain from this country no sooner this government came to power in 1977, but the brawn drain doubled and trebled with the free issue of passports and the liberalised travel facilities. However, as *Tribune* has pointed out, a new brain drain has begun to plague this country in recent months and unless remedial measures are taken soon this outflow will be become an avalanche. The President and government must find out the root causes for the new brain drain—the first embryonic symptoms of which have begun to manifest themselves—without being satisfied with over-simplified explanations some Establishment-hawks will put forward to gloss over the matter.

The vocationally trained and skilled "brawn" workers must certainly be paid more and afforded much greater amenities and fringe benefits, but neither the brawn nor the brain drain can be checked by offering higher remuneration alone—if frustration stemming from a total lack of job satisfaction (often caused by ignorant political catchers giving wrong orders to technically and professionally qualified brain workers etc. etc.) is not eliminated. *Tribune* will revert to this matter in coming issues, but we must repeat that neither the brain drain nor the brawn drain can be checked if seniority and competence are sacrificed at the altar of petty party sectarianism (or family bandyism). It is well to remember that the smokescreen of "efficiency" is not enough to cover the sins of favouritism and nepotism as many fondly imagine.

In two speeches the President made during the week-end, he reiterated the value and virtues of UNP policies. The *Ceylon Daily News*, 29.1.79 reporting the President's speech at the opening of the

Kirama Oya scheme 29-1-79 in the deep South had recorded that: "Everyone should receive full value for his labour. It is not the white collar worker alone who should be paid a high salary. Equal facilities must be given to everyone and not to a few individuals or families said President J. R. Jayewardene at the public meeting at Beliatta junction after he inaugurated the Kirama Oya Development Scheme at Kahawatte in the Beliatta electorate yesterday. President Jayewardene sought the co-operation of all and urged that they should not participate in strikes. There should be peace in the country to carry forward the plans of the government. He was happy that we did not have any of the troubles that some other countries had, except perhaps from those seeking Eelam in the North. He said even those supporting the SLFP and other political parties would agree that the UNP program was the best for the country. He therefore made an appeal to them on behalf of the government to support all its projects and schemes. He said the Police or anyone else could not harass innocent people now. It is a freedom for which the people fought. I will never allow this freedom to be denied to anyone. We will hold all parliamentary and local government elections on the due dates so that the people can choose a party of their liking. Although my government has a 5/6th majority in Parliament and I can easily be a dictator I will never be one nor allow anyone else to be one, the President said. He said that UNP leaders came to the South on Saturday and Sunday to inaugurate several important projects. The UNP gave many promises during election time and had attempted to fulfil them in the last 18 months. The UNP promised a righteous society and

development on that basis. The people expect much of the UNP, he said. President Jayewardene said that he thought that his government could rescue the country from the depths to which it had fallen, though with some difficulty. 'The burden is on me, the Prime Minister, Ministers and you the people. We must all do it unitedly. One cannot do it alone, Mrs. Bandaranaike ran away leaving this burden on my shoulders, he said. The President said there was corruption everywhere. The government was cleaning the mess gradually. Before that, the people had to be freed. Earlier, a few people ruled the country. Under the new District Minister's scheme,

---

**The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) As Amended By Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964-**

**Notice Under Section 7**

Reference No. LL/A 7262

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 22 (Part III) of 02.02.1979.

**M. M. Premaratne**  
District Land Officer  
Ratnapura District

Land Branch  
The Kachcheri,  
Ratnapura.

8th January 1979

**Schedule**

**Name of Land:**

Kekunagahaduniyatura

**Situation:**

Village of Gabbela, Panapitiya Wasama, Pannilpattu, Atakalakorale, Ratnapura District.

**Survey Reference:**

Lot No. 353, in Supplement No. 4 to IVP 222.

---



the power would be given to the District Ministers and the MPs.. All our requirements of rice can be grown in this country. Already we grow about 80 per cent. That is the reason why rice is freely available at around Rs. 3.00 a measure. But if the Arab countries increase oil prices we too have to increase them here. It is the same with flour and other imported goods. But if we produce more and more locally, the prices of a large variety of goods can be contained, the President said. Today I see many imported items in the country. Their prices too are gradually coming down. He said that salaries were increased both in 1977 and 1979. The private sector too had been asked to follow suit. This government had also given more cultivation loans than any of its predecessors. When this large sum of money got into the hands of the people it was natural for inflation to crop up. The government was importing only the needs of the common people and not things to cater to the rich, he said."

In another speech (vide *Ceylon Daily News*, 29.1.79) the President had said: "The people will see the difference between the present government and the last one, once the development work already undertaken and still to be started is completed, said President J. R. Jayewardene, addressing a mass rally to Johnnydale Estate, Telijavala, in the Akuressa electorate on Saturday. The President was referring to a comment allegedly made by some people that there was no difference between the UNP and the SLFP.... The last government put off local government elections for six years and even postponed parliamentary elections by two years. Further postponements were attempted, but failed due to the UNP campaign and the

vigilance of the people.. President Jayewardene said he had both visited and read about the economically developed countries. They were not as good as ours. There were more suicides there. According to a world survey, Colombo was the cheapest capital in the world."

Analysing the President's speeches in the last fortnight, one notes an apologetic and defensive approach to a number of matters on which his Ministers and UNP publicists had assured the public with a touch of cocksure overconfidence that everything would be fulfilled according to plan. They were all certain that by the time the schemes were launched or were ready for launching, all the brawn and brain manpower resources would be available. It is a far cry from the boast that the UNP would have the men and the money to do the job to the present wail that only 600 men were being trained where 6,000 were needed. Doctors and engineers are being imported whilst local doctors, engineers and accountants were endeavouring to leave the country as fast as they can go. A few who had emigrated for employment before 1976 and had come back in 1978 with hopes that a new era had dawned are already disillusioned—they say that the petty politicalisation of the administration had made it difficult to do real or an honest job of work.

The first and most important point made by the President is that technical personnel—the trouser-wearing *baas* of the present age—must be better paid and looked after. Yet with all this how many of the 600 now being trained at Orugodawatte will want to stay in Sri Lanka without seeking jobs abroad?

The second point made by the

President was a plea that people must wait patiently until the schemes that have been started are completed in a few years. But the trouble is that most people have begun to have doubts whether the schemes will go much further than the mere inauguration, and if really got going how far they would progress. So many Ministers of this government have fallen down on their jobs that confidence has been rudely shaken in the entire government. Take the Transport Ministry. Forget the CTB, and look at the CGR. People are being asked to wait until new engines and carriages arrive, but in the meantime all the existing resources and rolling stock are being run down without proper maintenance. The catering services in the entire CGR and retirement rooms in the main stations which had worked reasonably well before Mohamed took over have been shut down for six months—and the Hotel Corporation is evidently unwilling to carry the baby for the Transport Minister. The President cannot save the face of Mohamed or the UNP only by making these stirring speeches. He must find Ministers who can deliver the goods.

It is not only Mr. Mohamed who has failed. There are many other Ministers who have proved total or partial failures. Some others who could do better are hamstrung with Secretaries and Corporation chairmen whom any dharma government would have kept only at the end of a long barge pole. The President cannot pull the chestnuts out of the fire for all his defaulting and inefficient Ministers (and they are many) either by taking key departments under his wing or by making stirring speeches the like of which had won the election for him in 1977.



People will soon tire of hearing that imported goods few could afford were available because no one in government seems to be paying much attention to the prices of local essentials. Much is being made of a UN survey that, on a five star basis, Colombo is the cheapest capital in the world, but this is of little comfort to the householder who has to pay Rs.2/- for a pound of pumpkin, Rs. 6 for a pound of lime and Rs. 12 for a pound of dry fish.

The President in his speeches is seeking to provide answers to criticisms that have come from the Opposition as well as from within the ranks of the UNP. But such speeches are not enough. The President must find out what is going wrong with the Administration. Why is the bureaucracy which started with high hopes of getting fairplay and justice from the UNP now so unwilling to start working as they should and as they can?

If palace "catchers" spin different tales to the President, it will not be long before the President finds himself cut away from realities. The President attributes some of the current delays and failures to past corruption. If he probes this matter in the way he should, and he can, he will find that present corruption will soon overshadow what there was in the past. Is it correct to say that a free man will tend to be less corrupt? It is not a fact that corruption in Sri Lanka has flourished because a select elite enjoy more freedoms and privileges than others?

With National Day 1979, the President must initiate an "agonising re-appraisal" of the true realities of the current situation. Only he can do such a re-appraisal. A grave responsibility rests on the President.

## IN THE TUB

by Diogenes

### Questions From The Master

A life without examination is not a life worth living. So said a Greek philosopher and the Buddha too who observed that one must not accept anything without examination.

Let us look around and ask ourselves the question whether there is any love for the country and the people among those in power, close to power and out of power. The Master, therefore, poses the question to the powerful as well as the powerless ones. Let them examine themselves in the tribunals of their own conscience and give their silent answers standing in front of the shrines so familiar to them where they have been so often photographed in acts of worship.

Let no one hear their answer. The Master gives them the assurance that their answers will not be published in the newspapers nor put over the air. What is the truthful answer the people can expect from the politically powerful and the politically powerless ones? Do they love themselves more than they love the country and the people?

The Minister with his piercing eyes and his pointed finger looks straight into the eyes of the powerful and the powerless ones and asks the following question, some of which are personal and others general. He leaves them to answer them in silence and solitude. Let them answer their own conscience as they stand in their favourite places of worship within sight and out of hearing of the people.

(1) Do I love my country and my people more than I love myself and my family?

(2) What are the sins I have committed (if any) against my country and my people before I came into power or before I went out of power?

(3) What are the sins (if any) I have committed against my country and my people after I came into power or after I went out of power?

(4) Have I made any contribution to the ruination of my country and to the distress of my people by any of my acts and omissions?

(5) Have I done more for myself, my friends and my family and less for my country and my people?

(6) What is the contribution I have made to make my people more righteous today than they were yesterday or the day before that?

(7) Have the people of Sri Lanka at anytime, in the history of the country enjoyed any such a thing as sovereignty?

(8) Are they any the less powerless than in the time of their colonial rulers except for their right to vote parties into power and out of power about 6 or 7 times during their average life span after their eighteenth year?

(9) What was the real purpose to give one religion a foremost place in the Constitution? Has it been meaningful? Are the principles of any religion practised?

(10) Have the religions preached in this country improved the people any more than they did during the colonial regime?

(11) Am I or the people today more patriotic and greater lovers of the country than we were during the time of the colonial rule?

(12) Is Sri Lanka democratic—if so to what extent?



(13) Do all the people in this country have an equal right to live a life with dignity or does the country belong to all the people whatever their race, creed or political affiliations? How many citizens in this country can truly say "This is my country?"

(14) Is Sri Lanka Socialist? Is Sri Lanka a Democratic Republic?

(15) Has crime decreased in Sri Lanka?

(16) Who among the following have a place in the country (a) an intellectual, (b) a philosopher, (c) a back biter, (d) a stooge, (e) a sycophant, (f) a blackmarketeer, (g) a trafficker in narcotics, (h) a man of learning, (i) a skilled workman, (j) a political turncoat, (k) a skilled surgeon, physician or technician, (l) a place seeker?

(17) Do people work more today than yesterday?

(18) Is there less oppression today than yesterday?

(19) Are the people happier today than they were yesterday?

(20) Are the workers given a living wage?

(21) Is the President given a correct report of what is happening in the country by those who have access to him?

If these questions are in any way truthfully answered, Diogenes has no doubt that Sri Lanka will have a bright future and the angry gods will be appeased.

-O- -O- -O-

## NEXT WEEK

- ① DESAI'S VISIT
- ① MIDDLE EAST TANGLE
- ① IRAQ & UNCTAD V
- ① BATTICALOA

## BETWEEN THE LINES

BY SERENDIB

### Contempt Of Court?

### Air Lanka

#### PRESS AND THE COURTS

*An old reader has sent us this note and he seeks the assistance of our readers to help him with information:*

The press and the Courts have often been in conflict and the cases concerning them always make news. It was only the other day that Mr. Justice Weeraratne made a reference to one of them at the sittings of the Special Presidential Commission in the following terms:

"Justice Weeraratne. I was thinking of Armond de Zoysa's case where he went to jail for contempt because he had commented that there was a tennis court next to the magistrate's court and the magistrate liked to go to the tennis court as soon as he adjourned court. (Ceylon Daily News, 26.1.79)"

Armond de Souza the irrepressible editor of the *Ceylon Morning Leader* had in an editorial of that paper of December 7, 1914 written about the Police Magistrate of Nuwara Eliya (Mr. T. A. Hodson). It said that too often the Magistrate was open to assistance and suggestions from the police and that he was partial to the police view. The editorial also added that the Magistrate defers far too much to planters and that his mind is very difficult to access to a conviction hostile to the interests of a European Planter. On a rule issued by the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Wood Renton with Justice Walter Pereira and Justice de Sampayo agreeing found Armond de Souza guilty of contempt of the

authority of the Police Court of Nuwara Eliya, and sentenced him on December 1, 1914 to undergo a term of one month's simple imprisonment.

In an earlier case he had been fined a sum of Rs. 250 for committing contempt of Court by publishing in the *Ceylon Morning Leader* of March 31, 1914 a paragraph titled 'An Extraordinary Incident At Hultsdorp'. This paragraph in referring to a criminal trial in the Supreme Court had among other things stated that the Judge (Justice Walter Pereira) in directing the Jury to re-consider its verdict and discharging the jury from further service was hard, unreasonable and vexatious. In not imposing a jail term the Court had the following observations to make:

"Justice Walter Pereira. My feeling until the end of the proceedings was that nothing but a substantial term of imprisonment would be adequate punishment for his offence. He has however, albeit tardily, tendered an apology, in which he unreservedly withdraws the insinuations made by him, and expresses his regret, and he may rest assured that it is after a long and continued mental struggle between my sense of duty towards the Bench, of which I have the honour to be one of the occupants, on the one hand, and the propriety of tempering justice with mercy, wherever permissible, on the other, that I have decided upon. Imposing on him a fine of Rs. 250."

Both cases have been reported in Volume 18 of the *New Law Report* (1916) at pages 33 and 41.

I have not been able to trace the case referred to by Mr. Justice Weeraratne. Could any reader or legal researcher help?



**\*AIR LANKA.** Tribune had referred in its issue of January 6 (in *Confidentially*) and January 13 (in *Between The Lines*) to some problems connected with Air Lanka. In the issue of January 13, Tribune had cited a news story from the *Straits Times* of December 29, 1978 which set out the arrangements that had been finalised between Air Lanka and Singapore Airlines in regard to how Air Lanka will function. To refresh the memories of our readers we reprint below a few relevant extracts from the *Straits Times* story we had published—the story had appeared under the heading **SIA TO LEASE 2 BOEINGS TO AIR LANKA:** "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 Wickremanayake, has been seconded for a 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 707s 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.....".

