

TRIBUNE



27TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



TENDER NOTICE

PURCHASE OF LOCAL RICE

FOOD COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTMENT

Tenders are invited by the Government of Sri Lanka for the supply and delivery of Rice for acceptance at the Food Department Stores in Colombo, Kandy, Badulla, Galle, Jaffna and Kurunegala.

Tenders will be called weekly. Tenders should be on forms obtainable at the Office of the Food Commissioner at 330, Union Place, Colombo - 2. Tender Forms and Tender Conditions covering variety of Rice, Specifications etc. will be issued upto 4 p. m. every working day on payment of a refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 100/-

Tenders will close at 11 a.m. on the following days:-

14th October 1981

21st October 1981

28th October 1981

Any further information on this matter can be obtained from the Accountant, Bills and Tenders of the Food Department. His telephone number is 27267.

N. PULENDIRAN
FOOD COMMISSIONER,

**Food Commissioner's Department,
330, Union Place,
Colombo 2**

30th September, 1981.
wp./2. 24/9/81.

TRIBUNE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

FINANCE MINISTER RONNIE DE MEL addressing the annual general meeting of the IMF and the World Bank on Thursday, October 1, reacted very sharply to the Reagan *diktat* that Third World countries should put their houses in order through financial discipline because no amount of aid could help them. Reagan has put his feet down on any further expansion of IMF or IBRD lending. He has also indicated that the US would export capital to Third World countries in the form of investments as an alternative to aid. According to the *Ceylon Daily News* of October 2, 1981, Mr. de Mel had told the meeting: "When we are asked to put our houses in order it should be remembered that disorder was created by factors outside our shores". Mr. de Mel had stressed that the last two years had been grim for many non-oil producing, low income, third world countries primarily due to external factors beyond their control. Global inflation, recession, energy prices, interest rates, volatile exchange rates, declining official development assistance, adverse commodity prices and protectionism have bludgeoned us all", he said. Then he went on to explain that Sri Lanka was a typical example of a country that was afflicted in this way. In 1978 it had rawn up an investment programme to make the balance of payments viable, provide jobs for youth, land for farmers, homes for the homeless and for a rapid expansion of hydroelectric power. Measures, he said, were also adopted to meet the requirements and conditionalities of the IMF: on the monetary side, domestic savings were mobilised. On the fiscal side consumption and subsidies were cut back to release resources for investment, and on the exchange front a realistic rate was set through devaluation and controls dismantled to give appropriate incentives for production and export. The entire programme was endorsed ny the IMF, the World Bank and the Consortium of countries aiding Sri Lanka. This country had expected these agencies to provide aid, grants and credits for a period of at least five to ten years until the country was able to effect a breakthrough to a viable and prosperous economy. But then, said our Finance Minister, the guillotine dropped and an unprecedented cost escalation due to circumstances beyond Sri Lanka's control made the cost of the investment programme shoot up three and four fold: "The entire additional burden of these new cost increases have been cast on our slender external resources—a burden far too great for us to bear," the Minister said. Quite rightly, he argued that the IMF and the World Bank have responsibility—"indeed an obligation"—to device special programs for countries wracked by these problems. And for this both institutions should be able to count on the support of the developed countries. Mr. de Mel went on. "We do not ask for charity. We do not accept the myth that developing countries are either so imprudent or so incompetent that they must be fiercely watched over. We acknowledge that conditionality in Bank and Fund operations is inevitable. But conditionality that fails to understand and accommodate the political and social conditions of individual countries can only lead to diasaster". The Reagan administration is determined to impose its monetarist policies not only on its fellow-travelling allies but on the international leading institutions under the control of the US and nine other rich industrialised and developed countries. This turn-around in IMF and World Bank policies will play havoc with the economies of developing countries which had been cajoled into adopting IMF/IBRD formulae as panaceas to bring the millenium quickly. But the sad reality is that such IMF schemes have benefited very few countries—and the poor are getting poorer and the rich richer. Under the spell of Reaganomics, however the new policies of the IMF and IBRD, as our Finance Minister has predicted will bring disaster to developing countries.

Pettiakande at Attanagalla

THE TIME HAS COME for fresh thinking about priorities and even the style in development work in this country. *Tribune* has, for a long time, pleaded for a complete overhaul in some of the priorities adopted by the Government. This week we want to draw attention to one such priority—something that needs immediate attention, the need to secure the fullest use of our manpower resources. As a prelude to this editorial homily, we wish to cite an article in a recent issue of the *Economic & Political Weekly* of Bombay entitled HOW TO 'DESTABILISE' THE COUNTRYSIDE by Robert Wade. We have no information about the author or his antecedents, but what he says is of supreme importance and relevance to all Third World countries including Sri Lanka.

"The Government of Japan has recently given the Government of India an advanced-technology rice transplanting machine and rice combine-harvester. The machines are now in West Godavari district where they are to be adopted for use in India conditions by agricultural engineers and agronomists of the Andhra Pradesh Department of Agriculture. There is considerable excitement in official circles about the possibilities of these machines, because it is pointed out, cost of labour these days is becoming so high that rice farmers are finding the crop not economic. With these machines, labour costs can be reduced considerably, to the benefit of the farmer. It is true that cash and kind costs of rice production have been increasing faster than gross receipts. It is also true that there is no intrinsic merit in having such strenuous and boring work as transplanting and harvesting done manually rather than by machine; on the contrary. The problem of course is what is to happen to the large numbers of landless labourers, women and men, who at present survive—not much more—because of the high demand for labor for rice cultivation at current levels of technology. If the new machines spread, will the labour extruded on a huge scale be absorbed in the factories set up to manufacture the machines? Or will the former labourers have to beg? Will they act concertedly to oppose the machines, and in jacquerie or in agricultural unions? There are many arguments against collective farming, but this case of the rice transplanter and combine-harvesters illustrates dramatically one of the strongest arguments in favour: the people who are replaced by the machines do not lose their income; they share in the benefits brought by the machines. Current California rice technology produces two to

three times the yield per acre of irrigated rice in India with a labour time of just seven hours per acre. Imagine what a good life would be possible for the labourers of the paddy areas with this technology—as long as they remained entitled to a share in the extra production.

"In a context of private property and wage labour, this kind of mechanisation of paddy must be one of the most foolish steps the government of a labour-surplus country could take. It is only since the late 1960s that the Japanese government has started introducing such machines on a big scale in Japan. It is only at the 1970s, with an acute shortage of labour in rural areas, the South Korean government has started doing the same. I have often tried to persuade agricultural officials in the districts that labour is not only a cost to be kept as low as possible, but also a source of demand for products if it has the income with which to buy them. I have also repeatedly observed that 'labour' has no alternative ways to earn a living if displaced from the land. Many of these officials are by now used to the idea that 'small farmer' are deserving of their special attention. But they make a fundamental distinction between 'small farmers' and 'labourers'. The latter still come to their perception only as a cost of production, and a potential source of trouble to be put down by the forces of law and order. They can be expected wholeheartedly to promote any steps the government might take to lower the cost of labour to producers, oblivious of other consequences."

"Of course, in one view of the capitalist process this extrusion of labour is the necessary condition for progressive capital accumulation. But the essence of underdeveloped is a special condition which makes it very unlikely that the market mechanism will lead to anything like full employment (special in the sense of additional to the familiar cyclical crises of advanced capitalism)—a special condition reflecting a backward technological capacity whose consequences is that competitive pressures are met by bearing down on the cost of labour. If so, the extrusion of labour will lead to a capital accumulation whose benefits are still more concentrated in the hands of those who are accumulating, rather than widely dispersed, and those who are extruded will either have to beg, or destroy the machines, or (just possible) achieve mass organisation to force a nationally-focussed process of accumulation which holds the dictates of the market in check—

as has been the strategy not just of many socialist countries but also of such apparently unsocialist countries as Japan and South Korea. (I have developed these arguments in a forthcoming book on state control in South Korea). In the World Bank recently an economist shook his head in disbelief and dismay at the news that the Bank had

just decided to make a massive loan to Egypt for agricultural mechanisation (including big tractors). This economist had fought the proposal tooth and nail, and had lost. 'If I were the KGB and wanted to destabilise Egypt', he said, 'this would be the first thing I'd do.' The exploitation of agricultural labourers in India and the nullity of their lives are horrendous. Whether a 'destabilisation' brought about by labour-displacing technology in the rice areas would be likely to have a progressive outcome, in terms of the material living conditions of the mass of the people in the countryside and of their children—that is the searing question."

THE MAIN THRUST of this article is clear: that developing countries should be wary about rushing into rapid mechanisation of agriculture. *Tribune*, as readers will recall, has been always deeply concerned with the over-mechanisation in rural farming in this country and we have often pointed out the dangers of the dependence on imports of machines, fertilisers, weedicides, pesticides and other inputs to promote agricultural production. Many have argued that in the modern age of mechanisation it would be foolish to depend on human labour even in a country which had a surplus of unemployed and under-employed humans. We have also been told that it was not possible to engage in "modern" agriculture with human labour as the main operative factor: that machines were as essential as chemical fertilisers, pesticides and weedicides. Some pundits with a touch of far-away superiority have lectured to us that whilst it may be possible to work small farms of five or ten acres with human labour alone, it would be suicidal to attempt to farm larger acreages with human labour without an adequate supply of machines. When we advanced arguments to show that even large acreages could be cultivated in this country with human labour, we were told that our arguments were "theoretical" and that it could not be done in practice.

But a fortnight ago, we saw 500 acres brought under cultivation and sustained in production with human labour (of about 150 people) alone. There were no tractors. No weedicides were used. We saw this miracle at Pettikande Estate at Attanagala. This estate of 500 acres from the once immense land holdings of the Obeysekeras had come under the Land Reform Commission in 1972/73. Villagers in the neighbourhood told us that even at the time of the takeover, it was a neglected piece of coconut land. And by 1977/78, the coconut was almost obliterated and the entire property was overgrown with secondary shrub jungle. For two years after that the jungle continued to spread. The LRC derived no benefits—even the coconuts were not plucked. Probably some villages helped them-

selves to the nuts whenever they felt like it. But in June 1980 the LRC decided to do something with the property. There might have been a political motive—namely to do some "development" work in the Attanagala electorate held by the Bandaranaike ever since adult franchise and the parliamentary system of government were introduced. We have seen such politically motivated "development" efforts in other electorates in different parts of the island right from the days of the Independence in 1948, and most, if not all of them had used expensive imported machinery, fertilisers, weedicides, and had even imported experts. And the sad fact is that most of these money-consuming adventures proved to be costly failures and some of them became the grave-yards of misused machines. Even those which were able to get off the ground did not yield dividends commensurate with the capital investment or the energy and time expended. They suffered the fate of most political gimmicks or gundus in this country. But Pettikande was different.