A number of questions need clarification.

Tribune first raised this question of Air Lanka in its issue of January 6 but arrangements had evidently been made with Singapore Airlines much earlier—that is according to press reports in the *Ceylon Daily News* of December 19, 1978 and also other papers around that date. The *Ceylon Daily News* wrote an enthusiastic editorial on 6.1.79—we will deal with the full editorial in a subsequent issue, but for the present the following extract will be adequate: "...It is against this background that Air Lanka has judiciously decided to go it alone. Its first and most important duty will be to restore the country's image in international aviation. A most experienced chief from Singapore Airlines has taken over and it is hardly necessary to say that Singapore Airlines is one of the success stories of modern aviation. Air Lanka will start off with two Boeing 707s which can carry 150-160 passengers; these are considered the most reliable of commercial air-  
1908  
aircraft. Most important, spares are readily available. On a semi-wet lease the planes will fly with all Sri Lankan crews except for the Captain of the aircraft. But pilots will be trained as time goes on.....".

From this, one can only conclude that all the contracts and arrangements had been finalised or concluded. Up to this time, the only available news the public had was that a senior SIA man—Capt. Rakhitha Wickremanayake—had been seconded for service to Air Lanka(?)

But the puzzling part is that it was only on January 10, 1979 that Air Lanka Ltd., was incorporated.

A Press Release (No. 36 of 10.1.78) from the Department of Informa-

tion, Ministry of State which was "issued by the President's office" stated that:

"Air Lanka Ltd; was incorporated as a Public Company today. This Company will be Sri Lanka's International carrier. The subscribers to the memorandum and articles of association of the Company were the following: The Bank of Ceylon; The People's Bank; The Ceylon Shipping Corporation; Mr. G. V. P. Samarasinghe, Secretary to the Cabinet, Dr. W. M. Tilekeratne, Sec. Ministry of Finance and Planning; Capt. S. R. Wickremanayake, Airline Pilot; Mr. D. C. Wijesekera, Chartered Accountant. The directors of the Company who were appointed by H.E. the President on behalf of the Government are: Capt. S. R. Wickremanayake (Chairman); Mr. G. V. P. Samarasinghe, Sec. to the Cabinet, Mr. V. C. Gunatilaka, Solicitor General, Mr. R. Coomaraswamy—Adviser to the Government on International Economic Co-operation; Mr. D. C. Wijesekera, Chartered Accountant."

It will be seen that very eminent men have been appointed as Directors of the Company by the President. But, the question that mystifies the public is how any arrangement could have been finalised at between Air Lanka and Singapore Air Lines from Mid-December 1978 when Air Lanka was incorporated only on January 10, 1979.

Will the new Board of Directors of otherwise heavily over-worked gentlemen of great eminence and integrity have the time and opportunity of examining critically the arrangements with Singapore Air Lines which not being a mutually advantageous joint collaboration appears to many



observers to be dangerous junior satellitship in which Air Lanka will lease 2 Boeings 707s the SIA was "phasing out" as not being competitive in the modern airline business.

The Government of Mr. J. R. Jayewardene is said to be an open government and we trust that before final arrangements are made the Board of Directors of Air Lanka Ltd., will make public the contracts signed (or to be signed) with Singapore Air Lines to enable the interested public and the entire people to judge, comment, assess and evaluate the deal with SIA.

Tribune will welcome all possible information on this matter about which there is already grave public concern. Sri Lanka has been bitten once too often by the arrangements Air Ceylon had entered into with different airlines from

# TEA SMALL HOLDINGS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF FERTILIZERS TO THE SMALL HOLDERS OF TEA LANDS

Fertilizer is available for sale to the Small holders of tea lands at our regional offices in Galle, Ratnapura, Kandy, Gampola, Ginigathena and Bandarawela and Semidale and Derangala State Tea Factories at Akuressa and Kalubowitiyana state tea factory at Morawaka.

Please contact Officers-in-charge of above regional offices or Project Managers of factories for your requirements of fertilizer.

## CHAIRMAN

## TEA SMALL HOLDING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,

Y.M.B.A. Building,  
P.O. Box 1474,  
Colombo 1.  
22/01/79

the 1950s to 1970s and the large sections of the public are therefore anxious that the country is not stanipeded by a fait accomplis into another major disaster in Air Lanka Ltd.

## POEM

## Lost In The Mists Of Time

Penetrating  
the shimmering mists of the past  
floating  
through the ages I see you.  
Eons  
of time have passed us by  
yet I  
remember, once, in another Yur  
how you  
and I trod enchanted ground.

In the  
dark shadow of the temple tower  
by the  
gently flowing stream, within the  
Shady  
mango grove and under the fragrant  
jasmine  
bower we sat enthralled sharing  
moments  
Snatched from time itself.

Evening  
breezes from the fields caressed our  
faces  
the silvery moon poured  
out her liquifying  
rays  
and the bird of night warbled a sweet  
song  
filling the air with rhapsody and  
we  
drank deep from the Cup of Joy.

Moments  
of bliss can never last and most  
agonizingly  
did we part being powerless to  
withstand

the forces which bore me away  
shackled  
in chains  
crying out in pain and grief while you  
stood  
silently with anguish written  
in your eyes.

You  
were a warrior resplendent in your  
armour  
and I the princess of the  
nearby realm

Emity  
blazed between our lands  
over a bitter

fued  
which flared in former times and we  
the victims  
of circumstance were carried along  
on the maelstrom.

d on the ramparts and  
see the past

kaleidoscope before my eyes

event etched in the recesses  
of memory

like  
sculptures carved in stone,  
still carrying

the agony  
of separation deep in my heart.

Queen  
no longer but a poet lamenting in  
verse for  
your absence, I search  
amidst crowds

as well  
as all the by-ways of this world, the  
torture  
in my soul undiminished by  
the passing

of time  
But I do not see you.

SAYA





**SRI LANKA CHRONICLE**

**Jan. 12 — Jan. 17**

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—Virakesal; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Dayasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chintamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release; DK—Dinakara.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12:** The Kampuchean (Cambodia) People's Revolutionary Council has sent a message to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr. A. C. S. Hameed demanding the expulsion of representatives of the Pol Pot Government from the Non-Aligned Nations Movements. Hanoi Newspapers reported today; they said the message had been sent by Hun Sen, in charge of Foreign Relations in the People's Revolutionary Council now in charge in Phnom Penh, the Vietnam News Agency said in a Press Review. A single Sanghadhikarana—Ecclesiastical Court—to guide Sri Lanka's 25,000 Maha Sangha will be a reality soon, Mr. E. L. B. Hurulle, Minister of Cultural Affairs said yesterday. Highway Patrols similar to those in the United States and Britain will be introduced to Sri Lanka from February 1. The Ceylon Tobacco Company yesterday served notices on its 1500 striking employees to return to work on January 17 or lose their jobs following the Labour Department's reference of the dispute compulsory arbitration. Pupils specially from the "disadvantaged areas" are

to be provided with facilities to attend student holiday camps during this year; this is one of the several projects drawn up by the Ministry of Education in connection with the International Year of the Child—CDN. The price of timber will be increased shortly but timber prices in Sri Lanka will still be the cheapest in the world: this was said by Mr. P. Aluvihare, Chairman State Timber Corporation at a Press Conference held at the Information Ministry premises yesterday. The Buildings Department which comes under the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa has been allocated Rs. 186 million for this year for new projects and continuation works—CDM. Government may decide next week to increase the floor price for coconut products in the wake of a drop in production as a result of considerable damage caused to the coconut industry by the cyclone last November. Another 50,000 unemployed persons will now qualify for the income support scheme this year. A high powered Hungarian delegation led by the country's President, Pal Losonezi, will arrive here on January 16 on an official visit. The police are now exploring the possibility of launching a joint operation with the Air Force to wipe out vast extents of ganja plantation in the Wellawaya and Moneragala areas—SU. The Minister of Justice is putting forward a new scheme whereby communal rabble rousers who disturb the law and order situation in the country will be severely dealt with; they will have to undergo imprisonment, confiscation of property and other similar punishments—VK. A plan to cultivate vegetables in 20 villages comprising 2000 acres in the Batticaloa district is soon to be undertaken with Japanese investment; these vegetables will be exported to Japan. The leader of the Opposi-

tion speaking in Manipay stated that "If we co-operate with the government, it will lead to our quick downfall; only if we oppose them will even a section of the Tamil people be saved"—DP. The Minister of Agricultural Development has decided to establish a new bank only to grant agricultural loans to farmers—EN. 2500 rural electrification centres will be set up throughout the country at a cost of Rs. 500 million to give electricity to all houses with Asian Development Bank aid. Police investigations have revealed that Bomb production in the Colombo city has increased again and the price of bombs has gone down because of this—DV. The issuing of Special identity cards for the 1 million farmers in the island has commenced; farmers will not be able to get any government assistance such as loans, fertiliser etc., without this identity card—DM. The production of Lakspray at the Welisara Milk Processing factory has come down by 50%—JD. The Government has decided to import Peugeot 604 luxury cars for the use of Ministers; the cost is estimated to be about Rs. 9 million—DK. The US is concerned that fighting in Western Kampuchea will spill across the borders in to Thailand US officials said yesterday. According to banks the Shah of Iran's personal portfolio is worth well over one billion dollars the New York Times said yesterday. UN Security Council members agreed last night to hold a Public meeting today on the situation in Kampuchea. The US is sending 12 F-15 Air-craft for demonstrations to Saudi Arabia which is seriously worried about the crisis in Iran the State Department announced yesterday—CDN. Cambodian foreign ministry officials said today serious fighting was going on in the south-east of the country



a Thai border official reported. The nine-nation European Community is electing its first ever Parliament by direct ballot next June. Soviet and Cuban personnel in Angola have started a new persecution campaign against Christian and Portuguese nationals, newly arrived refugees claimed in Walvis Bay yesterday—SU.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13:

Norway has pledged to Sri Lanka an outright grant of Rs. 550 million; this was stated yesterday by Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning, after he concluded discussions with Board members of NORAD (Norwegian Aid Agency) at his office; Mr. de Mel said that this was one of the biggest achievements of the UNP government in the sphere of foreign aid; it is to be received during 1979-1982. The Sri Lanka Navy has begun moving some of its high-powered patrol craft to maintain security in and around the Colombo Port. The State Film Corporation is determined to give filmgoers better facilities at Cinemas in the new year; arrangements have been made with the People's Bank for theatre owners to obtain loans to improve and modernise their theatres—CDN. A multi-million rupee project which will eventually make Trincomalee the largest containerised port in South East Asia is to be launched by the government shortly; the project, is the brain-child of the Minister of Trade and Shipping Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali; a feasibility study is now underway into this project. Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Non-aligned movement is yet to receive the message from the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council, Foreign Minister A. C. S. Hameed said yesterday. Tentative amendments to the Land Acquisition Act will be shortly forwarded to the Minister of Justice, the Secretary of the Law Commission said

yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene has decided that the proposed new Institute of Research in Pure Sciences will function independently of the Universities as well as of any existing research institutes in the country—SU. The head of the TULF, Mr. M. Sivathamparam said that as far as the Tamils were concerned, territory was more important than language; the government after granting some language concessions was systematically taking over territory—VK. The task of safeguarding the banks in the Northern Province is to be handed over to private security services from next month—DP. The Minister of Mahaweli Development Etc., has decided to start 75 middle scale development projects this year at a cost of Rs. 22 million. The government has approved the appointing of 12,000 teachers this year. The Film Corporation has decided to modernise and improve Cinema halls in the island—DM. The government has decided to launch a middle-scale programme from 1979 to 1983 to encourage unemployed youth for agricultural work to speed up the development of the country—LD. The Mahaweli Development Board has decided to cultivate vegetables and minor export crops on 5000 acres of land in the Mahaweli development area—DV. Prince Norodom Sihanouk leader of the ousted Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea after an initial victory resulting in his being seated in the Security Council told the Council today that Vietnam has swallowed up half of its country in a Hitlerian Blitzkrieg attack; he however asserted that the Pol Pot government was still inside Kampuchea and would never surrender. Britain's Labour Government last night called out troops to help combat a wave of strikes threatening to plunge the country into industrial chaos. The US will consider and

probably grant an expected request from Pakistan for fighter Planes a US official said yesterday. Israel has asked the US for 3 billion dollars in aid to help relocate its defence forces after their withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula under a peace-treaty with Egypt. PM Ian Smith bluntly told white Rhodesians yesterday they could not defeat black nationalist guerrillas without world support and to get the backing they had to accept black majority rule—CDN. The Russians started today from a severe rebuff in the security council which decisively rejected their bid for official recognition of the Vietnamese backed insurgents in Cambodia. Rival delegations from Cambodia sought recognition by the Security Council today in advance of a debate on the situation following the Vietnamese-backed rebel take over in Phnom Penh—CDM. The UN Security Council agreed tonight to allow former Cambodian ruler Prince Sihanouk to present charges that Vietnam had committed aggression against his country. The holding of free elections in Iran at a date still to be set was one of new PM Bakhtiar's promises to Parliament in Teheran today. Former Cambodian Deputy PM Leng Sary arrived in Hong Kong on his way to China. Bearded Afghan tribesmen, some armed with antique muskets are streaming down the snow clad valleys of the Hindu Kush to fight Soviet armed Government troops—SU.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14:** All employees in the public sector and in public corporations who are in receipt of a Consolidated salary shall be paid the increase suggested in the budget with effect from 1st January 1979 i.e. 10% of salary or Rs. 50 whichever is higher. The Government of Sri Lanka has applied to the Trust Fund of the IMF for balance of payment



support during the current year. The application for this loan went out at the end of last month. The Colombo South Co-operative Society, which is the largest Co-op Society in the island, has set up a new record on its Christmas sales last month with a collection of over 22 million rupees. Financing arrangements for a giant 20,000 acre sugar cultivation and processing project on the left bank of the Walawe, Sri Lanka's fastest flowing river, has been completed, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said—SO. Damage, destruction and neglect of public property not only resulted in a waste of resources but also was a hindrance to meaningful development; even after 30 years of Independence people did not identify public property as their own, said the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa. Colombo residents will be able to have television in their homes by Sinhala and Hindu New Year. The Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation now sells ten times the quantity of fertilizer it sold during the previous regime. The Minister of Education and Higher Education, Mr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne has decided to introduce "double promotions" in government schools to meet the need of bright students. Mr. Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of India, who will arrive in Kandy on February 3 to participate in the Independence Day celebrations to be held on February 4, will be conducted in a state drive from the Peradeniya bridge to President's House in Kandy—ST. A National Institute of Journalism is to be established by the Government; this Institute which will be launched by the Sri Lanka Press Council is to provide journalists in Sri Lanka with necessary equipment and reading material as well as a specialised training programme for future journalists. Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Kampuchea has requested Sri Lanka

as the Chairman of the Non-aligned movement not to convene a meeting of the Non-aligned Co-ordinating Bureau at this stage to discuss the situation in Kampuchea. The results of the GCE (ordinary level) examination which was held in December last year will be out by the end of next month—WK. The high command of the TULF has decided that they will fully oppose the University Admission system for the new academic year; they are of the opinion that "merit" has not been given its rightful place in the new system—VK. The government has decided to export rice, tea etc., to the Maldives

and import subsidiary items like dry fish and maldivian fish from there—CM. Over 5 million people travel on buses daily; this is an increase of 17% over last year said the Minister of Transport, Mr. M. H. Mohamed—SLDP. Holiday bungalows for domestic tourists which could be booked at a small rent will be set up in important places to give poor people a chance to visit these areas. Over 100,000 cattle are killed for meat every year in the island—RR. The Shah of Iran's main religious opponent Ayatollah Khomeini said in an interview broadcast tonight that he expected an Islamic state to be

#### MUDALIYARS & DROS

Sir,

I refer to the following paragraph of Mr. R. Kahawita's article in the Tribune of Jan. 20, 1979 on District Ministers—How The Scheme Should Work:

*"The new rulers of 1956 went on a rampage of abolishing the Mudaliyars, Rute Mahatmayas, Vidane Arachchie, Vel Vidanes, Peace Officers down to the menials. In their place, they had no alternative for the efficient administration of the village and upwards. They set up the Grama Sevakas, Divisional Revenue Officers, untrained Assistant Government Agents and Government Agents. The designations changed according to the support given to the Party in power, not in accordance with the responsibility and administrative importance of the post. Overnight a tried and efficient system of administration was reduced to cinders."*

Without commenting on the contents of either this paragraph or the article, let me point out that the Headman System was abolished not after "the new rulers of 1956 went on a rampage." but in the 1930s. It was, I believe a demand of the Ceylon National Congress which was put into effect by the State Council on a resolution by Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya, M.S.C., Galle. Following the acceptance of this resolution Mudaliyars gave way to Divisional Revenue Officers, Village Headman to Grama Sevakas and so on. The intention of the rulers was to abolish a corrupt system and have in their place a set of enlightened officers to serve the needs of the people in a democratic set up. The first set of Divisional Revenue Officers were appointed about 1937. The one change that took place in the administrative set-up after 1956 was to change the Ceylon Civil Service into the Ceylon Administrative Service. This was a demand by the public service itself.

To say that "overnight a tried and efficient system of administration was reduced to cinders" is neither a fair nor a correct assessment.

W. Lionel Fernando.

Panadura.  
23.1.79



formed in Iran within a few days and that he would be its ruler. US has ordered a one-year suspension on new arms deals with Taiwan as part of the agreement for opening diplomatic relations with China, the State Department said today. The Transitional government today clamped Martial law on large new areas of Rhodesia bringing almost the entire country under military rule—SO. Anti-Shah demonstrators set fire to another SAVAK secret police building in the southern city of Shiraz yesterday. The US yesterday voiced growing concern over a possible military coup in Iran and said it strongly opposed any take over by the armed forces—ST. The Iranian regency council which under the constitution would take over the Shah's functions during an extended stay abroad was formed today. Anti-Shah demonstrators were placed in several parts of Iran yesterday but apparently without incidents, Radio Teheran reported; rumours meanwhile increased that the Shah may leave the country soon. Rebel forces have captured the last two major towns held by the Peking-backed troops of the ousted Pol Pot vs quoting Kampuchean news Agency said today. Film star John Wayne had his stomach removed today after a malignant tumour was discovered inside it—WK.

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 15:

The three-day Conference of Asian Trade Ministers representing 41 countries in the region begins in Colombo today against the backdrop of a clamour by developing countries in the Third World for a New International Economic Order, including the creation of a Bank of Developing Countries, more meaningful economic co-operation between developing countries and the implementation of the Nairobi decision on an Integrated Program for Commodities—issues which will form

the basis of deliberations both at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group 77 to be held at Arusha, Tanzania next month and at UNCTAD V in Manila in May this year. A central Tourist Police Station will be established at Galle Face to direct and co-ordinate the activities of an islandwide network of Tourist Police Stations. Birth, death and marriage certificates issued by the Registrar General's Department will not be machine printed replacing the handwritten ones issued at present. Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies should be permitted to sell arrack; this would help beat the kasippu menace effectively, Mr. M. D. H. Jayewardene, Minister of Plantation Industry said on Saturday. Mr. Mohan Dharma, Minister of Trade and Commerce, India arrived here yesterday to represent his country at the Asian Trade Minister's Conference which opens today—CDN. In a bid to popularise home dairies, the Ministry of Rural Industries will offer blue-riband New Zealand cows as prizes in a new lottery; the Ministry will also grant loans for the purchase of cows. Four armed youths with revolvers are alleged to have entered the office of the Station Master at Valaichenai railway station and walked away with the day's collection, amounting to Rs. 406—CDM. Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali yesterday called for the setting up of a Third World Institution which would assist UNCTAD in presenting the case of the Group of 77 in international negotiations. Student Assemblies would replace the Student Councils in the Colombo University, its newly appointed Vice Chancellor Professor Stanly Wijesundera said yesterday. A Joint Sri Lanka-Maldivian venture to promote fishing in the Indian Ocean is expected to be launched shortly; under this scheme Sri Lanka will

export fish—SU. A great deal of opposition has arisen in Jaffna to the proposal of closing down the Teacher's Training Institute at Columbuturai and handing it over to the army—DP. The Ministry of Trade and Shipping has decided to import Rs. 250 million worth of Textiles and several items for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The Minister of Mahaweli Development said that the 3000 inhabitants in the village that will go under water under the Kotmale reservoir will be paid by land or money according to their preference—DM. 2 million radios out of the 4 million in the country are being used illegally without licences; this has been found out by the SLBC in a recent survey; the government loses Rs. 40 million annually because of this. The Minister of Finance said that Rs. 45,000 billion will be allocated for development work for the next 5 years—DV. The March meeting of the aid giving countries to Sri Lanka to discuss aid for the accelerated Mahaweli Project and other projects has been postponed—ATH. As Iran wanted today to hear how the embezzled Shah would leave his own troops signalled the change as the political climate by waving pictures at his most outspoken critic and sticking red carnations on their machine guns. At least 18 people were killed and 73 wounded when Syrian troops blasted Christian districts of Beirut with Tanks, rockets and heavy artillery yesterday. About 150,000 Iranians crammed into Teheran's main university yesterday when the Campus as a local point of protest against the Shah reopened after a 2 month closure by the authorities. A US decision to send 12 unarmed C-15 fighters to calm Saudi Arabian leaders about the turmoil in Iran serves notice that America might intervene directly if the Saudi regime was threatened the New York



Times said today--CDN. Yugoslavia a key member of the Non-Aligned movement yesterday accused that the conflict between the Socialist and Non-aligned countries Vietnam and Kampuchea could have far reaching consequences for peace and security in the world. Syria and Iraq are planning to merge into a single state under one leader with command over combined armies on Israel's north-east border; between them Syria and Iraq can muster an estimated 415,000 men, 750 war planes and 4,400 tanks. Ayatollah Khomeini has called for the forming of a provisional Islamic Revolutionary council which should set up an interim government in Iran. Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN appealed in Bangkok to the UN security council on Saturday demanding the immediate and total pull out of Vietnam's invasion troops from Cambodia--SU.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 16:

Mr. R. Premadasa, Prime Minister inaugurating the Preparatory Meeting of Asian Ministers for UNCTAD V at the BMICH yesterday expressed the hope that the deliberations in Colombo will turn out to be historic in paving the way for a United Asian point of view. Ten persons were killed, including the conductor of a CTB bus when it ran down a 159-foot precipice at St. John Delrey Estate at Norwood on Sunday evening--CDN. The benefits of trade were mutual and the developed countries by introducing a new round of protectionism, could create a situation that would bring adverse results not only to the developing countries but also to themselves; this note of warning was sounded by the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa yesterday when he inaugurated the fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Group of the 'Group of 77' at the BMICH. Pro-

tectionism is and has always been collective suicide; it cannot and will not help to resuscitate the world economy; it is time for us to call on the developed countries to cry a halt to protectionist policies and instead, to reaffirm their commitment to the principle of open access to markets: so said the Minister of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali when he addressed the preparatory meeting of Asian Ministers for UNCTAD V held yesterday at the BMICH. The Youth Wing of the TULF will not field candidates at the forthcoming elections to local bodies in the north and east; this is a reversal of an earlier decision to contest candidates nominated by the TULF leadership--CDM. The leader of the delegation from Qatar, Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Attiya, in his statement to the plenary sessions of the Asian Ministerial Meeting yesterday, stressed that resolutions on economic issues had to be made in relation to their political context. An action group of Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers is to be formed to plead with OPEC countries for relief to developing countries from the recent oil price hike. Private bus owners are to commence their services from February 1 this year; the Minister of Transport Mr. M. H. Mohamed announced this at a press conference yesterday; he said that these bus services which are free to operate on all routes should provide a good transport service to the country. CID detectives were called in yesterday to investigate the circumstances under which telecommunication lines linking Colombo to Bentota, Kalutara, Panadura and Beruwala were totally cut off from Saturday night; the lines which remain paralysed on Sunday have now been restored--SU. The Police Commissioner refused to comment when asked

whether it was correct that the Rs. 11 lakhs recently stolen from the Nallur Bank was being used for rehabilitation work in the North and East--VK. The government is considering taking over the properties of Traders who are caught under weighting or any other such offence under the consumer protection bill which will come into force January 1st--LD. Number of ministers have criticised Mr. Cyril Mathew Minister of Industries' proposal to select students to the University on nationalist ratio--DK. The Foreign Minister of the Kampuchean Pol Pot government Ieng Sary said yesterday he should return to Cambodia from Peking soon and that resistance was being organised throughout the country again by Vietnamese-backed forces also occupied Phnom Penh. Iranian Head of State Bakhtiar has intervened in the Majlis (lower house of Parliament) to stop all oil exports to Israel and South Africa. Japan had a bumper rice crop last year at 12,589,000 tons. Chinese Communist Party chairman Hua Gouteng (Hua Kuo-feng) said yesterday that China needs a peaceful international environment in order to realise its modernisation campaign--CDN. About 2 million British workers are expected to be sent off by next weekend when industry suffers from a pay strike by more than 100,000 haulage drivers. Syria, Iraq and the PLO moved towards closer co-operation today on the eve of a top level Palestinian Conference expected to call for increased guerilla warfare against Israel--CDM. A second test-tube baby has been born in Britain. Yugoslavia's communist leaders are cracking down on their high-living officials long used to wining and dining at Public expense. The Shah of Iran will leave on Wednesday morning for Cairo on his way to



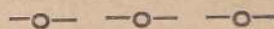
the US for an extended holiday aimed at saving the Iran monarchy authoritative court sources said today--SU.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17:

A 'Mission of Mercy' will be launched by the Ministry of Education immediately, through which the Ministry hopes to conduct a series of relief measures to help needy children in the four cyclone-affected areas, said Mr. W. D. C. Mahanttila, Additional Director-General of Education yesterday; 176,000 school children in the cyclone-affected areas require immediate relief to enable them to return to school; Rs. 5.2 Million is urgently needed by the Ministry of Education to provide relief to these children to supply them with exercise books and other school requirements exclusive of text books. Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government, Housing and Construction, Mr. R. Premadasa declared open an Information Unit at the Ministry yesterday. The second biggest development project in Ruhuna, the Kirama Oya Scheme, which will facilitate the irrigation of 6000 acres during the Yala and Maha seasons will be inaugurated on January 27; the entire project will be financed by Norad (Norwegian Aid Agency). A National Children's Week has been organised by the Ministry of Education in connection with the International Children's Year 1979; Several activities in schools throughout the island will be undertaken during May--CDN. Sri Lankan women working as domestic aides in most Arabian Gulf countries get only five hours off a week, Mr. Haren Corea MP for Chilaw said; Mr. Corea, who was delegated by the President, Mr. J. R. Jayawardene to inquire into and report on the conditions of Sri Lankans working in the Middle East countries visited five states in the course of his tour.

The Customs last year collected a total sum of Rs. 4,316.7 million as export duty, thereby exceeding the target of Rs. 4,000 million set for last year--CDM. Yugoslavia yesterday offered to host the sixth UNCTAD conference and called on the Asian group to support its candidacy at the meeting of the group of 77 in Arusha, Tanzania where Third World countries meet to prepare for UNCTAD V. India's Commerce Minister Mohan Dharia who was heading his country's delegation to the preparatory meeting of the Asian Ministers for UNCTAD V yesterday cancelled all his programmes and rushed back to New Delhi. TULF politician Kasi Anandan and 10 others who were allegedly involved in acts of violence in protest against the promulgation of the new Constitution in September last year are likely to be charged with 'sedition' under section 120 of the penal code. Six former MPs and one former Deputy Minister are to be prosecuted for failure to declare their assets--SU. The Indian Trade Minister, Mr. Mohan Dharia who is in Sri Lanka at present said that by Sri Lanka being divided no one would benefit; all races living here should co-operate and live in peace and that is India's wish, he added--VK. The Ministry of Education is considering having another examination for University entrance; only students who get through the GCE (A/L) will be allowed to sit the examination--DM. The government has decided to hand over the administration of estates back to the agencies--JD. The Shah of Iran leaving his country in a last ditch attempt to save his throne took off for Egypt today at the controls of a Royal airliner. Claims that the Soviet Union is concentrating troops along its border with Iran were described by the Tass News Agency as unfounded fabrication of US intelligence. The

Soviet Union yesterday vetoed a non-Aligned states resolution that could have had the security council call for withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea. Hanoi has called on Japan to give economic aid to Vietnam as it promised regardless of the conflict in Kampuchea. The White House was yesterday virtually reluctant over other Middle East summits involving President Carter unless Egypt and Israel narrowed their differences over terms for a peace treaty--CDN. Doctors who pioneered a test tube baby technique which produced its second infant in Britain said yesterday that they hope to establish a centre where couples could have children by this process. Former US President Richard Nixon and General Ford have been invited to the White House for the visit of Chinese Vice Premier Deng Zioping (Teng Hsiao-ping)--SU.