WHEN DICKIE WANASINGHE, Executive Director of the Estate Management Service of the LRC invited *Tribune* to visit Pettikande to see what human labour could achieve, we were sceptical. But, nevertheless, we went to the estate and had the biggest surprise of our lives. In one year and two months, five hundred acres had been cleared of small jungle, and the coconut trees rescued from the overgrowth of shrub jungle. Fertiliser was used but it will be sometime before the beneficial results are seen. But already, 20,000 nuts are being plucked every month. This is not all. 500 of the 600 acres have been inter-planted—in between the coconut trees—with pineapples, passion fruits, mulberry for sericulture, ginger, manioc, vegetables of every variety and fruits like citrus, mango and papaw. What is even more remarkable was that the entire area is free of weeds. Workers in groups were weeding with machetes. No weedicides were used—they are so expensive as to make them uneconomic (more expensive than labour). Weedicides pollute the environment and in the long run do more harm than good. Pettikande is not good terrain. It is a hill slope with undulating stretches of land interspersed with outcrops of granite rocks. In one year and two months roads had been cut, houses put up and also sheds for goats, poultry and cattle. All these buildings were with locally available material—coconut rafters, jungle timber, cadjans, locally made bricks—with a minimum of cement. It was not a question of creating a masonry eye-sore of mortar, cement and tiles in this rural countryside. Small herds of cattle and goats had been introduced. Egg production had been started on a small scale.

ALL THIS HAD COST, so far, about Rs. 2,000 per acre, that is a million rupee. And judging by the

produce on the ground which will be harvested soon, the income for the first 18 months of the exercise will be substantial. At this rate the capital investment will be covered with two or three harvests. Even if it takes five years, it will be worth it—far more than anything else, 150 people have been remuneratively employed. And all the work had been done without tractors and costly mechanical aids. There were no foreign experts.

Questioning revealed that it was leadership that had wrought the miracle. It was the enthusiastic participation of the workers that had done the trick. On the spot at the estate was one of the most remarkable of farm managers, Christopher Fernando. He was not a product of a University or any Faculty of Agriculture. He was a man who simply had an intense desire to get things done—efficiently and without cheating (time, money, energy). But even greater credit must go to Dickie Wanasinghe for picking a man like Christopher Fernando to run the farm and thereafter making it possible for him to get things done. Our investigative instincts were roused and we soon discovered that the reticent Dickie Wanasinghe was the planner and inspire whilst Christopher Fernando was the executive arm. Both of them had succeeded in getting about 150 people to work without watching the clock—each worked until the assigned job was completed everyday.

There is no doubt that a few dozen people like Dickie Wanasinghe and Christopher Fernando will change the entire agricultural scene in this country. We have so far not seen 500 acres of land already planted in coconut, put to better use. And the expenditure of Rs. 2,000 an acre for the work done is one of the smallest we have come across in this country. And the produce on the ground—pineapples, passion, vegetable ginger etc., is breathtaking.

Wanasinghe's LRC Estate Service Management runs a retail shop in Gregory's Avenue in Colombo to sell some of the produce from all the estates run by this Agency. The tea, rubber and coconuts are sold to the trade in bulk to the trade and the produce of inter-planted crops and the eggs and meat are sold in the local markets. This provides consumers with some basic essentials at fair prices. And where surplus produce from the estates cannot be profitably sold in the local polas, they are brought into Colombo.

After seeing what has been done at Pettiakande we are tempted to visit some of LRC estates managed by the Estate Management Service headed by Wanasinghe. There is no reason why the example set in pettiakande cannot be followed by villagers in the area.

And the moral of all this is that even large acreages can be worked with human labour as they were in the past. In labour-surplus countries like Sri Lanka there is no need to become slaves of expensive tractors or weedicides. It is simply a question of mobilising available manpower giving them the necessary incentives and motivation to work with dedication and providing the leadership to achieve realistic targets. *The picture on the cover is only to remind ourselves that traditionally our farming community has done by hand what what many now want to do with machines and weedicides.*



POINT OF VIEW

Vegetable Farmer's Plight

By G. U. K. Seneviratne

Like a prayer, every year, the plight of the vegetable farmer is spotlighted by the press and the government in power spells out plans to alleviate the hardships endured by the farmers and to relieve them from the clutches of the sharks. However, except for tall talk and grand plans nothing constructive has been done to solve the problems of the vegetable farmers. The former too has displayed very little interest in seeking ways and means of obtaining a fair price for his produce. He has depended on the State's Marketing Department and ultimately fallen a victim to the rapacious Mudalali. The State has also not looked beyond the Marketing Department to provide relief to both the farmer and the consumer, in spite of the experience that this Department is a hotbed of corruption. Undoubtedly the farmer and the State are equally to be blamed for the sad plight of the farmer and the high cost of produce to the consumer.

A similar situation with regard to farm produce, existed in the Netherlands in the latter half of the 19th century. The Dutch Government, whilst preferring free trade to protection did not set up a State Department to purchase produce but systematically extended technical education and training and also provided a great deal of advice and information on Agriculture. Farmers were not spoonfed but were called upon to use their own initiative. The result was that the farmers realised that they had to safeguard their interests by acting collectively and one of the most important actions taken by the farmers was the establishment of Agricultural Co-operatives. Today the Co-operative Movement in the Netherlands is extremely strong and widespread. It is very efficient and has proved that the Co-operative Movement, which sets itself the objective

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of strengthening the position of economically weaker groups in society, can make a real contribution to the progress of the National community. The origin and growth of the Co-operative movement in the Netherlands have been of a spontaneous character, the Government having exercised practically no influence on the movement's development. It has been realised that Government assistance is inconceivable without Government influence and the members of the Co-operative movement in the Netherlands chose to remain free of Government influence and political meddling. The Government has however set guidelines to be observed by Co-operative societies, by enacting a Co-operative Societies Act which has been revised from time to time.

Closer home, we have the success of the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union in India. The Union started in 1946 with just two village Milk Producers Societies. From that humble beginning, with the untiring efforts of a band of devoted, knowledgeable and enthusiastic workers, free of political and Government meddling, it has developed into the largest institution of its kind in India if not in the East. This Union played a vital role in the development of the Dairy Industry, not only in the district but also in other parts of India. It also funds Research, Education and village development in India. The success of the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union attributed to the absence of political meddling and the dedication of the members of the numerous village societies which go to form the Union.

It is inconceivable that the latest scheme of the enthusiastic Minister of Trade to operate Marketing Department units on an advance Account basis, will be a success. To expect the Government Marketing Department to rescue the farmer from the clutches of the middleman and obtain a fair price for their labour will be absolutely futile, nay absurd. The Minister should scrap the Marketing Department and follow the example of the Netherlands Government of the mid nineteenth century. The Co-operative movement should be foisted as a means of strengthening the position of the economically weaker groups in society and not as one which is utilised by politicians and employees to further their interests. The State's participation should be limited to the control of the Societies through a Co-operative Societies Act which provides for the proper functioning of Co-operative Societies mainly with regard to membership, Election of Boards of Directors, Annual Reports and Statements of Accounts, auditing, employment of staff and conditions of service etc. The highest Authority with the Co-operative Society should be the General membership which will elect a Board of Directors to be responsible to the general

body for the management of the Society. In Sri Lanka, except for some of the Producer Co-operative Societies, the consumer societies do not subscribe to the ideals of the Co-operative movement. Our consumer Co-operative societies are by the very nature of their setup, ideal grounds for corruption and political meddling. The entire network of Co-operative Societies should be reorganised for greater and direct participation in the operation of these Societies by the consumers, the economically weaker groups in particular. The efficient and effective operation of the Consumer Cooperative Societies will provide an assured outlet for the produce from the Producer Societies thereby eliminating the middleman, reducing overheads and providing a fair price to both the producer and the consumer. In this era of escalating prices, high cost of living and the exploitation of the masses by a handful of the favoured groups, the best way in which the State could stem this exploitation and ease the sufferings of the majority is by strengthening the position of the economically weaker groups in society by fostering the Co-operative Movement without adjusting the ideals of the Movement to accomodate unscrupulous politicians and employees.



BELIZE

Guatemala's Objections

Belmopan, Belize, September 21: Belizeans paraded through the streets here Sunday night and cheered as the British flag was lowered and the flag of Independent Belize was raised at midnight. The Prime Minister of the newly independent Central American nation, George Price, told his people that the major problem facing them was "the possibility of aggression by Guatemala. The Guatemalan government has said it "will use all available peaceful means to recover" the territory of Belize, which it has claimed for a century and a half. An estimated 5,000 Guatemalan troops are deployed along the border. Some 1,600 British troops, supported by tanks and five Harrier vertical takeoff and landing jets, will remain in Belize even after the British withdrawal.

Price's left-of-centre United People's Party (UNP) led the country to independence, and he will remain at the helm of affairs. The Head of State will be a High Commissioner of the Crown, Mimita Gordon, a Belizean sociologist educated in Canada. Price plans to seek Belize's admission

to the United Nations immediately. The move is supported by Mexico and the Non-aligned Movement. Price said his government would take steps to improve the country's economy, with emphasis on the agricultural sector. He envisioned a mixed economy in which the State would be responsible for infrastructure and private enterprise would be responsible for business investment. The opposition has expressed concern about the Guatemalan threat. The former leader of the United Democratic Party, Dean Lindo, said yesterday that British troops and weapons would hold off the Guatemalans now. He asked "When they leave, who's going to defend us?"

In Guatemala, the ultra-rightist National Liberation Movement (MLN) yesterday organised a demonstration against Belizean independence. The demonstrators, led by MLN Chief Mario Sandoval Alarcon, burnt a portrait of Queen Elizabeth and the British flag. The Guatemalan government, in a statement, criticised Britain for "unilaterally" granting independence to Belize. In the opinion of Guatemalas' leaders, Britain's position is one of "hypocritical appearance of respect for the right of self-determination" in the face of its "neocolonialist presence on the American continent".—/PS/Lankapuvath.