## OBITUARIES

Jan. 11—Jan. 17

S. Arulapa, Periya Villan, Ilavalai, Mrs. Agampodi Aslin de Silva, Egodamulla, Ahungalla, K. Wilfred Fernando, Lake Road, Chilaw, Mrs. Jayasinghe, Weragala, Padukka, D. E. Munasinghe, 73, Cotta Road, Borella, Miss Mary Mudiappa, 43/32, Bonjean Road, Kotahena, Mrs. Jane Tillkeratne, Kehelwatigoda, Yakkala, Dr. Vivian Samuel Fernando, 20, High View Drive, Maidstone Road, Chatam, Kent S. UK. Winifred de Rosairo, 91, College Street, Kotahena; M. D. T. Jayawardena, Bogahahena, Battaramulla, Mrs. Mohini Opatha, 30, 4th Lane, Ratmalana, Mrs. Silia Perera, 8/4B, Jesswell Place, Mirihana, Nugegoda; Mrs. T. A. Peries, 37/1, Sri Gananandra Road, Ratmalana; V. Sinnathamby, 29/1B, Clifford Road, Col.



ombo 3; Naina Mohamed Haniffa, Welahapitiya, Chilaw Road, Nattandiya; Miss Florrien Jayasinghe, 43, Cross Street, Kandy. Hema Opanayake; 73, Polhengoda Road, Colombo 5; Mrs. Mary Nanayakkarr, 24/3, Kirimandala Mawatha, Nawala; N. K. Panchavarnam, Idayangudi, Tirunelvely District, South India; Mrs. Mary Parana-hetty, Pilapitiya, Kelaniya; Mrs. Gunaratne, 22, Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana; Eustace Thomas, 544, Averiawatta Road, Kurundu-watte, Hunupitiya, Wattala; D. P. C. Edmund, Aluthmawatha, Road, Chilaw; D. W. Kumarasinghe, Galagedara, Padukka; Alfred Senanayake, 27, Auburn Side, Dehiwelo; B. P. Wickremasinghe, Welikada, Makawita; Marilins A. L. de Silva, 379, Bathgamulla Road, Peralanda, Ragama; Denis Perera, 107, Bonjean Road, Kotahena; Herbert Poulter, 60/1, Udana Road, Moratuwa; Sabaratnam, 12, Edmon-ton Road, Kirillabone, Colombo 6; Mrs. Mabel Firth, 64/17, Uyni Road, Lunawa, Moratuwa; M. W. Fernando 484, Kuduwemullo, Moratuwa; T. W. H. Peiris, 270/9, De Soysa Road, Moratumulla, Moratuwa; Mrs. Clare Bowen, 210/5, Hendala Road, Wattala; Douglas Dias, 116B, Gravets Road, Panadura; D. L. Ekanayake, Aluthmawatha, Pollommaruwa, Tan-galle; Sireen Fernando, 67, Alawwa Road, Giriulla; Mrs. Gabriel Joachim, 181, New Bullers Road, Colombo 4; Mrs. Sisiliana Abey-gunewardena, Mimbe, Kamburu-pitiya; Mrs. Margaret Perera; 14/1, Sri Dharmapala Mawatha, Asgiriya, Kandy; S. D. A. Senevi-ratne, Muhandiramgewatta, Katu-kurunda, Habaraduwa; Mrs. P. M. Tissera, 130, Morontuduwe Road, Wadduwa; Sri Shankar Vaitya-lingam, Point Pedro; Miss Leela Mathai, 41, Vaverset Place, Wella-watte; M. P. V. Peiris, 49, Perera Place, Kaudana Dehiwela; Alex-ander Subasinghe, Siyane Road, Gampaha. Oswald Edward Morris,

C/o. A. F. Raymonds, Dinglrimenike Marukone, 7/1, Greenland Avenue, Nedimcia, Dehiwela; Raymond Nava-ratne, 19/26, Rampart Road, Kotte; Mrs. Cora Indraseeli, Wijesekera, Gampaha Dispensary, Anuradhapura; Mrs. Rambukwella, Kumarihamy, 202, Katugastota, Road, Kandy; Sinon Peiris, 277, Hokandura Road, Talawatu-goda; Miss Jessien Wijeyeratna, 107, Church Road, Mettakkuliya; Rev. Gnanam David, Assembly of God, 244, Jayampura, Gampaha; Mrs. S. P. Charlotte de Silva, 76, Fort, Matara; Anuradha Herath, Mahaiyawa, Kandy; Donald Jarsz, 3, Kotelawala Gardens, Colombo 4; Mrs. Gerty Wettasinghe, 110, Kol-onnawa Road, Kolonnawa; Alfred Fernando, Bolawalana; E. A. de Silva, 77, Ernest Place, Laksapathiya, Moratuwa, Dharmaratna Fernando, 35/2, Sri Dharmakeerthiyatama Road, Colombo; 3 and M. Edwin Fernando, 411, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia.

O—O O—O O—O

#### ISSUES, SOLUTIONS & TRENDS—6

### Asian Group Prepares For UNCTAD V

by Shirley J. Payce

The Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Asian members of the Group of 77 began in Colombo at the BMICH on 15th January their three-day discussions as a preparatory step for UNCTAD V to be held in Manila in May this year. Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa ceremoniously opened these talks, and in his speech of welcome told delegates, from 31 participating countries, and observers from the ESCAP and the ITC, that their decisions would signify Asia's preparation and eagerness to work constructively to forge new international co-operation in tackling critical

issues in trade and development. The Prime Minister said: "This exercise must, indeed, turn out to be an invaluable input into the deliberations of the world community on the urgent and pressing problems that face the developing countries." The Prime Minister noted that whilst the cry for a new economic order went on, there was also to be witnessed a round of protectionism against exports from developing countries. He warned that if this persisted and grew, there could occur a repetition of the sad events of the 1930s.

Earlier this month senior officials from the participating countries and observers from ITC and ESCAP met for five days in Colombo to iron out the framework for the Ministerial Meeting. This will be presented in Manila. The keynote address was from the Secretary General of the UNCTAD, Sri Lankan-born Dr. Gamini Corea. He said the meeting would provide the foundation on which a successful UNCTAD V could be built in Manila. Dr. Corea said there was continuity between the Nairobi talks in 1970 and Manila, and note would now be taken of the new developments, perceptions and orientations that have arisen since the earlier talks. Nairobi launched a massive negotiating process, and naturally there was disappointment at the slow pace of translating commitment to action. It was important, however, to be mindful of the great complexity of the issues. Dr. Corea said: "I am confident with perseverance there would be eventual success. Much progress had already been made, but the important thing is to complete the trade negotiations in Geneva."

In the next few months, Dr. Corea added, a number of conferences would be re-convened in Geneva such as those on the Common Fund and those on the Codes



of Conduct for transfer of technology and for Rubber. If there is a breakthrough at these conferences, the atmosphere in Manila will be quite positive. Turning to the agenda in Manila, Dr. Corea said that it covered virtually all aspects relevant to the international community and the problems highlighted at the so-called North-South Dialogue. The agenda would be of particular interest to the developed nations. Elaborating, he said that Manila would deal with the continued weakness of the terms of trade of the developing countries, the Integrated Programme of Commodities, the Common Fund, price stability, disequilibrium in major currency exchange rates, the growing burden of international debt and the marketing, distribution and processing of raw materials. The agenda would also deal with the rising danger of protectionism and the inadequacy of financial support to the developing world. The special problems of the land-locked nations and small developing islands would be taken up. The search for solutions meant, Dr. Corea said, the search for both short term and long term remedies, and for them to be effective and permanent, there was the felt need for structural changes in the historically established world economic systems. The old principles, institutions, theories and regulations have been found inadequate. Dr. Corea emphasised that for the first time, structural changes in international economic systems, of a most fundamental nature, including reforms in international monetary, investment and finance practices, will figure as an important item in the deliberations at UNCTAD V.

Prior to this speech by Dr. Gamini Corea, the Minister of Trade & Shipping, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali who presided at the Ministerial Meeting of the Asian

members of the Group of 77, said in his address that the developing countries need to play greater roles in the management of world trade and the development of human affairs. Echoing sentiments expressed by the Indian savant, the late Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, the youthful Minister of Trade called for concerted action and consensus on the part of the developing nations, particularly those in our region. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali said: "We should all hang together or we will be hanged separately." He referred to the slow progress of the series of conferences, but said that despite this, there was hope in the trade negotiations that were going on or are to be held in Geneva. He characterised protectionism in world trade as a form of collective suicide and called on developed countries to pass down economic opportunities to the less developed nations by way of steps such as the ratification of the UN Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences. The Minister of Trade said that if developing countries are to achieve a successful level of economic advancement in the coming decade, there must be a substantial transfer of resources from developed countries. He said that the inability of the existing international economic structure to cope with this need is abundantly clear. More fundamental changes rather than mere adaptations of current principles and rules are required, he said, to provide new directions for trade and development. He referred to the warm smiles one sees in the faces of people in our region; smiles in happiness, in adversity, amidst poverty, smiles which are sometimes an escape from reality. He told the assembled delegates: "It is in your hands to change that reality to one of prosperity arising out of a just international economic sys-

tem. You will then infuse true contentment into that smile we have known so long."

His Excellency Dr. Widiyojo Nitiastoro, Minister of Economic, Financial and Industrial Affairs (Indonesia) who was the president of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Group of the Group of 77, addressed the assembly prior to its formal opening by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. The Meeting terminated on 17th January after putting forward its Declaration and programme of Action which will be re-viewed in Arusha (Tanzania) in February and serve as the Group of 77 contribution to the formulation of a common strategy at the Fifth Session of UNCTAD in Manila.....

The Minister of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali at a **PRESS BRIEFING** held after the Meeting of the Asian Ministers of the Group of 77, called its Programme of Action 'a very comprehensive document.' He said it constituted a total rejection by the Third World of the belief that prior restoration of the economies of the developed countries is the essential key to the overall reactivation of the stagnant world economy. The focus of attention must shift, he said, to the developing countries where continued stagnation has become the rule and there is growing resentment at the restricted opportunities and pace of development. He said the new spirit and the new document calls not for patchwork, but for restructuring in to where necessary to remove restrictive elements. It is easy to express a concept and rather difficult to implement it. The slowness in the past, he added, should not serve as grounds for disenchantment and for hopelessness.

The Minister said that the Meeting had heightened the reali-



zation in Asia that unity is strength, and he felt that there would now be more regional contacts as a result.

He revealed that due to the complexity of work handled by the Group of 77, the setting up of a Secretariat was being considered. A working group comprising Yugoslavia (Chairman), Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines and a South East Asian state (to be selected) has been appointed to look into this question and co-ordinate work at Arusha.....

The highlight of **THE PROGRAMME** is reliance on the Integrated Programme for Commodities (IPC), of which the Common Fund is the central element. Based on the trends and experiences after World War Two, the Third World's search for control over its resources had its beginning in the 1960s, and it has now received inspiration from the doings of OPEC. In the Programme for UNCTAD V the developing countries will seek the restructuring of the world economy which had been dominated by the West to eliminate its restrictive forms and to usher a new international economic order. The IPC will be made operational by associating with the Common Fund the existing bodies for cocoa, coffee, olive oil, sugar and tin and by extending the preparatory work in respect of bananas and bauxite. It will be used to enhance the real purchasing power of the export earnings of the developing countries. A monitoring mechanism will be set up under UNCTAD with help from UNIDO and ILO and this will seek to identify patterns in trade and production and the sectors in the world economy which need restructuring to achieve better international division of labour, to avoid excessive capacities and to implement policies.

Agreement will be sought that will enable the developing countries by year 2000 to have a 25% share of the world total of manufactures as against the present 8%. A list will be compiled of restrictive and sectoral agreements, cartels and of barriers to agricultural, processed and manufactured goods from developing countries which have comparative advantages and negotiations commenced for their dismantling. The service sector will be improved by correcting the adverse effects of transnational corporations in banking, insurance and transport etc, by eliminating discriminatory air fares and routings which damage the export earnings of the weaker countries. Shipping has received special attention. Even if the Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences is not ratified by the countries owning large shipping tonnage, steps will be taken to make the Code operational with UNCTAD assistance and the co-operation of like minded states and shipping lines within and outside the conference framework. National merchant fleets will be encouraged and ship building and port developments will be taken up.

Careful attention has been paid to the least developed countries. These are often land-locked or small developing island economies which usually suffer from climatological or geographical constraints to development in the normal manner. Two-phased crash programmes, 1979-81 and for the 1980s, will seek immediate improvements in the quality of life and provision of basic amenities. Land/sea/air/rail transport, transit rights, and port facilities will be worked out with adjoining lands.

The programme proceeds with proposals to re-shape the world economy and to improve the present monetary and financial operations. An International Debt Com-

mission is to be established to ensure that debtor nations do not have to make compromises with their national rights. Where necessary write-offs of debts are to be urged. The Programme appreciates that Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have passed their targets of aid disbursement but notes that USA, USSR, FRG and Japan have permitted a decline in aid content in recent years. It urges that the time lag between commitment and granting of aid be reduced and that the quantum itself be increased, especially in respect of the least developed countries. Much attention has been paid to shipping and the weak position of the developing countries in this regard is attributed to their lack of progress in dry and liquid bulk conveyance. The merchant fleets are to be extended into this area and improved. Ship buildings, port development, containerisation and multi-modal systems are to be initiated and ships are to be acquired. For this co-operation is planned and favourable long-term loans of not less than 12-14 years, as well as bi-lateral and multi-lateral aids are to be sought.

At first glance the Programme shows its sense of urgency and assertive air, but a deeper probe reveals inconsistencies. It depends too much on voluntary transfer of technology and capital from the developed countries and places too long a time-span for its schemes. It will be 10 years from now before the 'open registry system' is wound up, 12-14 years before it pays up loans it can now secure. It will be the year 2000 by when Arthur C. Clarke cinematically predicts inter-planetary travel) before the Third World can reach 25% of the world total of manufactured goods. Significantly, tea has been left out of the IPC programme. This commodity does



not retain flavours for too long and cannot be stockpiled. Besides there are producer interests favouring the present arrangements.

The Third World Programme (if the Asian Ministers' exercise can be called that) also leaves out the West, the Soviet Bloc and China from the grand plan; no positive roles are assigned them, anyway. The West has of course been lukewarm in its earlier reception to the Common Fund. At the UN Negotiating Conference in Geneva in March 77 which was a follow up of UNCTAD IV in Nairobi in May 76, the Netherlands, West Germany, EEC and the USA could not find common ground for agreement on the operation of the IPC and the provisions in the Fund.

This huddle and muddle over technicalities were viewed by the developing countries as an attempt to water down the Common Fund. Irrked by this the Head of the Tanzanian delegation, Ambassador D. M. Mloka said: "We looked for a tiger, they offer us a mouse." It is clear that UNCTAD V will not be looking for another animal—but, as things stand, it could well be left holding an 'economic vegetable.'

—O— —O— —O—

## THE WORLD TODAY

compiled by  
The Recorder

### The Pahalavi Fortune

EVENTS are changing so rapidly in Iran that it is difficult to keep pace with them. By the time this issue of *Tribune* appears, the state of Iran (as at the time of making this compilation) would have changed. It is not clear today (Jan. 25) whether the Army will stage

a *putsch* to prevent Khomeiny from returning to Teheran on Friday, January 26 to set up an Islamic Republic. Army units have seized Teheran airport and have closed it for three days in a bid to prevent any plane from landing with Ayatollah Khomeiny. Prime Minister Bakhtiar has taken a tough line and has announced that he will not quit to make way for Khomeiny and Army Generals have said that they were behind Bakhtiar. Obviously this is the Washington line: that a civilian government led by Bakhtiar backed by the Army was the only way of saving Iran for the Shah, USA and the West. The USA has also taken the unprecedented step of sending diesel oil, petrol and aviation fuel (presumably from Saudi Arabia) to Iran to enable the Bakhtiar government to run its vehicles and planes.

Whatever be the immediate strategies the Shah will follow to save himself and his throne is of little consequence. Iran cannot be the same again. Even if the Shah returns to trigger a civil war, it will be only a question of time before he is thrown out well and truly for all time. If he does not return or if the army does not stage a coup to bring the Shah back, the changeover in Iran will be comparatively peaceful. Otherwise all hell will be let loose. Unfortunately kings and emperors can never read the writing on the wall.

Even a cursory examination of the current socio-economic fabric in Iran will reveal a disastrous state of affairs in that country. At this time the powerful media of the West has successfully drawn a curtain over the true situation in Iran particularly over the facts that can provide answers to the question: "What is actually the reason for the outburst of the people's wrath?"

OFFICIAL STATISTICS show that Iran's imports from the USA exceed its exports to that country nearly thirty times over. The Iranian imports from Great Britain is larger than its exports twenty-five-fold. Its imports from West Germany is thirteen times more than its exports. From France—eight times. Iran is therefore a good market for the goods of these Western countries. Considering the fact that the sole item of Iranian export is oil, the unequal and lop-sided nature of Iran's trade relations with the West is obvious.

Further, in the period of economic boom when petrodollars started flowing into Iran, the Shah in a fit of grandeur decided to give credits and loans even to developed capitalist countries; eg., Federal Germany, Britain, France. Businessmen from those countries accepted the Iranian gifts with joy. After all it was a highly unusual case in history; a developing country was not receiving but giving credits. And Western monopolies did not lose such excellent opportunities for making easy money.

Iran got colossal sums from the sale of the "black gold". But where did the revenues go to? Of course, not to meet the needs of the Iranian people. The money went to vaults of US Western armament manufacturers who supplied the expensive weaponry to the Shah. Iran was armed to be the policeman of the Persian Gulf to safeguard the interests of the United States, Britain, Japan, France, Federal Germany, Holland etc. The Shah bought everything the West was prepared to sell, including atomic reactors at fabulous prices. This was really funny because Iran is among the largest exporters of oil and gas. The West, literally devouring oil and gas, offered the Shah atomic fuel which Iran would



hardly need, if the extraction of oil and gas was regulated and planned with due account of the national interests of Iran but not of the West.

A CAREFUL STUDY of projects built by the West in Iran reveals that among them there is none which would have helped the development of its agriculture, processing industry, health, education, culture. All the projects help the Western countries pump oil out of the Iranian soil. The country's elite here shut out their wealth as fast as they can and are now rushing to the West like rats deserting a sinking ship. Since September 8, Western Banks have received daily around \$ 50 million from Iranian clients. Who are these people seeking refuge from the Iranian peoples? They have transferred over £ 2.5 billion to foreign banks in the last two months. Among them are the Shah's nephews, sons of Princess Ashraf who transferred £ 113 million, the Shah's niece Princess Shahrzad who sent abroad \$ 41.4 million and her father Nehrdad Pahlboda who added \$ 32 million to his daughter's capital. The richest among them turned out to be a man who was dealing with oil—the head of the state Iranian company Khushang Ansari. He transferred \$ 68.5 million. The Shah's family had grabbed the lion's share of the shares of all enterprises of that country (almost 70 per cent) through the so-called Pahalavi Fund and Bank of Omran! Any businessman who wanted to start an enterprise commercial or industrial, he had to "present" a part of shares to the Shah's family. Corruption started from the Shah's family and went down the line—from high government officials to the lowliest functionary. Thus while corruption flourished, the Shah appealed to the Iranian people to tighten their belts in the face of

the approaching crisis, and at the same time, the Iranian elite bought villas and land in Western countries, transferring money to Swiss banks and making profitable deals with Western monopolies. Today Iranian economy has suffered serious damage done not by those who went out in streets but by those who have shamelessly robbed the Iranian people. Therefore the opposition's demand to return to Iran its national wealth is quite legitimate.

AN ARTICLE —a Gemini feature— by Robert A. Manning published in the Ceylon Daily News on January 13, spotlighted some interesting facts: "United States policy makers and financial circles are looking on aghast at the prolonged revolt in Iran which has turned the Shah's dreams of making the country the 'West Germany of the Middle East' into a chaotic nightmare and has taken the economy to the verge of paralysis. The five-fold increase in oil prices since 1973 has boosted Iran's oil revenue to over 20 billion dollars annually. These petro-dollars have meant a bonanza for Western corporations and US arms merchants and the Shah has hinged his ambitions of becoming a major economic and military power on them. Even before the present crisis, the breakneck pace at which the Shah has tried to build a modern industrial infrastructure led to major problems of inflation, inefficiency and corruption. The Shah's shopping spree mushroomed imports from 172 million dollars in 1972 to 16 billion dollars by 1977. But the now six-month old revolt appears to be the straw that broke the camel's back for Iran."

Billions of dollars worth of contracts for economic development have now been cancelled or had lapsed. Manning listed a few of the projects that had already been

abandoned after they have been partly paid for. He concluded: "Iran's economic disaster also portends the end of a bonanza for foreign multinational firms which have been cashing in on Iran's spending spree. Already the laments have started. A US executive said: 'I knew it wouldn't last. It was too wild, too good to be true.' One US corporate executive had earlier described the lucrative arrangements made with Iran like this: 'We get the contract, do the job, turn it over, and collect the money. The risk is limited and we are protected against inflation by cost clauses in our contract.' Cozy arrangements like this often meant large amounts of money lining the pockets of the Iranian elite. According to a document circulated by striking bank workers, top Iranian officials have deposited some 2.4 billion dollars in Swiss, Israel and US banks since October. The document lists two nephews and a niece of the Shah, a former Prime Minister, and the former head of the Iranian State Oil Company as being involved. For the US the crumbling of the Shah's economic dream is costly. US banks have loaned some 2.2 billion dollars to Iran. And the gargantuan US arms made with the country—some 20 billion dollars since 1972—is in jeopardy. In the 1978 financial year Iran accounted for almost 20 percent of all foreign military sales. Some 12.1 billion dollars in undelivered orders are outstanding, and many will undoubtedly be cancelled.....".

WHATEVER THE FATE of the Shah or the Bakhtiar government, Iran (temporarily at least) is "finished" as a commercial market for Western goods, arms and technology. Batuk Gathani in a despatch from London to the Hindu said: "...The biggest casualty of the current crisis in Iran is the Western armament industry. According



to latest reports reaching here Iran is to revise all current and future military contracts with Western Government amounting to about US \$ 10,000 millions. Iranian officials have said that Iran would buy only enough to 'defend our borders—nothing beyond that.' The Iranian Prime Minister, Mr. Bakhtiar, has said Iran would never again act as 'policeman of the Gulf.' Mr. Bakhtiar said he would respect contracts already signed unless 'completely contrary to the interests of our country.' Many old defence contracts with Western firms would have to be cancelled in any case. The Iranian Government will shortly review all existing and proposed arms contracts with Western suppliers. The sums subject to review are enormous. This is certainly bad news for the Western armament industry. In Iran itself, it should be noted, criticism of massive arms purchases by the Shah over the last five years has long preceded the current crisis. Massive quantities of sophisticated arms were sold to the Shah's Government and Iranian businessmen with Palace connections made vast fortunes by way of commission. The Western firms loaded all this on to the price they charged. In most cases the arms supplied to the Iranian forces are so sophisticated that military experts have strong reservations about the ability of Iranian military personnel to use these arms effectively in the event of hostilities. In fact it was supposed to be all "intact" equipment, and Western military planners only hoped that the Iranians were at least capable of preventing their theft. No one seriously believed that the Iranians could use such equipment effectively. Now the countries most successful in selling weapons to Iran are going to suffer most. The biggest casualties are the US and Britain. Aircraft 01

order from the US include a \$ 3200 millions order for 160 F-16 planes from General Dynamics. There is also an order for 31 additional F-4s from McDonnell Douglas. Bell Helicopter has an order of 287 "Isfahan" helicopters and at the beginning of the current crisis Bell had more expatriate American workers in Iran than any other foreign company. Loss of these orders will be a severe blow to the American military aircraft industry. West Germany will also suffer from the proposed cuts since Bonn has negotiated supply of naval equipment worth Rs. 5,000 crores. But in Europe, Britain is likely to be the main loser. Orders for 2,200 Chieftain tanks have been partly fulfilled. Plans to build a Rs. 1,000 crore ordnance complex at Isfahan,

with the bulk of the orders coming from Britain have been suspended. The new Government in Iran expects that major cuts in military expenditure will win popularity because most Iranians are convinced that Western firms have paid substantial bribes to the Shah's men to secure these contracts."

POLITICAL OBSERVERS in all countries, and more especially in the West, now indulge in public speculations about the size of the fortune amassed by the Shah in the 53-year rule of the self-styled Pahlavi dynasty. The present Shah's father was a cavalryman whom General Ironside picked on after World War I as a strong man put on the Persian throne—and who thereafter signed all the oil conces-

#### WITHOUT COMMENT

#### KALAWANA

The sprawling, rural electorate of Kalawana and its sleepy MP (or should it be non-MP?) shot into unexpected prominence last week. *Aththa*, which first reported the news, drew attention to the fact that Mr. Pilapitiya's seat would fall vacant due to a continuous non-attendance of Parliament for three months. The "national" newspapers (especially the government-owned ones) followed with cover-up stories that Mr. Pilapitiya had been injured in a car accident several months ago. They tried to imply that the failure to obtain leave was inadvertent. But the inside story is quite different. Election Petition No. 5 of 1977, filed by the former M.P. Sarath Muttetuwegama, is pending and the hearing is due to begin on March 5th. The so-called "forfeiture" of this seat has all the hall-marks of a "fix", designed to avoid a by-election at Kalawana in the event of the petition succeeding. It is well-known that some months ago, Mr. Pilapitiya had consulted the distinguished Q.C., Mr. C. Renganathan, and obtained written legal opinion advising such a course of action.

Meanwhile, all hell has broken loose among UNP supporters in and around Kalawana. Among the contenders for appointment to fill the vacancy are, one hears, Mr. Athukorala President of the Plywood Corporation, Mr. S. S. Gauthamadasa (former SLFP candidate for Kalawana) Mr. J. L. Abeywardene (a former UNP Village Committee Chairman and two former MPs—Messrs P. B. Wijesundera and Lionel Gunasekera) Mr. Pilapitiya is also staking his claim for re-appointment. It may well be that the dodge which the UNP resorted to over the Kalawana seat will not be the last word on the matter. One hears that interesting developments, in and outside the Courts may take place.

—Forward, 18.1.79



sion to the British and the Americans.

The traditional Persian King who was dethroned in a palace coup of British manufacture was suspected of pro-Germen sympathies. It is estimated by Western banking circles that about \$ 30 to \$ 40 billion of "hot" Iranian money has been transferred to America in the 1st two years alone. Most of this money belonged to the Royal Family. The Shah's own personal portfolio was believed to be in the region of \$ 20 billion.

"Apart from the money in America and other traceable assets, it is considered likely that additional uncounted resources may be deposited in banks in Switzerland and other countries. It is a well known fact that in major political upheavals in the third world poor countries, the major beneficiaries are often the Swiss bankers; for example it is estimated that the late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie left an unclaimed fortune of some \$ 40 millions in Swiss bank accounts, because he was not 'physically' present to make the 'final' arrangements about disposing of his assets. These funds are then retained by the banks because there are no 'legal heirs'."

"The present Shah's father had acquired vast tracts of land during his early years in power. Later he and others of the Pahalavi 'dynasty' were given shares in almost every substantial enterprise formed in Iran. Since the 1930s, the present Shah and his family have built up huge holdings in Persian banks, factories and businesses. The Shah's personal fortune stems mainly from the State budget and assets of the Pahalavi Foundation, a combined family trust and charitable organisation which he controls absolutely. Very recently, in a move calculated to calm widespread criticism of the family's vast wealth and alleged corruption, the Shah ordered the other members of

his family to hand over their property to the Pahlavi Foundation. If this order is heeded, the Foundations' total assets, based on known holdings will soar well past the equivalent of \$ 30 billion. The New York Times says that behind a facade of charitable activities, the Pahlavi Foundation was used in three ways: As a source of funds for the Royal Family, as a means of exerting control over the Iranian economy and as a conduit for rewards to supporters of the regime."

Among the other well known holdings of the Shah and Pahlavis are: (1) 25 percent stake in West Germany's giant Krupp steelworks; (2) ownership of 36-storey New York skyscraper almost ready for opening on Fifth Avenue; (3) 10 percent stake in General Motors in Iran; (4) interests in 25 metal enterprises, eight mining companies, ten building materials firms, 45 construction companies, 43 food firms and 26 enterprises in trade or commerce. The Shah and his family are also said to have shares in ownership in almost every major hotel in Persia—some reckon the Royal family owns 70 per cent of Iran's hotel capacity.

This huge fortune was amassed in little over 50 years by the two ruling Shahs of the upstart Pahalavi "Dynasty"—one of the most remarkable families of this century considering the amount of its present wealth.

But the world is no longer what it was. Not all the guns of the Pentagon can keep the Shah on the Peacock Throne. Any attempt to put him back on the Peacock will boomerang—on those who seek to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran.