GREAT BRITAIN

The New Nationality Law

By R. Sivaganeshan

The new Nationality Bill of the Tory Government is regarded as one which would not only cause bureaucratic complications but also perpetuate a system of first and second class citizenship in Britain. The black community and civil rights groups are unanimous in their opposition to the Bill. The Bill creates at least three citizenship categories and enshrines the racism of the 1971 Immigration Act in the Nationality Law. It threatens the civic rights of Commonwealth citizens living in the UK and reduces them as citizens without civic rights such as voting, working in the Civil Service, joining the armed service which rights are presently held by Commonwealth citizens in the UK. Commonwealth citizens settled here before 1973 will lose their right to register as British citizens unless they register within two years and will now have to seek naturalisation. The requirements for naturalisation carries among others an English language and "good character" qualification and further subject to the Home Secretaries discretion. Section 41 of the Bill says that the Home Secretary does not have to give any reason

for approving or refusing an application, and the decisions "shall not be subject to appeal, or review in any court". Dependent Asian women mainly of Indian and Pakistani origin and who at present have an automatic right to register as British citizens stand to lose that right particularly if they do not have good English and fail the language test.

The three categories of citizens under proposal basically are: (a) *British Citizenship*: automatically acquired by patrials (i.e. if you, your father or grandfather were born in the UK) such persons will have the right of abode in the UK and freedom from Immigration Control; (b) *Citizenship of the British Dependent Territories*: to be given to UK Passport holders born, registered or naturalised in a British Dependency e.g., Hong Kong. This category will not have any right of entry automatically; (c) *British Overseas Citizenship*: for UK Passport holders in East Africa, India, Malaysia, East Africa. This category will have no right of entry to UK or anywhere else in the world. Two other non-citizenship groups will exist i.e., British subjects without citizenship of any Commonwealth country and the British protected persons. The holders of the new British Overseas Citizenship will be effectively stateless since they will have no right to live in any country in the world. The Indian government had voiced concern over the Bill and it is understood that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had raised the matter when Mrs. Thatcher visited India in April. Some opposition members in India appear to have demanded that India withdraw from the Commonwealth and it is expected that India might consider bringing up the issue at the next Commonwealth summit conference in Melbourne. Mr. Bupesh Gupta of the Communist Party (CPI) had criticised the government for what he called its soft attitude and demanded firm handling of the issue, and Mr. Harikishen Sing Surjit of the Communist Party (Marxist-CIM) said that the British Government was trying to institutionalise racial discrimination through the Bill.



FROM MELBOURNE

On the eve of CHOGM

By Beverley Roberts

Melbourne, September 26: CHOGM—an abbreviation for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting—sounds like a puff of steam from a faulty steam-engine. Wherever I go in Melbourne, the fan-fare of its arrival assails me from all directions. Newspaper headlines scream CHOGM. So does

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the radio. And bless my soul, even the T.V ! Our spring-clad, Garden City is at fever-pitch and under a tight security net, as hurried, final preparations are made to host the Heads of State and top-ranking ministerial representatives of 41 Commonwealth countries to a glittering conference which has cost the Australian Government nearly 20 million dollars. CHOGM will begin next Wednesday (September, 30) at the plushly refurbished Royal Exhibition Building; and for eight days, Melbourne will receive the attention of the world. The vanguard to the conference is already here in full-force. Beefy, tight-lipped security men who see bombs in stones, guns in umbrellas and terrorists in everybody; foreign journalists with expectant countenance and waving security-cleared passes; political commentators, broadcasters and T. V. crews. They have descended upon us like a swarm of locusts. Security dress-rehearsals are in progress. Streets are being blocked off, and premises which I could normally enter at will are now inaccessible without a security-cleared pass.

Even the first delegates to CHOGM are beginning to trickle in. President Kaunda of Zambia arrived yesterday. And tomorrow (Sunday, 27), Prime Minister Premadasa of Sri Lanka and his entourage will arrive to a welcome of spring flowers in full-bloom and possibly, crisp weather. Where is President Jayewardene? Speculation is high at his non-attendance at CHOGM. Is he keeping away because of threatened demonstrations against him by the Campaign Against Repression in the Pacific and Asia (CARPA) and the Australian Spartacist League, who have both taken up the Tamil cause? Judging by the rumours floating around, the President's non-attendance at the conference is not inhibiting the demonstrators. It is believed that they will demonstrate against the Sri Lanka delegation at a reception the expatriates are holding for Mr. Premadasa on the 6th of October.

CHOGM is not without its share of anticipated problems. Besides the possible demonstration against the Sri Lankan Government, there are threats of protest by pressure groups. Irish republicans may demonstrate against the Queen and Mrs. Thatcher; a group of Maoris against the New Zealand Prime Minister over the recent South African rugby tour of that country; and the racist National Front against Asian immigration to Australia. Furthermore, the Malaysian Prime Minister's refusal to personally attend CHOGM because of deteriorating relations between Malaysia and Australia; his allegation that the developed nations of the Commonwealth are discriminating against the Third World; and his view that CHOGM is "unnecessary", is causing embarrassment. The possibility of Mr. Muldoon being snubbed by the African delegates is also of concern. Despite the possible irritations,

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CHOGM organisers are determined that delegates to the conference are capsuled in super luxury. They will be housed in elegance at the Wentworth International Hotel and the Melbourne Hilton, confer in luxury and be entertained splendidly. What will CHOGM achieve? Independence for Namibia? Some progress in the North-South Dialogue? A tightening-up of the Gleneagles Agreement on sporting ties with South Africa? Normality in relation between New Zealand and African nations? Who knows? Only the days ahead can tell.



SOVIET VIEW

Haig's Slanderous Statement

New York, September 13: As the Associated Press news agency reports, US Secretary of State Alexander Haig, on a brief visit in West Berlin, has come forward with a monstrous, slanderous statement that the Soviet Union and its allies 'presumably, used chemical weapons' in South-East Asia and Afghanistan. In so doing, according to news agencies, he referred to some 'evidence' of alleged presence in South-East Asia of poisonous substances which are not indigenous to the region. Unfounded and false assertions by the US Secretary of State have given rise to bewilderment even among US journalists. The UPI news agency, for example, described them as 'the most startling passage' in Haig's speech. Really, in the entire history of international relations no state used chemical weapons as widely as the United States. From 1961 to 1969 US armed forces in South Vietnam alone 'treated' with toxic agents 13,000 square kilometres or 44 per cent of all tracts of forest. Two million people, of whom 3,500 died, fell victim to the most barbarous weapons used by the US military. This applies not only to the past. Grenades with a chemical filling, which bear the marking 'Made in the USA' are being supplied to anti-Afghan bands which use them against civilian population. US-made chemical air bombs are used against the patriots and civilian population by the Washington-supported Salvadorean junta.

At the same time in the United States further work is continued to improve and stockpile this inhuman means of warfare. Today about 300,000 tons of poisonous substances of lethal action are kept at depots. In all, these include almost three million artillery shells, several thousand air bombs, hundreds of thousands of mines, gallons of BX gas each. The construction of new chemical plant is in full swing at Pine-Bluff, Arkansas,

to produce the most dangerous, so-called binary chemical weapons in the shape of artillery ammunition, air bombs, clusters and chemical war-heads for missiles of various class and purpose. It is not fortuitous that the *Washington Post* emphasized in this connection that the US administrations' permission to build a new chemical plant and bring it into operation makes the unleashing of a chemical war still more probable than ever.

The Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community, aware of the entire danger of such a war and of responsibility to mankind for its ruinous consequences, wage a tireless struggle for the prohibition of chemical weapons and destruction of all its stockpiles. The USSR was one of the first to sign the Geneva Protocol of 1925 'On Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous and Other Such Gases and Bacteriological Means', while the USA acceded to the protocol fifty years later, and with reservations.—APN



Govt.



Notices

Ref No. LD/F.500

The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964 - Notice under Section (7) 1.

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. 162 (part III) of 02.10.1981

SCHEDULE

Situation Atalahangahagoda Village with in the Urban Council Limits of Wattegama Ward No, 7 Maha Veediya in Pata Dumbura D. R. O's Division, Kandy District

Name of Land :- Mahakumburegoda

Plan No. & Lot No :- P. P. No. Maha 1992 1 & 2

The Kachcheri,
Kandy
14. 9. 1981.

K. B. Wijekoon
Assistant Governmen
Kandy District.

Notice under Section 7 of The Land Acquisition Act, (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964

Ref No. ATH 19/1

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. 162 (part III) of 08.10.1981

SCHEDULE

D.R.O'S Divison :- Kaduwela
Village :- Kotalawala, Kadudwela and Pahala Bomiriya
Name of Land Korakaduowita alias Kebe Ilagahawita, Wanameda owita' alias Wanameda owita, Wanamedaowita Wan Ela Nebodgahaowita Korakaduowita, alias Kebellagaha owta.
Plan and Lot No :- Lot Nos 01-12 P. P. Co 5595

The Kachcheri,
Colombo 1 8 1981
H. C. Gunawardena
District Land Officer and Acquiring Officer, Colombo District

The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964 - Notice under Section 7.

Ref No. 3/62/581
J.76 E.729

It is Intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 162 (Port III) of 08.10.1981

SCHEDULE

Name of Land :- Pollatthapitiya Watta alias Sewakka Wewa - Asst. No. 93/2, 93/7, 93/8, 93/9, Dambulla Road

Name of Village :- Bamunugedara village (port) and within Ward No. 10 - Pollatthapitiya of the Kurunegala Munjcipal Council Limits Kurunegala D. R. O's Division Kurunegala District.

Plan and Lot No :- Lot Nos 1 in P. P. KU/997

The Kachcheri,
Kurunegala,
16th Sept, 1981.

A. George
District Land Officer
Kurunegala District.

TRIBUNE, October 10, 1981

Sept. 20 - 26

**DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE
WORLD COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS-
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO**

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: The Government has put the country's criminal justice system under the microscope in a bid to make the wheels of justice move faster; authoritative official sources said yesterday the Minister of Justice was making a study of the entire courts structure in a bid to minimise delays and cut through the vast backlog of pending cases now clogging up the courts system. President J. R. Jaywardene yesterday expressed the hope that the Minister of Finance would be able to in his next budget provide some sort of relief to the middle rung earners in the public service. The rains have come uprooting families from their homes and ravaging crops in the countryside, widespread rains lashing the hills have brought floods in their wake rendering several roads impassable; police headquarters said yesterday that the Avissawella-Karawanella road was impassable at Talduwa as the road was six feet under water—SO. Referring to Friday's increases in the price of bread and flour and the reduction of the price of sugar, the President addressing the Planter's said that henceforth goods would be made available on a no-profit no-loss basis because the country could not afford the burden of a subsidy any longer. Ministries, with the exception of Health and Education have had their estimated expenditure for next year cut drastically—some by as much as 30 per cent; in March this year, Government spending was reduced by around 10 per cent—ST. Talks between the Governments of Sri Lanka and India will get under way shortly to achieve what is discussed as a "smooth implementation of the Indo-Lanka agreement. Sixty per cent of Sri Lanka's companies have not planned their investments even for the current year, a Central Bank survey has revealed; the survey on planned investment was conducted on 947 private sector companies to estimate investment planning from 1980 to 1984. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday reiterated that he would take stern action to deal with those involved in the recent wave of unrest;

addressing the forty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Ceylon Planters Society in Colombo, the President said that he was "ashamed that these incidents took place in my country, under my Government".—WK. Sri Lankans leaving their employment to get employment abroad will be given back their jobs when they come back; Capt. C. P. J. Seneviratne Minister of labour is taking steps to bring this suggestion in order—LD.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: Law Officers of the Attorney-General's Department have been caught up in a controversy of whether they should continue to exercise their right of private practice administratively granted some months ago: doubts have arisen on whether State Attorneys should accept private briefs following last week's Grand Central judgement where a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court held that the Attorney-General may not appear for any party in his private capacity while holding office as the chief law officer of the Government. Tourists from six Middle East countries and Spain will not need a visa to enter Sri Lanka and stay here up to one month; they have been exempted from the requirement of possessing a visa provided they are bona fide tourists and citizens of these countries. Prime Minister R. Premadasa announced in Puttalam on Saturday that 700,000 colonists both peasants and middle-class people would become land owners immediately—CDN. India is making heavy inroads into the international tea market causing alarm among traditional tea suppliers, including Sri Lanka—CDM. A joint Air Force and Police operation is now underway to track down members of a "dacoit" type gang which had been terrorising a number of villages in the South over the past months; Air Forces units operating in the Wirawila area are now on the track of the gang members many of whom are hard-core criminals wanted for murder rape and high way robbery among numerous charges for which they have warrants against them. A mysterious killer disease has struck several elephant herds in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa killing nearly twenty of these majestic beasts over the last few months—SU. Mr. Mahinda Fonseka General Secretary of the University of Sri Lanka has said that from now on every student entering Varsity must have a knowledge of English; so every student before following lectures will have to undergo a training in English—DV. Preference will be given to Tamil-speaking persons in recruitment of persons to the Police Force; the Police Recruiting Office has been given instructions to recruit more Tamil and Muslim youths for the service—DP. After an intense search the Army unit camped in the North have traced the car that was used in the murder of prisoners at Vallavell recently; the driver who is a resident of Mathaga has also been arrested—VK.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is seeking Government approval to

strike a deal with a giant US-based company to build an international oil terminal at Trincomalee; the deal, which has been in the pipeline for several months, involving reconditioning the old British-built tank farm at Trincomalee and China Bay, and building the necessary jetty and mooring facilities a modern oil terminal of the type envisaged will need. Mr. S. Thondaman, Minister of Rural Industrial Development and leader of the Ceylon Workers' Congress who is back from India said yesterday that the August events here had badly damaged Sri Lanka's image in India—CDN. The Maithripala Senanayake Group according to political observers, has gained excessive power in the list of officers elected to electoral organisations from village-level branches under the new constitution of the SIFP. An estimated 40,000 unqualified practitioners of western medicine throughout the island are expected to seriously undermine the Government's proposed National Health Insurance Scheme.—CDM. Trincomalee has come under surveillance as a major transshipment point for the movement of narcotics; Intelligence reports indicate that big time pushers from Colombo are now found to be operating in Trincomalee. Members of the export division of the Confederation of Western Australian Industry are interested in finding markets for several Australian products as well as undertaking some investment S. R. Bardon said yesterday. Sri Lanka and India will work out new logistics to expedite the repatriation of stateless people and others, Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman said yesterday—SU. Due to heavy rains more than 12,000 rupees worth of chillie cultivation has been damaged in the Anuradhapura and Kalawewa areas; as a result farmers in the area have undergone heavy losses—LD. When the Minister of Rural Industrial Development Mr. S. Thondaman met newspaper men yesterday at his ministry on his return to the country after a three week private visit to India he said that if satisfactory settlement is arrived at the discussions between the Government and the Tamil United Liberation Front, the Front will not waste its time claiming separation of the country—VK.

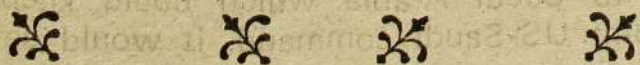
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: Thailand was getting rich selling heat treated Sri Lanka geudias turned into blue sapphires, State Gem Corporation Chairman T. G. Puchi Apphumy said yesterday; the Gem Corporation boss noted that Sri Lanka gem exports to Japan had declined 25 per cent in two years while Thai exports there had grown 150 percent. Mr. Vimal Wickremasuriya Additional District Judge of Colombo, yesterday dismissed the interim injunction application by Mr. Mathripala Senanayake, Deputy Leader of the SLFP, challenging his suspension from the party by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike. The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa leaves for Melbourne, Australia on September 26 leading the

Sri Lankan delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of State Conference. University dons and administrative personnel will get pay rises ranging from 250 to Rs. 500 with retrospective effect from July 1, this year—CDN. A storm-warning radar system will soon be set up in Colombo; this is gifted by the World Meteorological Organisation to the Sri Lanka Government following the 1978 cyclone which hit the Eastern Province—CDN. A reduction of import duty on passenger vehicles and an increase in duties on several items including sugar, electric kettles, soaps, paints and tiles was introduced on Monday; these new tariffs which were drawn up by the Presidential Tariff Commission specify that the import duty on passenger vehicles of more than 15 seats have been reduced from 25 per cent to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; this is to encourage the private transport service to import larger buses; it was found that there was a decline in the imports of large vehicles for passenger transport; the import duty on sugar according to the new rates has been increased from two rupees to four rupees on every kilogram—SU. Torrential rain falling in hydrel country from the swollen clouds of the South West monsoon has filled the Castlereagh and Mousakelle reservoirs to ninety percent of their capacity in the last ten days; since September 12 average rainfall at Castlereagh has been 44.5 mm. and at Mousakelle, 38.7 mm says the Department of Meteorology—CO.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1981: Japanese firms will enter the Colombo tea actions in a big way from October and import, packet and distribute Sri Lanka teas in their home market. President J. R. Jayewardene will open the North Colombo Medical College at Ragama at 4.30 p.m. tomorrow; this is the first private medical college to be set up in Sri Lanka by the College of General Practitioners. On a recommendation by Prime Minister R. Premadasa as Minister for Local Government, Housing and Construction, Cabinet decided to make an outright once-and-for-all contribution of 20,000 US dollars to the United National Commission for Human Settlements and to make provision in the 1982 budget to also increase the annual contribution of 3,000 dollars to 4,000 dollars. Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel was yesterday authorised by Cabinet to sign an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany for a loan of 4,000 Deutsche Marks (approximately Rs. 300 million) for the Randenigala Dam project—CDM. The Cabinet yesterday decided to allow voting rights to Sri Lankans resident abroad, who are registered and certified as permanent residents and citizens of Sri Lanka—CDM. With a view to renewing the Sirima-Shastri Pact entered into in 1964 between Sri Lanka and India it has been proposed to sign a new Pact; official discussions are taking place between the two governments in this connection—VK.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: Prime Minister R. Premadasa yesterday caught MPs by surprise when he tabled a special report of the Select Committee appointed earlier this year to investigate the responsibility of ministers for the 5-year Emergency during the tenure of the previous administration; "in view of the seriousness of certain matters stated by Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, we've decided to present this special report", the Prime Minister said. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake Deputy Leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party yesterday filed papers in the Court of Appeal seeking a revision of the District Court of Colombo dismissing his application for an interim injunction against his suspension from the party by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike. The Labour Department has required all employment agencies recruiting staff for West Asian jobs to ensure that any housemaid they send abroad should be paid a minimum of US dollars 250 per month—**CDN**. All persons who made official complaints in regard to the losses they suffered during the Jaffna incidents in April this year will qualify for compensation from the government; a three-member official committee headed by Trincomalee Government Agent Lionel Fernando and including former DIG Sydney Zoysa and Chartered Valuer Manickam Nagarajah has been appointed in this connection—**SU**.—While speaking in Parliament yesterday, Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa said that it was not possible to withdraw the Emergency immediately and that it may have to be further extended because of certain information reaching the Government—**VK**. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene will visit Ratnapura once again on the 27th of this month to see if the Tamils who were affected by the recent violence have received their compensations or not; Mr. Gamini Dissanayake Minister of Land and Land Development will accompany the President.—**DV**.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday said that the time had now come to review some of the costly aspects of free education while maintaining it at the primary levels where the media of instruction should be Sinhala and Tamil—**CDN**. Government will shortly introduce legislation to provide for the supervision and control over television programmes produced by foreigners for screening abroad; this comes in the wake of a series of TV productions projecting a false or distorted image of Sri Lanka. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday invited the private sector to invest in schemes such as the North Colombo Medical College in a bid to meet the demand for higher education in the country—**SU**.