—O— —O— —O—

## WINDOW ON INDIA--2

### The Desai Visit

by R. Varadachari

PTI Correspondent in Colombo

MR. MORARJI DESAI, the Indian Prime Minister, is assured of a rousing welcome during his four-day visit to Sri Lanka beginning on February 3rd. He would be given a red carpet welcome in the true sense of the term and he will have ample opportunity to see for himself the warmth and cordiality Sri Lankan people have for the neighbouring India with rich and age-old common cultural ties and heritage. Sri Lankan people have always had special love and affection for Indian leaders, dating back to Mahatma Gandhi's days and to the Indian non-violent independence struggle which gave inspiration to the people of the island which is separated only by 18 miles of shallow Palu Straits and which was also under the same British colonial domination. Sri Lankans had not failed in the past to show their special attachment when Indian leaders visited the island as during the last visit of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1974 when she was Indian Prime Minister, during the previous seven-year rule of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike here. THIS TIME Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of the Sri Lanka Republic, has issued a special appeal to the members of parliament belonging to his United National Party to spare no efforts to give Mr. Desai a "warm and cordial welcome" as he is a "true friend" of Sri Lanka. At the last meeting of his party's Parliamentary Group, Mr. Jayewardene described Mr. Desai as a "firm adherent of ahimsa following in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi" and said he had been a leader, to quote him, "respected the world over as a true democrat and who had worked hard to keep



the flame of democracy alight in Asia." This special appeal has doubly assured Mr. Desai of a welcome befitting his stature. Fortunately the seven-month old crisis within the Janata Party has now ended with Mr. Charan Singh rejoining Mr. Desai's cabinet as a Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Finance. The impact of this happy and important development will be dealt with in the next commentary. Suffice it to mention at this time, with the resolution of the crisis which was sapping the energy of the ruling party, Mr. Desai comes to the island with enhanced political stature, greater confidence and firmer grip over his party affairs.

As Mr. Jayewardene pointed out repeatedly during his visit to India in November last, he and Mr. Desai operate "on the same wavelength" both on the political plane and in terms of their economic philosophy. So also were Mrs. Bandaranaike and Mrs. Gandhi during their prime ministerships. Mr. Jayewardene and Mr. Desai are dedicated to the establishment of a "Dharmista society." Desai calls it a "free, just and righteous society". In fact establishment of such noble society bereft of dictatorial trends was the main political platforms of the UNP and the Janata Party during the last election campaign. Both Mr. Desai and Mr. Jayewardene have thus come to power under similar circumstances when in their reckoning democratic freedoms stood badly eroded and warped. Of course Mrs. Bandaranaike and Mrs. Gandhi justified the imposition of emergency as an imperative step under the circumstances then prevailing. The electorate in both the countries rejected their plea.

True their election pledge, the Janata and the UNP Governments have now restored to the

cherished places practically all the democratic values of a free society and their principal ingredients like the freedom of the press, the independence of judiciary and the rule of the law. Of course the opposition parties dispute this claim. Not only the political philosophy of Mr. Desai and Mr. Jayewardene is the same; they also have a common approach in tackling the economic malaise of their respective countries. Both lay stress on development of agriculture and medium and small scale industries with employment orientation and adoption of an appropriate technology suited to developing countries with large unutilised man power. This has opened up immense scope for mutual economic collaboration which was not in evidence during the previous regimes of Mrs. Gandhi and Mrs. Bandaranaike.

NO DOUBT Mrs. Gandhi, the late Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mrs. Bandaranaike showed determination, political courage and detachment in resolving the twin ticklish bilateral problems, namely the future of one million stateless persons of Indian origin residing in Sri Lanka and the maritime boundary between the two countries to which was linked the emotional question of ownership of Kachchativu island. But not much headway was made during their stewardship of their respective countries in forgoing economic ties of a dimension expected of two close neighbours with so much of common cultural bonds. There are reasons to believe that Mrs. Bandaranaike did not take any meaningful steps to forge close economic move close to India on the economic front because of apprehension that such a situation might lead to stranglehold of Indian big business on the island's fragile economy.

Such an apprehension is not there in Mr. Jayewardene's reck-

oning. He is an ardent champion of intense regional co-operation, particularly with the Indian sub-continent countries. The climate has thus come more propitious now for a leap forward in the economic sphere between India and Sri Lanka. Having prepared the ground for such a marked advance on the economic front during his last visit to India, Mr. Jayewardene lost no time in deputing his minister of trade, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, to New Delhi to give concrete shape to the proposal. Mr. Athulathmudali sought and secured what he calls "special treatment" for his country in his parleys with the Indian ministers concerned to offset the recurring adverse balance of trade which has been weighted for several years heavily against Sri Lanka and has been an irksome factor in the otherwise cordial mutual ties. Both countries have now agreed to enter into an investment guarantee agreement to help encourage Indian investment in the island, particularly in its Free Trade Zone. Joint ventures are now envisaged in several fields, including rubber, graphite, aluminium and pharmaceutical products. Indian consultancy services suited to a developing economy like that of Sri Lanka is also another segment identified for collaboration. India has also agreed to help to bridge the trade gap by giving tariff preferences to Sri Lanka and by allowing import of certain items otherwise banned and also by agreeing to buy-back arrangements from Indian ventures in Sri Lanka.

The Ceylon Daily News has editorially described this special treatment given by India to Sri Lanka as a "magnanimous gesture". But it has realistically warned that this preferential treatment could not be expected to be continued for long and that Sri Lanka should identify and produce by the next



decade or two products really needed by India and export them. The *Daily News* has also appropriately observed, to quote its editorial, "Trade has to be built on hard-headed realities if it is to prosper." To ensure that the newly-envisaged economic ties do not elude implementation, the ministerial-level Indo-Sri Lanka joint economic commission which was set up during the visit to India of Mr. Jayewardene in December 1969 when as the minister of state he was second in command to the late Sri Lanka Prime minister Dudley Senanayake, has now been revived. This high-level machinery remained practically dormant during Mrs. Bandaranaike's rule which replaced that of Dudley Senanayake in 1970. The commission will now meet every year in New Delhi and Colombo alternatively to review and expand further economic collaboration and clear shy bottlenecks. With economic ties as the focus now in bilateral relations, Mr. Athulathmudali has been appropriately named the minister-in-waiting for Mr. Desai.

THOUGH THE FUTURE of the stateless persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka has been settled by the Sirimavo-Shastri pact of 1964 and the Sirimavo—Mrs. Gandhi agreement ten years later in 1974, the pace of implementation of the agreements had been much below the envisaged rate. The difficulties experienced in realising the annual rate of repatriation of 35,000 persons to India and grant of Sri Lanka nationality to 20,000 persons per year have been confined to bureaucratic bottle necks. Officials of both sides are now grappling with this problem and are evolving ways and means to streamline the processes involved in the implementation of the agreements and cut the red tape to the minimum.

With both the Janata and the

UNP Government committed to what they call genuine or true non-alignment in foreign affairs, there is no scope for any major differences in their respective approaches to the flash points in the present world scene like Kampuchea issue, conflict in the Horn of Africa, Racism in Southern Africa and the West Asia crisis. In fact the dialogue on international affairs between the two leaders will help evolution of a common stand on a number of questions which are to figure in the meeting of the nonaligned coordinating bureau at foreign ministers level scheduled to be held in Colombo in June next. Mr. S. Kundu, Indian Minister of State for external affairs, will assist Mr. Desai in his talks here.

Mr. Jayewardene has taken several effective steps to redress the grievances of the Tamil minority community in the island such as abolition of the standardisation scheme in university admissions and conferment of national language status to Tamil. He has also inducted Mr. S. Thondaman as a cabinet minister, thus wearing away the one million persons of Indian origin from the separatist Tamil United Liberation Front. These moves have had a responsive chord in India where Tamil Nadu is emotionally involved on the Tamil question in the island, and have helped further consolidation of mutualities.

Mr. Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Indian Republic, aptly described Indo-Sri Lanka relations as a "splendid example" for other countries to follow. In his farewell address to Mr. Jayewardene at Palam airport at Delhi during the latter's last visit to India. Nothing could be more succinct. Mr. Jayewardene had observed at Madras to quote him, "Indians and Sri Lankans were children of one mother and cordiality has to continue to strengthen the ties between the

two countries." Nothing could be more appropriate. In this situation bilateral ties would continue to be exceedingly cordial whichever party is in power in Delhi and Colombo. Mr. Desai and Mr. Jayewardene have however given a new dimension to the mutual ties by giving economic teeth to them.

—SLBC Talk, 27/1/79

O-O O-O O-O

#### BATTICALOA LETTER

### Sad Tales Of Relief And Rehabilitation

by  
John B. Kumarkulasingham  
Batticaloa, Jan. 15,

It is not without reason that a person laments. And when the District Minister lamented, "What have we done?" the entire Press was there. He did not, like Pontius Pilate, wait for the answer. He gave it himself. "We have given food.. That is all.. No roofs, no houses, no clothing, no materials, and no satisfaction."

The most regular and the most painful Cyclone Rehabilitation exercise are the Conferences. It is almost fifty days since the Cyclone ravaged Batticaloa, and we have had more Conferences than one can count. These Conferences, no doubt, keep departmental heads occupied by day: they don't work by night and cannot possibly work during conference time as well. The Conferences have no Minutes and there is no follow-up. So nothing gets done. Let's get things straight for the record. In the current cyclone crisis, the District Minister is responsible for the mechanics of Relief. And when he posed the question, "What have we done?", he was using the first person plural. Who are the "we"?



The public and the press have their own reasons to lament: that the delivery lines of Relief have been constantly slow, unprincipled and unsupervised. The Rs. 100 bonanza has not reached all and the relevant officials still do not know the quantum of textiles issued by Grama Sevaka to victims, nor how much Grama Sevaka store underground! Mrs. Janaki Nathan of Jayanthipura refused to take 3 1/4 yards, went to her MP and was given more on his intervention; Mrs. Ratnarajah, a teacher of English of Katuwapankerny with her house in an uninhabitable state had to be satisfied with ONE yard for the 10 in the family. Another lady who does not fear reprisals, reportedly returned the cloth as it was barely enough for a secure "amudey". And the writer was told to manage without even an "amudey"!!!

This catalogue of inadequacies reveal that the entire Planning has been faulty. The supervision of the delivery lines went by default: the officials had not decided on the quantum of textiles issues—the yardage (or is it metres?), and the distribution was chaotic because nothing had been planned in advance. Grama Sevakas had a free hand to play fast and loose. The entire planning mechanism in the district is in a crisis.

Justice Minister K. W. Devanayagam, who is generally slow to act, must rope in younger people who can make quick decisions to get things done. Grama Sevakas all have political affinities and this shows itself in their contact with the masses. This is a sad trend. We are heading for lean days in cadjans, coconuts and vegetables. Cadjans that could be bought for Rs. 30 to 40 at Kurunegala fetch Rs. 100 in Batticaloa. This is what the planners should have anticipated, if they were planning for the

future of the District. At Chenkaladi 120 cartons of milk foods were not distributed. Some official was suspicious about somebody else and the distribution was stopped. Even if all the infants of Batticaloa started howling, the milk would not have been distributed. Officials are officials.

At a top level conference, presided by Rural Development Minister, Wimala Kannangara, the lady cut into the very web of procrastination. While the entire District was crying for queueless food, one senior official came out with the gem of the day. "The Co-op: Managers have four more free items to issue". And with the smile of the victor, he coughed out, "they have four times more work". The Rural Development Minister rapped on the table with "If you have four times more work, why not engage more people?" There was no answer. The lady became stern and "your job is to take the relief to the masses, not to trot out excuses."

At one of the weekly conferences held on 8.1.79, forty six days after the cyclone, Chairman, Hon. K. W. Devanayagam, MP and Justice Minister, angrily shouted, "Drive them out. Call in the Police" And that was not all. They were not fit human beings, he implied to squat in the unfinished Post office building. They were the untouchables. They were the conservancy labourers whose MC quarters had become roofless. "Drive them out." And then it came to pass that some Solomon in the congregation suggested that their quarters be thatched with cadjans. Another out-Solomoned-Solomon hinting that a cheaper /-50 per square foot roofing material was available. They had known all this before the Conference, and hadn't taken the trouble to mention it. We are a nation of talkers. Con-

servancy labour in Batticaloa or elsewhere are not workers one can play about with. If we do, it would be to our disadvantage.

Justice Minister K. W. Devanayagam, Chairman of the body that determines cyclone relief for the District, faces the "charge" of wantonly bringing disrepute to the Batticaloneans. He had said, "The Batticaloneans are lazy and if we release financial aid they will turn to liquor." This is what he told one of the (institutional) Conferences at the Kachcheri. His grandfatherly regard is understandable. He means well. But would it not have been wiser not to mention liquor when Batticaloneans have nothing else to spend the money on—every shop is bare and there are no building materials to buy.

At the request of Justice Minister, Mr. K. W. Devanayagam, the money-relief to build houses has been delayed. Why? Minister "Bill" Devanayagam has a long time reputation for delay and procrastination. But now, he must be more fast if the goods are to be delivered. He must act fast, eliminate the ambitious small sharks, utilise locals known for their integrity, get the village involved in relief and order petrol-consuming officials to their desks.

Paddiruppu's usually well-informed Parliamentarian Mr. P. Ganeshalingam, told a Head of Department Conference that he had information that some teachers were in the looting business. The conference was chaired by Justice Minister, Mr. K. W. Devanayagam. The Press was present. Batticaloa's Government Teachers' College, was looted of tiles allegedly by the son of a teacher. He was released on the pleas of the father. On the question of tiles, a Departmental spokesman told the writer, that Chettinad Corporation tiles



were used exclusively by the Teachers' College and the Koddamunai MV. These were easy to trace and identify. This was an opening for the Police investigator said the spokesman. The tiles of the Wamtaramoolai Madhya Maha Vidyalayam too had Chettinad Corporation tile marks. The stolen ones could be traced. It is unbelievable how these two institutions, in the heart of Batticaloa town, had their tiles robbed!

And Cyclone Relief and Cyclone Rehabilitation go on in this way.



# MARGINAL COMMENTS

by Pertinax

- Drunks ○ Prostitutes
- Cheats

## \*CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUNKENNESS.

The Government's campaign against alcoholism and drunkenness must be welcomed. Nobody can complain about the consumption of liquor in moderate quantities. But in Sri Lanka alcohol has become a major social evil. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, must be congratulated for having set his face against the excessive use of liquor. In the last Parliament—i.e., National State Assembly—many members had often entered the chamber in a drunken state, and brawls and fistcuffs had become all too common.

One of the first decrees of Mr. J. R. Jayewardene imposed was a ban on Ministers and MPs of the Government Party attending cocktail parties. One Minister was deputed every month to attend cocktail parties on behalf of the government. But special permission was granted by the relevant authority to enable others to attend

whenever necessary. This has brought a healthier state of affairs into the cocktail circuit.

But even in regard to attendance at cocktail parties, the Government has begun to "tighten up". An AFP despatch dated January 8 from Colombo published in papers abroad stated: "A Government directive has gone out to Ministers attending public functions, including cocktail parties hosted by foreign embassies, to refrain from consuming alcohol, the State-run Sunday Observer said yesterday. Under a code of conduct laid down by President J. R. Jayewardene last year, Ministers and Deputy Ministers were debarred from accepting invitations for receptions from foreign embassies. Instead the Cabinet nominated one Minister by rotation each month to attend such functions on behalf of the Government. The newspaper said the Minister attending such functions, if at all, sips a social drink. But according to the new directive even this must be non-alcoholic, it said."

Anb within a fortnight of this, it was announced that a new law would be presented in Parliament before the end of January. A report in the Ceylon Daily News of January 19, set out the Government's intentions on this matter thus: "Police Officers will have powers to arrest any person found drunk and disorderly in public places. Persons found guilty of such an offence will be liable to a maximum punishment of two years rigorous imprisonment or to a fine of Rs. 2000. Selling liquor to any person under 18 years will also be an offence. These provisions will be contained in the 12 clause anti-liquor legislation that was prepared on the initiative of President J. R. Jayewardene to curb drunkenness. The Bill will be titled Offences Committe

Under the Influence of Liquor (Special Provisions) Bill which will be presented in Parliament by Mr. K. W. Devanayagam, Minister of Justice, by the end of this month. This bill gives powers to peace officers to arrest any person who is under the influence of liquor and conducts himself in such a way as to cause annoyance to anyone. Cases will be filed against them in the Magistrate's Court. The maximum penalty for these offences has been fixed at 2 years imprisonment or Rs. 2000. fine. The new legislation will make it an offence to give liquor and cause liquor to be given to children under 5 years. Police Officers will have power to seize liquor which is in the possession of any person under 18 years of age.

"Mr. Devanayagam said a new definition of drunkenness has been incorporated in the proposed legislation. It reads: 'A person shall be deemed to be under the influence of liquor for the purposes of the Act if after consumption of liquor his behaviour is visibly affected by it.' This means police will have powers to arrest anyone found staggering on the road after liquor. 'Two standards of proof of drunkenness will be employed. One standard is that of getting the offender to be tested by the medical practitioner. The other is to get a responsible police officer to certify that the person has taken liquor and his behaviour is visibly affected by it.' said Mr. Devanayagam who added that the cabinet considered the dangers involved in handing over such powers to the police and had decided to accept it as that was the only way to make the law effective. Explaining the need for legislation the Minister said: 'Such stringent regulations have been adopted in many countries. This they had to do to save society from degradation. In our country discipline is being eroded. The main cause



of that is the addiction to liquor. The deadly habit is spreading to all walks of life. Even society has begun to tacitly accept the habit of drinking. We cannot allow this trend to continue.' Hence President Jayewardene has insisted that we take deterrent action. "Total prohibition should be the aim of the Government. But that has its bad consequences. People take to drinking all sorts of injurious things. Hence we have decided to take action to save as many people as possible from drunkenness" said the Minister. He added that the law would be harsh on public servants who attended office after liquor. It would apply to drivers of vehicles also."

One wonders how far this law will help to curb drunkenness. The fact is that too many people drink too much when they should be cold sober. Far too many drivers of vehicles, especially CTB buses and public transport lorries, are drunk while at the wheel. Officers of all grades are drunk during office hours. The crime rate has soared up because of excessive alcoholism.

Legislation alone cannot eradicate alcoholism and drunkenness. The Temperance Movement and Alcoholics Anonymous can do a great deal if they approach those who indulge in liquor in the correct way. The definition of drunkenness in the proposed law is interesting but it teems with loopholes—the drafting seems to be amateurish and must be streamlined.

Thy Cabinet, according to the report, was worried about the dangers involved in handing over such powers to the Police, but to make the law effective they had no alternative but the Police. Unless, the IGP is able to make new men of our Policemen, this law will only add one more excuse for a "peace officer"

to collect illegal levies from every person who comes out of a bar or a tavern. Every tippler must henceforth carry a little extra cash to keep the cops happy. And for the cops it will be easy money—palm grease—especially with the new definition of "drunkenness." It is a challenge to the IGP! keep his Force honest!

#### \*POLICE AND PROSTITUTES.

With drunks (those smelling of liquor or unsteady on their feet) coming within the long arm of the law, policemen will soon have a field day. It will not be long before those who imbibe liquor will demand a better definition of "drunkenness" where police men are not given the discretion to certify that a person was after liquor.

This brings to mind recent attempts by prostitutes in Britain to free themselves from the clutches of demanding policemen. A PTL news despatch from London datemarked December 12, stated: "The name of the game is naming 'VIP' clients. Call girls and prostitutes in Britain are threatening to play it unless their profession is 'decriminalised'. The women of the oldest trade in the world have launched a campaign seeking the abolition of all laws which they say, compel prostitutes to live in fear—of pimps and the police. It was done at a recent meeting here attended by over 200 people—clergymen, social workers, lawyers, feminists and prostitutes. The meeting, presided over by Baroness Vickers, prominent women's right campaigner, decided to send a memorandum to the Home Secretary, Mr. Lerlyn Rees, asking for the repeal of the term "common prostitutes" and the laws operating against them. A spokesman of the English collective of prostitutes said. 'We want no nationalisation, no legalisation, not the kind of assembly

line of sex that exists in West Germany, but decriminalisation.' In seeking a better deal for themselves, the prostitutes have taken a cue from their Madrid sisters who some time ago countered police harassment by threatening to name their better known clients, to publish their photographs and to expose their sexual tastes. Their threat had immediate and desired effect. A call girl told the London meeting. 'The greatest perpetrator is not the prostitutes or the pimps but the establishment which patronises them as clients.' She named the Foreign Office spokesman commented: 'Good heavens, I think it is highly unlikely that we use prostitutes. If she has got evidence, let her make it public.' The English collective of prostitutes said: 'Exposure of our clients is a card which we hold and we may be forced to play it.' The list, according to them, includes distinguished members in Government, Parliament, Church and the Press. Under English law, prostitution is not a criminal offence but all the attendant techniques for attracting clients—soliciting, advertising etc., are criminal activities."

Sooner or later the campaign to emancipate prostitutes from laws that places them at the mercy of policemen and pimps is bound to succeed. But even before that all those who take liquor in Sri Lanka even in small quantities—and step on to a public highway—will organise themselves to secure the repeal of the law against drunkenness. After the new law against drunkenness comes into operation, policemen will not want salary increases. And what of our prostitutes?

#### TAILPIECE.

The National Savings Bank has been running over-size advertisements in some of the daily papers: "The long arm of the law cannot



## Absolution For Blackmarketeers

reach you when you invest your undeclared monies at the NSB. Worrying about disclosing your undeclared monies. Then STCP worrying now because when you deposit your undeclared wealth in a special account of the National Savings Bank—operative from 1st December 1978 to 31st March 1979—you are assured of complete immunity under the Tax Amnesty declared recently. Which means just this—absolutely no fear of prosecution. And no liability to income tax capital levy, wealth tax or BTT on those monies. Except for a once and for all 30% tax deduction most of which you can make up by the interest on the balance 70% in your National Savings Bank's special account. No questions asked whatsoever in respect of your income up to the year of assessment 77/78."

And the advertisement concludes with a moralistic benediction: "Let the National Savings Bank take care of your money. Leave it to them with a clear conscience."

Only the Pope in the old days gave absolution to members of the Roman Church for their earthly misdeameanours. In fact the more enterprising and business-minded among Popes increased the revenue of the Vatican by selling indulgences to give absolution.

The Government of Sri Lanka (now and in the past) seems to delight in exercising the Papal function of selling indulgences to absolve the sins of blackmarketeers and other anti-social elements who cheat and exploit their fellow beings and rob society and acquire vast sums of ill-gotten monies.

This government has gone further than all previous governments (which had tried to collect revenue through Tax Amnesty) and has promised total secrecy and total immunity for a thirty percent cut

The Popes had a scale or schedule of fees for selling indulgences, but our Government has fixed on flat cut rate—Amen.

X X X X

### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

- History
- Souvenir

**THE HISTORY OF THE L.S.S.P. IN PERSPECTIVE**  
by Leslie Goonewardene  
(Published 18.12.78 RS. 4/-)

The 24-page little booklet entitled "The History of the LSSP in Perspective" by Leslie Goonewardene is an interesting document. Purporting to be "written with the aim of placing the formation of the LSSP and its journey through different stages in its true historical setting", Mr. Goonewardene has succinctly summarised both the achievements and failures of the party at each stage and left the reader to answer for himself the question: "What has the LSSP done during all these years?"

The history itself is divided into four parts: from 1935 to 1947, from 1947 to 1956, from 1956 to 1977, and the period after July 1977. The first period is described as the period of advance. It was during this period that the LSSP (and the Left as a whole) made the greatest headway so that at the 1947 General Election, the LSSP and the Bolshevik-Leninist Party polled over 17 per cent of the total vote. With the votes of the Communist Party, the Left as a whole polled over 20 per cent of the vote. "This marked the highest point of the LSSP and the Left generally from an electoral point of view," comments the author.

Then began the period when the Right strengthened itself. The most important reason for this was the granting of formal political independence to the Island in February 1948. Mr. Goonewardene writes that the credit for winning this independence goes not to Mr. D. S. Senanayake but to the heroic masses of our neighbouring countries who shed rivers of blood in the fight for freedom from imperialist rule. However, he pays a tribute to the late Sir Oliver Goonetilleke—"one of the williest brains that Ceylon has produced"—who by his astute arguments succeeded in persuading the British to transfer political power to Ceylon. If in the second period the LSSP suffered a setback as against the advance of the UNP, the third period is characterised by the author as one in which "the LSSP had to fight an uphill battle to retain its influence as against the petty-bourgeois SLFP." This was also the period when most of the mistakes admitted to be made by the LSSP were committed.

In a chapter entitled "The LSSP and the Minorities", Mr. Goonewardene writes: "The position of the LSSP on the language question played an important role in the history of the party from 1956 onwards. It is therefore appropriate to devote some attention to this question. "The immediate occasion for the change of the LSSP's position from both Sinhala and Tamil as state languages to that of Sinhala as the sole official language with the reasonable use of Tamil, a position that had already been put into law, had been the pact with the LSSP of Philip Gunawardene which led to the United Left Front composed of these parties along with the Communist Party. However, it had been clear for a number of years that the LSSP had because of its position on



the language question, been steadily losing its support among the Sinhala masses, who constituted the majority of the population. Persistence of its position on this question entailed the prospect of isolating itself from this section which, in addition to being the majority, also constituted the most highly politically conscious part of the population and had supplied the principal anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist forces. And, as the experience of the LSSP between the years 1956 and 1963 showed, there was no compensatory advantage among the Tamils in the North. As mentioned earlier, the LSSP could not compete with any degree of success for their support with the Federal Party. The principal reason for the change in the LSSP's position can thus be described as a tactical necessity. "From the principled point of view, there is little doubt that the LSSP's original position was correct."

*Readers may or may not agree with this and other self-critical appraisals of various episodes in LSSP history. Some, at least, are sure to doubt the author's justification of the break-up by the LSSP of the United Left Front in 1964 prior to the formation of the SLFP-LSSP Coalition Government in June that year.*

The booklet is not without its factual errors either. For example, Mr. Goonewardene says that "when Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara introduced his progressive measure of free education, Dr. N. M. Perera had already written his book from prison, advocating this system." In fact, Dr. Perera's booklet was a comment on the report of the Special Committee headed by Mr. Kannangara. But in spite of these blemishes and shortcomings, Mr. Goonewardene's booklet is a valuable addition to local Left literature,

a *sine qua non* for all students of contemporary history.

B.P.

O O O O

### COLOMBO HINDU COLLEGE, RATMALANA, 1951 - 1976 SILVER JUBILEE NUMBER

There are milestones in the progress of an individual, landmarks in a nation's achievements and, in history, watersheds. In each of these progressions the contribution of a school is indisputably of the highest significance. It is therefore not surprising that the Souvenir has quoted a gem from Alexander of Macedon, who at the age of 33 was already master of the then known World—"I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well". Although Alexander started his fantastic career very nearly 3 1/2 centuries before the Christ, what he had said is very much relevant to our times as well. Thus, an inference that those responsible for Colombo Hindu College attach the greatest significance to the kind of education imparted within its portals would not be unwarranted. The tragedy of contemporary times, despite stupendous material progress, is that we are not being taught to "live well". This objective should be the central tenet of the philosophy of any institution dedicated to impart learning.

In a time dimension, 25 years in the life of a College is a mere minuscule. Reading through the Prize Day Report—1977 the urgency and felt need for an institution such as this is easily discernible. Sustained by an unshakeable faith and unswerving determination, the pioneers embarked upon what could at that time have appeared a well nigh impossible task, to weaker hearts unthinkable. But

fortunately for the country, the dedicated pioneers were, as the Principal thankfully comments, committed to the "sanctions of a trust higher than any the world could impose."

C. P. Snow in 'Public Affairs' attributes to Sir Alec Clegg, one time Chief Education Officer for the West Riding, England, who had lived his life among those who feel shut out the comment that "there is no chance for human harmony until we pay whatever price we must (not only in money) to avoid the rancour of the educationally neglected." It is therefore just as well that the Hindu parents seeking a Hindu environment for their children's education boldly and with deep conviction formed the Hindu Educational Society on 05.02.1951 "for the sole purpose of establishing a Hindu school....." in the context of the situation about which the Principal has commented in his Prize Day Report—1977.

As in the case of every religion the world has known, Hindus have for their inspiration the UPANISHADS written, presumably in the 7th or 8th century BC and the classic part of the MAHABARATA, the BHAGAVAD-GITA, both of which contain compelling truths that drive men inexorably forward towards the fulfilment of their wants. Dedicated action, intellectual effort and devotion to a cause are paths that lead to success and ultimate triumph. The success Colombo Hindu College has achieved within the short span of 25 years bears ample testimony to these truths.

I find an editorial apology "for the belated appearance" of the Jubilee Number. One would have thought that an apology would hardly be necessary having regard to the enormous amount of work and effort that would have gone



to its production. It contains a remarkable record of the school's achievements, frustrations and progress. Even some government departments publish their annual reports several years behind time, when their usefulness is minimal except perhaps to a researcher!

This brief review is not intended to record one time more the achievements, frustrations and disappointments that constitute the history of this school nor compliment the producers of the Jubilee Number on its cosmetic elegance. Rather, the purpose is to draw the attention of the many in our country to what resolution and commitment can achieve. The President of the Society records that the "colossal task was met by a Rs. 4 lakh bank loan guaranteed by 13 members of the Hindu Educational Society." Incidentally, the writer notes that this loan has been guaranteed by 13 members, and in the light of the success, we may take comfort from the fact that the generally held view that 13 is an unlucky number has also been exploded! Even some 5 star hotels avoid floor 13. Our sincere expectation, however, is that Kristol's Law which postulates that "Being frustrated is disagreeable, but the real disasters in life begin when you get what you want" will never be substantiated in so far as this College is concerned. The human mind is hungry for something that is deeper in terms of moral and spiritual development and such development is possible only in an environment that can nourish the hopes and aspirations of the human being. It is precisely this environment that the Hindu Educational Society has sought to provide in this College.