TRIBUNE, October 10, 1981

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

September 20 - 26

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA: Reports from Sydney (Australia) indicated that India was not very enthusiastic over Pakistan's proposed re-admission into the Commonwealth. Religious and ethnic feuds broke out into open clashes in Western and North Western parts of India. Two youths from Bihar, Rameshwar Singh and Ganesh Dutt confessed that they planned to assassinate Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the instigation of Ananda Marga a fanatical rightist Hindu Organisation. Indian newspapers criticised US attempts to block the proposed IMF loan of 5,700 million dollars to India. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi received a low key welcome in Indonesia and her discussion with Indonesian leaders on Kampuchea showed there is still "shades of differences" between the two countries. **PAKISTAN:** Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) suspended its bi-weekly flights to the Afghan capital of Kabul as a protest against Afghanistan's failure to extradite or prosecute 3 Pakistani hi-jackers. President Zia said that he was ready to have talks with Kabul on his own terms—withdrawal of 80,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan; honourable return of 2.4 m. Afghan refugees; and restoration of Islamic and non-aligned status. Former Lahore High Court chief Justice Mushteq Hussein who as President of the five panel of judges sentenced Bhutto to death was wounded in a bomb attack. His other companion a former Minister and driver were killed. **BANGLADESH:** The Bangladesh government has banned the Union of State Bank Employees and continued dismissing those employees who participated in an illegal strike. The appeals against the death sentence passed on 12 Army officers for complicity in the assassination of late President Ziaur Rahman was rejected by the Bangladesh Supreme Court. The state of emergency in Bangladesh has been lifted. Police had to battle with demonstrators protesting against the executions of the 12 Army Officers which was carried out on September 23.

SOUTHEAST AND EAST ASIA

JAPAN: In an interview with *Asahi Shimbun* Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said that the Soviets were anxious to leave Afghanistan provided a suitable climate was created. **CH/NA:** The Yellow River was in spate and nearly 300,000 Chinese were engaged in a fight to contain it. China launched a trio of satellites into space aboard a single rocket. Chinese troops numbering 100,000 took part in a military manoeuvre in North West China bordering Mongolia. China criticised Indian Premier Indira Gandhi for her statement that China

was responsible for the Kampuchean problem. **KAMPUCHEA:** The acceptance of Khmer Rouge credentials by the UN was rejected "as a challenge to justice, good sense and intellectual honesty of the world's peace-loving people" by Kampuchean Foreign Minister. **THAILAND:** The three Kampuchean resistance groups met in Bangkok to discuss the possibility of forming a coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea. **SINGAPORE:** A new political party, the Singapore Democratic Party (SDP) was launched on September 21. The leader of the SDP Chiam Sec Tong and Secretary-General of the Workers' Party Joshua Jayaratnam said they may form a United Front to break the monopoly of rule enjoyed by the ruling People's Action Party since 1954.

WEST ASIA

IRAN: The revolutionary authorities executed at least 149 Iranians of whom 106 were active members of the Moslem Mujahedin Organisation on September 19. Ayatollah Khomeini warned the students not to fall prey to the sloganeering of the "loudspeakers of the West, the deviationists and the loudspeakers of the East". The Council Guardians approved the names of 5 candidates including that of 2 Clergymen for the Presidential election to be held on October 2. **ISRAEL:** Attorney General ruled that Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren has no power to ban archaeological excavations at a site believed to be an ancient Jewish cemetery. But the Chief Rabbincal Council issued a decree rejecting the rulings of both the Supreme Court and the Attorney General. **LEBANON:** Lebanon is mystified by the new bomb attacks by an organisation called The Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners. It may be either an Israeli cover movement or Maronite Christian Movement. **KUWAIT:** The Emir of Kuwait recently concluded a trip to East European countries which may pave the way for the opening of diplomatic relations with Moscow by the five Gulf States. **SAUDI ARABIA:** Army chiefs of the six Gulf states met in Riyadh to consider the possibility of security and co-operation amongst them, Saudi Arabia was contemplating the purchase of British early warning system "Nimrod AEW" instead of the US AWACs as it had led to a controversy in the US.

EUROPE

POLAND: The Polish Catholic church said that the mass media should belong to all and not be the preserve of one ideology or social group. Pope John Paul said that the Poles should have the right to solve their problems themselves. A prominent Polish politburo member said that all anti-Soviet acts could provoke Soviets to slash its fuel and raw materials supply to Poland. **AUS-**

TRIA: The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency recommended the expulsion of Israel for attacking Iraq's nuclear reactor last June. **WEST GERMANY:** It is feared that the West German Red Army faction is preparing itself for a series of Kamikaze-type attacks on US military and civil personnel and West Germans as well. Foreign Minister Genscher told the UN General Assembly that the Soviets' efforts in the field of armaments have not been matched by the West but emphasised on an arms negotiation with Moscow to dispel all fears. **SWITZERLAND:** The World Council of Churches will distribute 587,000 dollars amongst 47 Liberation Movements, the bulk of it will go to SWAPO, ANC, PACC of Azania and SAC TU, all opposition groups against the regime of Pretoria. **UNITED KINGDOM:** A new type of cash saving oil, a cocktail of crushed coal and oil may become a reality if the experiments carried out by the oil companies succeed. 12.4 per cent of the work force (i.e. 2,998,789) people are without jobs in September in the UK. An industrial dispute with print workers has compelled the management of the *Sunday Times* to suspend its publications and payment to 1,400 of its employees. **FRANCE:** Armenian soldiers seized control of the Turkish Cultural Centre in Paris and warned that they would kill the 40 hostages. Later they surrendered to the police. **ITALY:** The Turkish gunman who attempted to kill Pope John Paul was sentenced for a life term. The court felt that there was a conspiracy behind it but could not name the organisation for want of sufficient evidence. **SOVIET UNION:** *Tass* attacked the Polish authorities for not handling the counter-revolutionaries with due firmness. The Soviet Union has demanded from South Africa the return of the Soviet Warrant officer captured in Angola. The revelations made by Sadat that US was buying Soviet weapons from Egypt for Afghan guerillas makes demands for Soviet withdrawal a hypocrisy.

THE AMERICAS

UNITED STATES: The Reagan administration was seriously considering the question whether it should be involved in financing loans to countries opposed to US foreign policies. This may hinder the IMF loan facilities enjoyed by countries such as India. US Labour Organisation AFL-CIO staged a massive demonstration not seen since the Vietnam war, against President Reagan's economic policies and budget cut-backs. Secretary of State Haig has rejected any compromise over the sale of AWACs to Saudi Arabia which could keep them under joint US-Saudi command. It would seriously impair their sovereignty and national pride. According to David Toufic Misrahi, Editor of *Mideast Report*, the investment made by OPEC countries in the United States is in the region of 200 billion dollars of which Saudi Arabia accounted for 100b.

Kuwait 55 and UAE 40b. President Reagan has written to Soviet President Brezhnev that Soviet military build up to achieve a superior position carries disturbing implications. Mrs. Jeanne Kirkpatrick, US Ambassador to UN told Jewish leaders and New York publications that attempts were being made to expel Israel from the General Assembly and other UN agencies. US will set up a new radio station Radio Marti in January next year to broadcast to Cuba. This will be similar to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty which have been broadcasting to Communist countries in Europe and the Soviet Union. ABC television network announced that US, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and China were involved in an underground operation and had sent 100 million dollars worth of arms to Afghan guerillas based in Pakistan. Reagan announced measures to cut down 16 million dollars from social, defence and other domestic programmes. **UNITED NATIONS:** Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko accused the US for whipping up mad arms race by providing false statistics. Following Zurich talks between US and South African officials five Western Nations announced that they have drafted a set of constitutional procedures that will lead to Namibian independence next year. Secretary State Haig and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko agreed to start negotiations on limiting nuclear weapons in Europe. **CUBA:** Cuban delegates at the UN current sessions accused US agents of using biological weapons which affected the cattle, plantation and people. **BELIZE:** Belize formerly British Honduras a territory of 23,000 sq. miles and with a population of 150,000 gained its independence from Britain on the 21st of this month. US Security Council has accepted Belize as a member of the United Nations (156). Guatemala has an irrendentist claim on Belize and has not been willing to recognise its independence. Belize become the 44th member of the Commonwealth. **BAHAMAS** At the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference held in Nassau, the Commonwealth Secretary-General Ramphal criticised US economic policies. The British Chancellor of Exchequer Sir Geoffrey Howe said that the pound sterling would not be pegged with other currencies of the European Monetary System.

AFRICA

LIBYA: The summit of hardline Arab states (Syria, South Yemen, Algeria, Libya and PLO) decided to establish close links with the Soviet Union. This was their immediate reaction to the new strategic cooperation agreement between Israel and US which they claimed to have brought the world to the brink of Third World War. **EGYPT:** President Anwar Sadat would not permit the formation of new political parties or publication of new news-

papers until a new charter designed to discipline the country was adopted. He also dropped his closest aide Minister of State Hassan and added a third Copt to his cabinet. Palestinian selfrule talk between Egypt and Israel, suspended 15 months ago was resumed in Cairo. In an interview with the ABC television Anwar Sadat said that the US had been purchasing arms from Egypt for Afghan guerillas. **NAMIBIA:** Senior Officials of South Africa and US commenced talks on Namibian independence in Zurich, Switzerland.

AUSTRALIA

The *Australian* Government was mounting a big security clampdown to safeguard the Commonwealth leaders, including Queen Elizabeth who will be attending a Summit next week. Australian police raided the 12 homes of India-based Ananda Marg followers and seized several documents.

It is True ?

LOST PERKS

IS IT TRUE that there is a major hear-throb among the well-paid (by Sri Lanka standards) executives of a well known Colombo firm presently afflicted by a "parlous financial position"? That the executives were summoned for a pep talk and a homily and were "persuaded" to forego some of "the considerable fringe benefits hitherto enjoyed by them"? That the following benefits so far enjoyed by the executives have faded away like the proverbial Cheshire Cat in Alice's Wonderland? (1) **HOLIDAY BUNGALOWS:** The provision of a Holiday Bungalow is withdrawn; nor will any cash payment be made in respect of holidays. (2) **UMBRELLAS:** No Umbrellas will in future, be supplied to Executives. (3) **TRANSPORT:** Company transport will not hereafter be provided for Executives who may work after normal office hours. **LUNCH** Subsidised Lunch, or payment in lieu provided to the Executives is hereby withdrawn. (5) **ALLOWANCES:** hitherto paid as out-of-pocket expenses for shift duty, (or shift allowance) travelling for shift duty, out-of-pocket expenses for work on Saturdays/Holidays, or travelling for work on Saturdays or holidays, are hereby withdrawn. No mileage will be paid in respect of such travelling. (6) **BATTA:** The batta paid to Marketing Assistants for work at base is withdrawn. (7) **LEAVE:** Annual Leave entitlement cannot be accumulated and carried over. Nor will applications for travel overseas be entertained. That these Executives feel that they are being discriminated against—and the their perks could have been continued by re-arranging priorities in financial management? That before these executives start appealing for public sympathy or support from other unions, they would do well to find out the "perks" that other wage-earners in this country get?