"I notice however an undercurrent of sadness and frustration in your report" declared the

Chief Guest, Hon. Victor Tennakoon in his speech on Prize Day 09.07.77, referring to the Principal's report. In the face of this caution we should keep in our minds some eternal truths. The past shouts so loudly ever so often that we fail to hear the whispers of the future. Perhaps what John F. Kennedy once said "We live in a World we did not create. The pressures of life are not of our choice. Let us look beyond the difficulties to today to the hopes of tomorrow" will give renewed confidence to those in whose hands the future of this institution has been placed.

Would it be too much to hope that the school administration will help every student who enters its portals to carry with him/her the lofty ideals enshrined in the beautiful lines of Robert Frost:

*The Woods are lovely dark and deep  
But I have promises to keep  
And miles to go before I sleep  
And miles to go before I sleep*

I think not, because the future is in the hands of persons committed to the "sanctions of a trust higher than any the World can impose" according to the Principal himself.

D.D

—O— —O— —O—

## LAW FOR THE LAYMAN

by Lawman

- Kalawana Seat
- Judicial Sentence

**THE KALAWANA NOMINATION.** The Tribune congratulates Mr. Abeyratne Pilapitiya on his nomination to the Kalawana seat rendered vacant by Mr. Pilapitiya himself who owing to an unfortunate accident was unable

to attend the National State Assembly for three months. There is no doubt that Mr. Pilapitiya is a rare politician and a gentleman to his finger tips. An election petition was filed and due for inquiry. The election of Mr. Pilapitiya has been challenged on the ground that his agents have published certain false statements against Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama his rival candidate which affected the election.

Since the inquiry into this petition is still pending we do not propose to make any comments on the following questions: (1) whether under the circumstances Mr. Pilapitiya could have been nominated when the inquiry into the petition is pending? (2) Whether this election petition inquiry will proceed notwithstanding the recent nomination of Mr. Pilapitiya (3) Whether Mr. Pilapitiya should have been nominated on the basis that he has consented when he was too ill to attend the National State Assembly and was not at all inclined to ask for leave on grounds of health to stay away from the National State Assembly? (4) Whether it is fair by Mr. Pilapitiya to have nominated him when he was prepared to ask for leave to absent himself from the National State Assembly? (5) Whether the law permits what cannot be done directly to be done indirectly? (6) Could the said nomination have been made on the basis that the voters of Kalawana were not at all affected by such false statements as alleged, when they elected the UNP candidate. (7) Is it fair by Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama who complains that he lost the election because he was maligned to deny him an opportunity in Court to vindicate himself and the Communist Party to which he belongs? (8) Is it fair by Mr. Pilapitiya to deny him an opportunity to clear himself of the charges



made against his agents that they committed corrupt practices and that his election was due to corruption. (9) Whether it is fair by the electors of Kalawana in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to deny them an opportunity to freely elect their representative without their judgement being affected by corrupt practices if such practices were in fact committed. (10) Whether the United National Party is legally empowered to nominate a member before the court makes an order with regard to the election petition?

**The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964.**

**Notice Under Section 7.**

Reference No. 25/2/421.

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 22 (part III) of 02.02.1979.

**K. P. R. Gunatilake**  
Assistant Government Agent,  
Kegalle District.

The Kachcheri,  
Kegalle.  
18th January 1979

**Schedule**

**Situation:**

Situated in Hungampola village, Kanduhaha Pattu, Paranakuru Korale D.R.O.'s Division in Kegalle District.

**Plan No.:**

P. Plan No. 1502.

**Lot No.:**

12.

**Name of Land:**

Hathanawa watta  
Hathanawa watta

These are the interesting questions which will be decided by the learned Judges after hearing learned Counsel and we have no doubt that these questions will be answered without fear or favour by our independent judiciary.

**THE QUESTION OF SENTENCE.**

It has been said by more than one distinguished judge that it is more difficult to pass an appropriate sentence on an accused after conviction than to decide on the evidence whether he is guilty or not. In a recent case where an acid thrower was charged with voluntarily causing grievous hurt with a corrosive substance, the prosecuting Counsel accepted his plea of guilt to voluntarily causing grievous hurt and the court bound over the self-confessed acid thrower to be of good behaviour for a period of three years or more. This is certainly a case where the court after due deliberation tempered justice with mercy. We have gone a long way from the days when it was a case of an eye for an eye or tooth. It will be of great educational value to judges and jurists if they study the reasons the learned judge gave in this acid-throwing case to have passed the appropriate sentence. The legislators themselves will be enriched by these reasons, for did not the present Minister of Justice introduce new laws for harsh punishment for diabolical crime. We are told that in the case referred to the victim is partially blind in one eye and is totally disfigured. But it is in such cases that the quality of mercy is not strained. We can be proud that we are more civilised than our one time civilisers.

Lawman does not know whether this column should go as Law for the Lawman by Laymen or Law for the Laymen by Lawman.

—O— —O— —C—

**SPOTLIGHT**

by Canax

**In God's Good Hands**

A RECENT REPORT from New Delhi that a Hindu temple in Tamil Nadu was collecting an additional Rs. 300 000/- annually merely by registering motor vehicles with God, got me thinking about how simple it would be for the Government to raise that extra one-thousand million required for cyclone relief and rehabilitation. To me, it seems as easy as creating a vacancy in Parliament—and filling it, too.

My mind began to wander... I imagined I rang up the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and the conversation went something like this; yes, he too had read the news item and had sent up a detailed memorandum on the subject but had not yet had a reply.

The casual way he dropped it surprised me. "You mean you are really awaiting an answer from God?" I asked.

"Of course not," he snapped, "unless you consider the Minister a god." I had to admit I wasn't sure, not knowing whether Mohamed, our respected Minister of Transport, was indeed a god. There sure are some VIPs, and some not-so-VIPs, who imagine they are gods of sorts, but that, as they say, is another story.

The law as it now stands requires that every vehicle on the road must be registered only with the Department. Registering with God was, if anything, an optional extra which I hear the Registrar saying his Department hadn't got round to hawking as yet—with good reason. When motorists now paid their registration fees, they expected nothing in return



from the Government. But should they be asked to pay just a few rupees more for the privilege of registering with God as well, they would demand an assurance that they'd survive, or escape unscathed, in even the worst crashes.

"That's okay if only one party in the crash is registered with God and the other isn't," says the Registrar, and I can well see his point. If both parties were to hold similar registrations, it would put God in a bit of a spot, which is hardly a nice thing to do.

On the other hand, I tell myself, if both parties were registered with God, one must suppose that both will providentially, escape death. But, then, something's got to give; both vehicles may, instead, be damaged more than they normally would have been and have to be considered total write-offs beyond repair. If that happened long enough, I could also imagine the Insurance Corporation complaining of fast losing its economic viability, to use the jargon of the trade. The Corporation's complaint, in short, would be that it was no longer making money for jam.

I next imagined contacting Dr. Linus Silva, a pioneering expert on all forms of insurance. He was quick to point out the confusion caused by the improper use of words. If I can imagine what he said correctly, one registers, with God or the RMV, for purposes of record, whereas one insures because another party—the Corporation, for instance—is willing, rightly or wrongly, to take a wager, be it one's life span or on one's chances of not damaging a car or injuring oneself, or both, in an accident. Strictly speaking, then, what we were concerned with was one of insuring with God, not regis-

tering with him—in addition, of course, to the legally-required insurance cover with the Corporation.

My imagination then quite naturally put me through to the Archbishop's Palace in Borella and I asked to speak to the Vicar-General in charge of New Investment Opportunities. The operator must have heard me wrong, for I'll swear I imagined the voice of the person he connected me to was that of Father Joe de Mel who, as far as I knew, was Vicar-General of something else. Having explained why I called, I asked whether the Church was considering diversifying its activities in the light of the attractive tax incentives offered for all business ventures started after November '78. One promising possibility, I suggested, was the rather novel one of insuring motor vehicles with God, either on a monthly or quarterly basis.

The deeply resonant voice at the other end of my imaginary telephone conversation sounded a shade apologetic. The Church already had a patron saint of travellers and had a steady sale of St. Christopher medals, it said, the only proviso being that the blessing was not valid beyond 30 m.p.h. "I am sorry we aren't thinking of anything new because we're having our hands full saving souls. But now that you ask, I must say that more and more of the faithful insist on paying for having Masses offered every day for their own 'special intentions', whatever they may be. Business, in that sense, I regret to say, is really booming."

I suggested that insuring vehicles with God was what I would consider an absolutely fail-safe proposition.

"Insuring with God," said the voice soothingly, "would be like

trying to fool all the people all the time. The Church simply does not go along with that."

I think I was still imagining when the phone rang. I picked it up to find none other than the one-day-only Abraham Kovoor at the other end, goodness only knows from where. I told him what I had been thinking about. With a characteristic chuckle, he said, "Unfortunately, there's one born every minute."

—O— —O— —O—

# The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964.

## Notice Under Section 7

Ref. No. 3/62/510/J. 74E 505

It is intended to acquire the land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see-part III of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 22 of 02/02/1979.

## Schedule

### Name of Village Etc.:

Hunupola village in Mahagal  
boda Egoda Korale, Ibbagamuwa  
D.R.O.'s Division, Kurunegala  
District.

### Name of Land:

Kahatagahamulagala  
Kolagahamulagala  
Kadurugahamulagala

### Plan & Lot Nos.:

Lot No.s 543, 544 and 545 in  
Supplement No. 4 in F.V.P. 1314

T. P. Jayaratna  
District Land Officer  
Kurunegala District.

The Kachcheri,  
Kurunegala.

19, January 1979



# Confidentially

## UNIQUE not UNIC

IS IT NOT TRUE that the latest quip going the rounds in genuine UNP circles is that this Dharmista Government is still **UNIQUE**, NOT **UNIC**? That though a kind of disenchantment has gripped very large number of UNPers about the sins of commission and omission of this Government (the number unfortunately, keeps mounting everyday), perpetrated by several Ministers, they (UNPers, especially many backbencher MPs and party rank-and-filers) are hoping that the Government will remain **UNIQUE** until the next Elections? That though this juxtaposition of *Unique* and *Unic* may appear to some as a phonetic quibble and to others a portend of grave disaster, the fact is that the Dharmista Government of J. R. Jayewardene was and is still something *Unique*? That it is everybody's hope that it continues to be *Unique* in everyway? That according to responsible quarters the fears that this *Unique* government may get short-circuited into a *Unic* abortion are unfounded? That to knowledgeable circles the apprehensions that the *Unique* Jayewardene Government may get rail-roaded into the *Unic* maze of labyrinthian machiavellianism are totally groundless? That so far as the Opposition Parties are concerned they is nothing *Unique* in the Jayewardene (Dharmista) Government and they say that from the very start (from the word 'go') the Government was not *Unique* in any way and it was a misnomer to call it *Unique* at anytime? That it must be accepted that *Unique* and *Unic*

are not interchangeable terms in spite of gravitational pulls?

IS IT NOT A FACT that whether the government is *Unique* or *Unic*, the brain drain about which this column has been concerned about in the last two weeks has begun to gather yet further momentum? That the impact of the new brain drain which has already overwhelmed this country in a big way has given a new edge to the ongoing brain drain? That what is worse is that those brain workers who are unable to find jobs abroad automatically become frustrated elements in the machinery of administration? That each of them is worse than the proverbial spanner thrown into the works? That whilst this process of disintegration has eaten into the vitals of government administration, the Ministers and other top political officials live in total ignorance of what many of the officials whom they regard as their blue-eyed stooges feel? That these officials are anxious to seek new pastures abroad? That a top technocrat of correct political, racial, religious and caste vintage told *Tribune* that he lacked only one important qualification for promotion? That this qualification was based on blood, either direct or through marriage? That this technocrat said he had been overlooked and superseded by others who had only blood ties to boast of—others who were less qualified professionally (or not qualified at all) and whose political loyalties had stemmed only from the post July 1977 euphoria? That one has only to walk into a government or Corporation office to be given a list of new appointments and promotions with the correct blood or kinship ties with this or that mogul in the Government or the Establishment? That the Dharmista Establishment now consists of a number of senior and junior moghuls

who are building big and small moghulates and zamindaris? That kinship is the real binding force in each of these little empires? That each senior moghulate wants to be self-contained each with a banking system of its own? That even junior moghuls want to be self-sufficient units? That all these moghulates are divided amongst themselves but are united only against the aspirants to a new territorial moghulate called Eelam? That in this era of non-territorial moghulates, a territorial one is anathema to those who believe they are lords and masters of the air, sea and land in and around Sri Lanka? That whilst all the manipulations and manoeuvrings among the moghuls now on the thrones go on under the perceptive eye of the Great Moghul, experienced and trained servants of every category and skill are intent on leaving the island to seek employment elsewhere? That already our moghuls are slowly waking up to the reality that they do not have adequate brain or brawn to complete works essential for the economic development of the island? That soon they will realise that the situation is much worse than it may appear at the moment? That importing foreign doctors, engineers, accountants and paying them fabulous UN-level salaries—which our Sri Lanka moghuls will not pay Sri Lanka doctors, engineers, accountants and skilled and semi-skilled workers—have made matters worse? That the products of our new vocational schools—being trained to get our development schemes going—will seek jobs abroad no sooner they qualify?

—X— —X— —X—



## Soviet Periodicals

Subscription Rates

1979—1980—1981

### *Socialism: Theory And Practice*

Is a monthly digest of the political and theoretical press featuring the pressing problems of Marxist-Leninist theory, the practice of socialist and communist construction, the people's struggle for peace, democracy and socialism, and world-wide ideological struggle.

12 issues annually

1 year — Rs. 12.00

2 years — Rs. 20.00

3 years — Rs. 24.00

*In addition to the beautiful colour calendar each subscriber will receive, ONE lucky subscriber will be offered by the publishers a 2-week free tour of the USSR including air passage.*

**People's Publishing House Ltd.,**

124, Kumaran Ratnam Road,

Colombo 2.

Telephone: 36111.




# A Studio Times Publication **Handbook**

for the

## **Ceylon Farmer**

by Agricola



The book is authoritative in an unpretentious way. It involves  
you and does not intimidate.

—Sunday Observer 8/10/78

*Available at*

**STUDIO TIMES**

Times Building  
Colombo 1.

**Revised Edition**

**400 pages**

**Illustrated and updated**

**Price Rs. 65/-**