TENDER NOTICE.

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOV'T., HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Tender for the construction of Quarters for O. I. C. and Police Constables, Urubokke Police Station, will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 a. m. on Wednesday, 28th October, 1981.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Matara before 4.15 p. m. on 14. 10. 1981, by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 700,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

P. O. Box 504,

COLOMBO 1. 30th September, 1981.

K. C. SAMARAWEEERA

Director of Buildings.

TENDER NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT. HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Tender for the construction of a New Residence for Government Agent, Ratnapura will be received by the Chairman Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 a. m. on Wednesday 21st October, 1981.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Ratnapura before 4.15 p. m. on 12. 10. 1981, by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 400,000/= and above on production of a Tender Deposit receipt for Rs. 250/= issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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

Department of Buildings,
P.O. Box-504
Colombo 1. 29th September, 1981.

K. C. Samaraweera
Director of Buildings.

The North South Crisis

By S.P. Amarasingam

THIS WEEK I cannot do better than discuss some aspects of the crisis that has overtaken what is euphemistically called the North-South dialogue. The poor nations, daily becoming poorer, insist that the rich should drastically change their economic and monetary policies to make possible a New International Economic order which alone, they say, can give the poor the opportunity to eliminate the grinding poverty that threatens to decimate entire nations. The North-South dialogue between the rich and poor is an UN-sponsored endeavour to resolve global economic imbalance through negotiation rather than confrontation. The New International Economic Order was concisely outlined for the first time at the Non-aligned Summit at Algiers in 1973. It was given flesh and blood at the Colombo and Havana Summits and a streamlined version was accepted by the UN General Assembly. Several fora have been used in the attempt to bring about economic changes to propel the world towards the goal of a better economic system, but so far little progress has been registered in spite of several much-publicised international meetings. Next month there will be a Summit at Cancun in Mexico of the heads of the more important rich countries and the more vocal of the poor to examine whether Willy Brandt's recommendations could provide a framework to end the growing contradictions in North-South relations. **There has been a great deal of wishful thinking about this matter. The rich are naturally unwilling to disturb the status quo that brings them untold profit whilst the poor are daily sinking further into frustration, debt and poverty. Ideological do-gooders like Willy Brandt have done their best to find peaceful solutions for conflicts that stem from naked as well as disguised exploitation.**

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE a new element has entered the scene with President Reagan. He does not believe in aid except as an adjunct to political string-pulling and arm-twisting. What is refreshing is that he is brutally frank. For him the North-South dialogue is just a waste of time. Yesterday morning's papers reported that he told an assembly of Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors and other financial experts from 143 countries at the IMF and World Bank annual general meeting in Washington that if his tight-money monetarist programme works the United States would have an inflation-free period of steady growth. No American contribution, he declared, could do more for development than a

growing, prosperous US economy. To anxious Third World countries he gave a bleak reply to their demands for a rapid expansion of development aid from the two major international lending agencies. Telling them to put their own houses in order he said no amount of aid would help. He refused, to budge from his line that only strict monetary discipline, which has produced record-high interest rates, can beat inflation. While officials from major industrial countries generally supported the aims of the Reagan administration they expressed serious doubts about the impact of high interest rates. Some delegates said that while Washington was in no mood to do anything about it at present, they were pressing the point that Mr. Reagan's go-it-alone policies were putting heavy pressures on their own economies and were distorting the values of their currencies. But the most vociferous anti-Reagan statements had come from Third World delegates. The African Group issued a statement arguing that some countries were unable to cope with the high interest rates which has sent their debt payments soaring and had forced them to devalue their currencies when they borrowed money from the IMF.

THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION has also made it quite clear that it was for increasing private US investment in Third World countries as an alternative to aid handouts. Washington has opposed any increases in IMF funds and has insisted that the IMF abide closely to the stringent conditions imposed on borrowing countries. Washington's stand had the support of the ten industrialised countries which hold the controlling votes of both the IMF and the World Bank. Developing countries had wanted a 19.8 billion US dollar increase a year in the amount of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) now in circulation saying they needed more aid to weather the current world recession and meet huge deficits in their budgets brought on by costly oil imports and high interest rates. The Reagan administration has refused to support any such increase in IMF funds for lending. There is no doubt that Sri Lanka, like all developing countries will be adversely affected by this new tough line of the IMF and World Bank, imposed on them by the Reagan administration. At the Washington meeting, the Group of Ten of the developed capitalist countries—USA, France, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Canada and Japan—noticeably tilted towards the US stand on monetarist policies and specifically on the need to curb international lending and liquidity in the name of controlling inflation. Many Third World countries had expected an alternative approach to these by some Western countries led by the Government of Francois Mitterand. But the Socialist Government of France either went along with the United States or failed to express its

differentiation on the key issues. The United States and other Western Governments had apparently forged a "consensus" in advance to insist that the International Monetary Fund implement a policy of tighter conditionality rules governing aid and credits. On the international balance of payments situation and the character of the adjustment process itself, the Group of Ten had insisted that "no significant shift in the present policy stance was warranted" and that "the pursuit of cautious monetary and fiscal policies to subdue inflation was a pre-requisite for restoring conditions for sustaining growth of income and employment". They also demanded "strengthened IMF surveillance over exchange rate policies"—which meant pressure for devaluation on many oil-importing and high-inflation economies in the developing world.

WHAT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR is that the IMF has turned down the demand of developing countries for increased funds and further allocation of SDRs. And this will put Sri Lanka too into a financial pickle. Budget-making has always been based on obtaining support from the IMF and the World Bank. The Finance Ministers of the Group of 24, a loose arrangement bringing together the representatives of the 120 developing countries, came out with a policy statement on international monetary affairs that clashed with the stance of the Reagan Administration and its fellow-travellers on virtually every issue of significance. Official representatives of developing countries have expressed serious unhappiness over the insensitivity of the World Bank—or, rather, of those who rule it—to their concerns and to the desire for a change in the orientation of the institution. The Finance Ministers of the Group of 24 were also very critical of the suggestion put forward for a new development model avowedly for sub-Saharan Africa. Admittedly it is a "political" rather than "economic" model. The Finance Ministers said that it was "technically difficult" and "particularly thorny". They deplored the requirement that aid should be linked to the acceptance of a certain kind of development model. The recommendations for this model include a ban or minimisation of public sector involvement, an export-led development effort combined with import liberalisation, a lowering of protectionist barriers and devaluation. The expectation is that this "development model", although tailored specifically to "sub-Saharan Africa" has significant elements which will be sought to be imposed on developing country borrowers else-where.

Sri Lanka's Finance Minister, Ronnie de Mel, understandably reacted sharply to President Reagan's blunt demand that Third World countries should blindly follow his blinkered economic policies. "When we are asked to put our houses in order

it should be remembered that disorder was created by factors outside our shores", he told the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington yesterday. "Global inflation, recession, energy prices, high interest rates, volatile exchange rates, declining development assistance, adverse commodity prices and protectionisms have bludgeoned us all", he said. Sri Lanka he said had implemented all policy measures, however harsh, insisted upon by the IMF. On the monetary side it had mobilised domestic savings and on the fiscal side it had cut back consumption and subsidies to release resources for investment. On the exchange front a realistic exchange rate was set and controls dismantled to give appropriate incentives for production and export. The entire program was endorsed by both the Fund and the Bank and a Consortium of countries aiding Sri Lanka. He argued strongly that the IMF and the World Bank have responsibility—"indeed an obligation"—to devise special programs for countries wracked by these problems. And in that process both institutions should be able to count on the support of the developed countries. "We do not ask for charity," he said. "We do not accept the myth that developing countries are either so imprudent or so incompetent that they must be fiercely watched over. We acknowledge that conditionality in Bank and Fund operations is inevitable. But conditionality that fails to understand and accommodate the political and social conditions of individual countries can only lead to disaster". Finally the Finance Ministers of the Group of Ten in a communique, recorded regret over "the present standstill in the global negotiations on North-South issues". They also expressed the hope that the Cancun Summit would allow the process of global negotiations to commence. Such hopes were also expressed at the Commonwealth Summit now in session in Melbourne. But the Washington meeting and the policies adumbrated by the Reagan administration indicate that the world is on the threshold of a new era of conflicts and confrontations in North-South relations.

—SLBC Talk, October 2, 1981.

LETTERS

Sugar - A Health Hazard

Sir,

Either cane syrup or beet syrup is refined and is used as "white" or "brown" sugar, depending on the refining process. Other sugars are derived from malt or barley and from millet. All these are termed "double" or "heavy" sugars: scientifically called disaccharides. In contrast to these sugars, we have another type called "simple" or "single"

sugars and termed monosaccharides. These are obtained from fruits such as grapes (called glucose) and from other fruits (called fructose): a mixture of these in varying forms is found in honey. While the sugars contain only energy or calorie-producing factors, honey has, in addition, a number of minerals and vitamins in it. That is, while sugar being an energy-producer only, honey is a vitamin-material supplement as well. In the opinion of John Yudkin, Emeritus Professor of Nutrition, University of London, refined sugar is a definite causative factor in diseases of the heart and also of hardening of the arteries. This was a report made after studying laboratory investigations and statistical data over a number of years and covering different strata of society with regard to the professions as well as unskilled labour.

Increased levels of fat circulating in the blood which promotes both hardening of arteries as well as heart disease, being influenced and increased by an increase in the consumption of sugar has also been statistically analysed by three research scholars of California University, USA. They have not only proved the causative action of sugar for the above conditions but have also gone further in their studies to prove that disturbances in production and use of insulin and hormones produced naturally by the human body are also largely due to an over-indulgence of sugar by people. The three researchers are Milton Wintz, J. Guff and D. A. Seedman. A. M. Cohen of Handessah University Hospital Jerusalem, has also proved by a series of investigations and analytical studies that an increase in the intake of sugar has deleterious effects on people leading to diabetes and vascular complications. Because sugar needs potassium and magnesium and some trace elements to act as catalysts in order to be converted to energy the body loses increasing amounts of these minerals with an increase in the intake of sugar by us. Loss of these minerals in large amounts affects the function of the heart and body muscles—again leading to heart disease. As sugar in solution becomes acidic in action, it also can cause ulceration of such organs as the stomach and parts of the intestines. While sugar is necessary as a fuel by our systems, all these investigations add up to show that its intake must be controlled. And that honey and the unrefined palm-sugars are better than cane and beet sugar. Therefore, bee-honey, coconut, kitul and palmyrah treacle seem to be a better substitute for sugar. Especially for us in Sri Lanka where we have these available locally.

Dr. G. T. Hearth.

Anuradhapura
22.09.81.

Unanswered Questions “Confidentially” Tribune, September 5, 1981, p. 24.

Sir

Regarding this infamous saga of the so-called very cheap availability of Chinese broiler chickens to the Ceylon housewife and the subsequent reporn in your esteemed journal of the Rs. 2 million lost on this apparent “bargain”, may I be permitted to comment. When “huge saving” “exceptional deal” and all that bally-hoo on the Chinese chicken was page one news in all the media, we were Sri Lanka (visiting my parents in the customary shuttle). My being a poultry breeder in Australia caused considerable embarrassment to me from my relations and friends; especially from old aunts. Why, the question was constantly asked, cannot you people supply us too? All I knew, for a fact, was, we used to sell out pedigree nucleus breeding stock to the Chinese. I immediately telexed my head-office and requested them to quote the price of our frozen chicken prices landed Colombo. Also, I hurried back ‘Down Under’ and requested our Board to instruct our Accountant to do their calculations and sums, once again. After all, the meat trade between Australia and Ceylon has been a long-standing and traditional one, of good faith and between old friends. Alas, no dice. We just could not sell our frozen broiler chicken anywhere near the prices the Chinese were quoting. To do so would have meant selling lower than our cost of production, and that is the quickest way to go broke, fast. Having over 2,000 people in our concern, we owe them at least the tenure of employment. However, this episode certainly was not forgotten by me, because of its ramifications.

Also, in this exercise, when I met officials in Colombo I was asked for all manner of certificates to guarantee that our product was free of this and that, for the Ceylon market. My saying that our product was wholesome to the “Great Australian Mum”—who bought 20.2 kg. per person per year over the 15 million population “Down Under” in 1980, fell on deaf ears. All they wanted, was pieces of paper with a few official looking stamps and signatures. All I can advise the poor harassed House-wife anywhere in the world is this; with any type of meat—red or white—please bring the cooking temperature up to 140°C for 5 minutes

TRIBUNE, October 10 1981

and then do your own thing. This high temperature will kill most of the deleterious bugs. And, always, "IF IN DOUBT-THROW IT OUT".

ARUNA M. W. FERNANDO.

Steggles Breeding Unit,
Wallalong via Maitland,
N. S. W. 2321,
Australia.
September 20, 1981.



ENVIRONMENT—2

An Immense Problem

By Richard A. Dias

SUCH A PACKAGE should aim at making us as self-reliant as possible both in respect of our economic development and our energy requirements and also avoid the hazards the development process will have on our environment. This package should include: (1) Less dependency on both bilateral as well as IMF/World Bank inspired loans and foreign investments, the terms and conditions of which often include the use of capital-intensive, high-energy consuming technology which has adverse environmental effect. We would then cease to be the dumping ground of often obsolete, ill-suited machinery which aid-giving countries or foreign investors are anxious to dispose of, often at inflated prices, we could hardly afford to pay. We may also be able to dispense with the need for the expertise of foreign advisors who generally accompany such loans and investments. Their own vested interests prompt them to extol the virtues of the technological component of such deals while ignoring its ill-effects on the environment in the recipient countries for which 'expert advice' we have to pay handsome consultation fees, that often eat up a part of such loans. If we do have to enter into any agreements for such loans or investments, there has to be an in-built clause guaranteeing necessary protection against environmental damage. If Constitutional protection has been afforded to foreign treaties, how much more should be such protection against the irreversible ecological damage that may be done as a result of implementing such treaties.

(2) Restrictions on liberalisation of trade in order to stem the free flow of a wide-range of high energy consuming, environment-polluting technology—from heavy machinery and motor diesel vehicles to air-conditioners etc. Such a curb may help to re-vamp many of the now defunct

local industries including agrobased ones, of which the main casualty was the handloom textile industry (which consumed no such energy) which had to throw out virtually over 150,000 skilled hands after 1977. (3) The accent be on alternate forms of low-energy consuming, labour-intensive technology which could utilize solar, bio, hydro, wind and a host of such renewable energy resources to generate power; e.g., the single pass paddy drying and parboiling machine fired by paddy husk (designed by a local inventor, H. I. Fernando). The then District Councils instituted prior to 1977 to explore the potential of appropriate/intermediate technology and apply it to local industries be revived with suitable modifications. It was a far-sighted scheme (inspite of certain shortcomings) that would have conserved fuel-fired energy (and with no population) whose value is so patent today when 40% of our national revenue is siphoned off for our energy requirements. A case where the baby should not have been thrown away with the bath water. Small could have been beautiful, safe and enduring too. Its application in the rural setting as an agricultural technology would make us less dependent on fuel-consuming tractors (and their spare parts). Back to the buffalo with a modified plough should become our watchword, with no environmental hazards whatsoever.

(4) A Strict Control of available non-renewable resources which are either exported at depressed prices or used in local industrial production and are now in danger of exhaustion in the near future (e.g., graphite by 2010 AD and kaolin by 2000 AD). This requires a search for alternate forms of renewable raw materials. In this respect we should have second thoughts with regard to the clusters of "concrete monstrosities totally unsuited to our climate and for the needs of ordinary people" (*Tribune* 25/7/81 issue) which are coming up under the much publicised "Gam-Udawa" (Village reawakening) scheme. The over utilisation of large quantities of timber (one of the causes of large-scale felling of trees) and clay which has to be dug for making bricks have caused both environmental and health problems. Instead, we should draw from the earthy wisdom of our forefathers, whose traditional methods of building rural cottages did not need over utilisation of natural resources. The Malay rural house is another example "designed and built by the users themselves and according to their own basic needs with a good understanding of nature and environment, incorporating and reflecting their way of life and culture" (ibid). (Those interested are advised to read the 5 articles on this subject beginning with the 25th July issue of the *Tribune*). Under this category also comes the need to substitute as much as possible inorganic fertilizers with organic manure. Even the control of pests, weeds and fungi

through judicious breeding of respective predators to maintain the balance of nature is being experimented with quite a measure of success.

HOWEVER COMPREHENSIVE AND FAR-REACHING may be the proposals drawn up by the Environmental Authority, their implementation will be the result of a political decision. In the present context, will not the present dependency relationship of our economy, which has been integrated with international capital, deter our decision-makers from taking necessary steps in this direction? Will we have the political will not to cave in to powerful interest groups, both foreign and local, whose vested interests may be at stake if such steps are taken? If this happens will not the Departmental Authority be reduced to an effete body that will not be able to carry on its onerous task. Should not the reconstituting of the present socio-economic framework be an essential pre-requisite for any meaningful headway towards protecting our environment from the ravages of uneven development? These are matters that should engage the attention of those who have the welfare of our society at heart. Any laxity in this respect may reduce us into the Wasteland where we may end not with a bang (of a nuclear explosion) but with a whimper (of slow environmental poisoning). At the international level, we should strive towards a "sustainable global society (where there is) a total restructuring of the international economic order... the curbing of the world's growth of population... the distribution of resources where they are most needed... pollutants are kept below the capacity of the earth to absorb them... a substantial reallocation of the power of controlling the pattern of world trade in essential resources... an equitable distribution of wealth throughout the world... the recycling of goods and services... (and) production and economic activity not for profit but for the satisfaction of general needs..." (from Study Paper 5 quoted earlier).

Whether these are reliable will depend on the political will of decision-makers and the pressure committed persons could bring to bear on them. As the Willy Brandt Report "North-South" states: "It is clear to us that the growth and development of the world economy must in the future be less destructive to natural resources and the environment so that the rights of future generations are protected. Few threats to peace and the survival of the human community are greater than those posed by the prospects of cumulative and irreversible degradation of the biosphere on which human life depends". This attempts to bring into focus the magnitude of the problems that are inherent in any process of economic development, if earth's natural resources and environment are not adequately protected from the ill effects of such a development.

Concluded.

POPULATION CONTROL

Or Family Planning-2

By R. Kahawita

HOW TO BE MORAL AND ETHICAL in preventing another life being born is the burden of family planners. They have sought the assistance of quacks, medical men, gynaecologists, scientists, legal luminaries etc., to justify their preaching and clear and absolve the human conscience for the deed of preventing or destroying a potential life. Confronting them are the theologians, churchmen, religious men and a few rightists who are conscious of the crime against man and the Natural Order that created man. Some of them approve the methods up to a point. Yet others support wholesale condemnation on all points—"Life is Life". It starts with the desire for the creative act and its consummation. The act itself cannot be interpreted in any other way than what Nature meant it to be. But man in his wisdom attempts to interpret the Natural Law to suit his moral inconsistency and his guilt with scientific, legal, theological and ethical reasoning—when does human life begin and take shape? On this flimsy fantasy depends "When is a murder not a murder"? The Roman Church says: "a murder or a sin against the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of the Church can be committed in thought". The extreme interpretation of "Free will and conscience". The gynaecologists and scientists attempt to put it fine by assigning "time periods" from the performance of the act to conception.

ALL THESE ARE defences to justify the "operation to prevent life process—justifiable homicide not amounting to murder". But such arguments break down when one's own conscience is examined. He is his own final arbiter as deemed by the Natural Law. No one else. The biologists and medical men say even the fertilized egg may be weeks before it moves into the womb of the host. It may vary from person to person. There is many a slip between the cup and the lip. But man is not permitted to take advantage of this chance. It is Nature's prerogative. Nature's design is to bring the female egg and the male sperm together in an environment for the two to join. Once fused the fertilized egg has the potential of the life process, provided the necessary conditions are available. In search of these conditions the fertilized egg floats around till it reaches the womb of the host. There it attaches itself to the wall of the womb and starts its parasitical life, taking root to draw its sustenance from the host. From here onwards, life starts and begins to grow. There cannot be growth without life; it begins to change in form and shape while drawing the sustenance as a parasite in the womb of the host. Once the fertilized egg is nested in the womb, no one can interfere, except Nature. She decides whether to entertain

it or to eject it. If this does not happen then "Life" continues and begins to grow. And there is life because it is living on the host for growth. Without the host, it cannot grow. The life process is now on the way, with all the qualities what that life should be when it blossoms out as a full human.

LIFE HAS ALREADY STARTED drawing its sustenance from the "host". It cannot survive now without the "mother". If not it will die and without life there cannot be death. So what does abortion mean? Abortion is removing the "living being" from the womb irrespective of how long it has been in the womb. It is cutting off of sustenance to the growing being, killing it, and removing it. This is nothing short of murder. To remove that living entity or arrest its growth, no one has the right, except Nature. Any act against this natural life process is murder and cannot be absolved under any circumstances. Man has been endowed with the intelligence to understand the life process. That enlightenment is given to protect life at all stages and not to destroy it. There is good and bad in the natural order of things but the bad should not be used to destroy the good. Man may deceive himself and reason out to justify an act as any wrong doer is prone to do. But it is against his conscience he knows it. Having done the deed, he has not the courage or the character to face the consequences. Whatever the wrong doer may say, whatever the society he lives in may say, the final judge is his own conscience, wherein resides the final arbiter. If he has a religion, then that arbiter is his God in whom he believes.

'POPULATION EXPLOSION', "poverty", "food scarcity", etc., are all man made artificial circumstances, which man himself has the power to change and develop an environment to continue life. He has been ordained to do so. What man has been inspired to achieve is meant for the good of man and that inspiration is to be directed towards a solution to his problem but within the natural law. When Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, they did not commit suicide to end the misery of expulsion, or control the multiplication of the species, so that the two of them may live happily thereafter in their wilderness. They did what Nature deemed them to do. We are now faced with the fruits of what they did but Nature has endowed man with an abundance of knowledge to find lasting solutions to his problems. Murder or suicide are not the solutions. Progress of human intelligence and inspiration is not over. It is also a living process. Man is the host to that process. Once out of the gates of the Garden of Eden, if they committed suicide like cowards, there would not have been a population problem today. That was not the Nature's design for man. Man was to reach greater heights, "like

unto Herself", be a "Creator". To reach these heights, man has been given a free-will, conscience and an intellectual power to understand Her. This is Nature's gift to man which has been given, not to be used against Her but to continue Her designs. The solution to the problem is to be found in other areas than in abortion or "murder of the unborn". Let us examine, in due course, what "these other areas are". *Concluded...*

NEPAL

Foreign Aid "Corrupts"

Kathmandu: Foreign assistance had, among other things, corrupted the thinking values and attitudes of the people and predominance of this aid is seen as a disturbing phenomenon in Nepal. This is vividly brought out in two papers presented at recent seminar on 'current issues in Nepalese Development' organised by the Centre for Economic Development and Administration, Tribhuvan University. The papers discuss a number of issues like the impact of foreign aid and development performance, and roles of foreign aid and domestic resource mobilisation for development. "Foreign phobia has become so extensive today that there is no sector or area that is free from its influence". It is noted the few projects that are implemented are under some foreign assistance or the other. Further, foreign aid provides access to many commodities and projects normally not feasible with domestic resources. Cited among such projects are airports, hotels, urban sewerage "All far from 'goals of fulfilling basic needs but not far from the prestige needs of the elite". The Government is charged with failing utterly to develop a long-term vision of the country and the view taken is that it has moved from one set of problems to another. Nepal today is just embarking on the second year of the Sixth Development Plan but it is among the least developed countries in the world.

Among the reasons attributed to this dismal state of the country are lack of skilled and semiskilled labour, an approach to development itself which resulted in changes in socio-economic fabric creating, on the one hand, rural hill areas with rampant poverty, deprivation and destitution, and, on the other, growing urban centre attracting migration. Also there has been lack of wholehearted commitment to development itself. The papers refer to a tendency to maintain the present structure and the sustenance of the structure has resulted in "nothing except feeding the poverty and in enriching the will to do." Although foreign aid has been increasing Nepal has been able to use less than 50 per cent of the committed aid during 1975-79 period. It is held that such aid has been ineffective and led Nepal to greater dependence. Some of the serious consequences of aid listed are mounting debt servicing due to change from bilateralism to multilateralism and from grants to loans, distortions and imbalances in economy.—PT/.

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Fruit Trees Seeds

IS IT NOT SIGNIFICANT that many *Tribune* readers have written in to ask us to find out why their applications for subsidies for growing fruit trees have not met with any response? That they point out that three or four months ago the daily newspapers had been full of advertisements about an island-wide subsidy scheme for growing fruit trees? That the advertisements had set out that different districts had been picked out for selected fruit trees on a suitability basis as determined by horticultural experts? That in a press statement it was made out that before the end of the year at least a thousand acres would be planted under this subsidy scheme? That readers complain that they have had no response to their applications and frequent reminders? That the Maha season for such planting would soon begin and unless the trees are planted immediately, it would be necessary to wait for another year? That we are not certain the choice had been made on a first-to-apply first-to-be-served basis and that these who had written to us had been unlucky late-comers? That if this is so, then the least the authorities can do is to inform these applicants that their turn would come next year? That some readers insist that this much-publicised scheme has not got off the ground and that no one has received any subsidy and that it was all a propaganda hoax or *gundu*? That *Tribune* refuses to believe that the Fruit Subsidy Scheme was only a gimmick? That it would be in the best interest of the Government, and especially the Ministry of Agriculture, to publish a list of persons in the different districts to whom these subsidies have been given? That this cannot be a difficult task? That this will allay the apprehensions and suspicions now entertained in many quarters?

IS IT NOT TRUE that there is also major grievance among fruit tree growers that they are not permitted to import seeds and seedlings Certified virus-free from internationally reputed firms and organisations (some of which are attached to the Faculties of famous Universities)? That it is accepted that our horticulture cannot be upgraded without new seeds and seedlings especially among the citrus group? That under the excuse that new plant diseases and new viruses may be introduced to the country, import has been kept as the monopoly of the Department of Agriculture? That unfortunately the Department has not made such seeds, even if imported, available to growers? That bureaucrats state that if such seeds are imported, they will be grown on government farms and the seeds or seedlings from matured trees would be supplied to fruit growers? That even if such a scheme gets

under way it will take seven to ten years for such second generation seeds to be available to the public? That the simple question is why the private fruit grower cannot import such certified seeds directly? That what has come as a bombshell to Sri Lankan fruit growers is that foreign investors have been told (vide numerous press statements and advertisements) that they could import seeds and planting material if they choose to start fruit plantations or orchards here? That this is highly discriminatory? That what is good enough for foreign investors should be good enough for Sri Lankan investors? That this is another matter the Government should look into immediately and take corrective measures? That private fruit growers and other Government organisations connected with agriculture should be permitted to import seeds and seedlings certified free of virus? That apart from citrus, papaw seeds from Hawaii will help to meet the current scarcity of this fruit in this country? That hoteliers in Colombo are crying aloud for papaw as it is a great favourite with tourists? That it is also known that a virus has struck the papaw tree in many areas in this country? That a new virus-free strain is an urgent need? That the Hawaii variety has been found very suitable in this country? That some quick action is called for in the matter of the importation of seeds?

WOULD IT NOT COME AS A SURPRISE to many bureaucrats and politicians to read the following para in the *AGRI BUSINESS WORLDWIDE* (April/May 1981): "Ireland is the most agricultural of all the European countries with some 20 percent of its population engaged in agricultural production. The rapidly developed Irish industry has a current output of US\$ 4.6 billion, a quarter of Ireland's Gross National Product. Agricultural exports in 1980 were US\$ 2.3 billion. While 1980 was a poor year for farmers—and 1981 not expected to be much better—the fact remains that since 1973 when Ireland joined the European Economic Community, agricultural development has exploded. It is a classic example of what can happen when farmers are given incentive prices. There is a lot that developing countries could learn from Ireland, where the average farm size is small, only 20.5 hectares. The increased use of modern inputs is responsible for Ireland's agricultural progress during the last decade, as the indices in the accompanying table point out, Wheat and Barley yields just about doubled in the period 1955-77 compared to only a 40 percent increase in the EEC overall during the same time. Tractor horsepower per 100 hectares grew from 38 to 104 between 1965 and 1977. This has enabled net output to increase substantially; between 1970 and 1980, net output grew by 25 percent."

CEYLON HOTELS CORPORATION RAILWAY CATERING

REGISTRATION FOR SUPPLIERS AND SERVICES FOR 1982

APPLICATIONS are invited from Suppliers, Manufacturers, Sales Agents, Stockists and Repairers who wish to register themselves with Ceylon Hotels Corporation—Railway Catering Service, for the Undermentioned supplies and services during the period 01.01.82 to 31.12.82.

Applicants should be sent under registered cover to reach the Chairman Ceylon Hotels Corporation, 63, Janadhipathy Mawatha, Colombo 1, on or before 15.10.81 and should mark "Registration of supplier 1982" on the left hand corner of the envelope.

SUPPLIES

1. Rice, Rice Flour and Flour.
2. Coconut, Vegetables and other Dry Provisions.
3. Eggs, Fish, Chicken, Meat, Etc.
4. Ice Cream and Frozen Foods.
5. Butter Cheese, Margarine and Jams.
6. Tea and Coffee.
7. Fresh Milk, Powdered Milk & Condensed Milk
8. Sugar, Jaggary etc.
9. Toffees, Chocolates and Biscuits.
10. Cadju, Devilled Cadju Nuts & Pea Nuts.
11. Soft Drinks, Cordials etc.
12. Foreign and Local Liquor (Malt Liquor and Wines)
13. Cigarettes and Cigars.
14. Miscellaneous Food items.
15. Polythene.
16. Wrapping Paper, Newsprint paper & Paper Bags.
17. Paper cups & Drinking Straws.
18. Calculators, Typewriters, Cash Registers and Fans.
19. Kerosine Oil Cookers, Gas Cookers & Electric Cookers.
20. Kitchen Equipment, Glassware, Ceramicware & Aluminiumware.
21. Furniture.
22. Brushes, Brooms, Ekel Brooms & Rzgs.
23. Firewood & Kambu.
24. Stationery.
25. Building Materials & Hardware
26. Paints
27. Office Equipmert
28. Fire fighting Equipment.
29. Electrial Items.

SERVICES

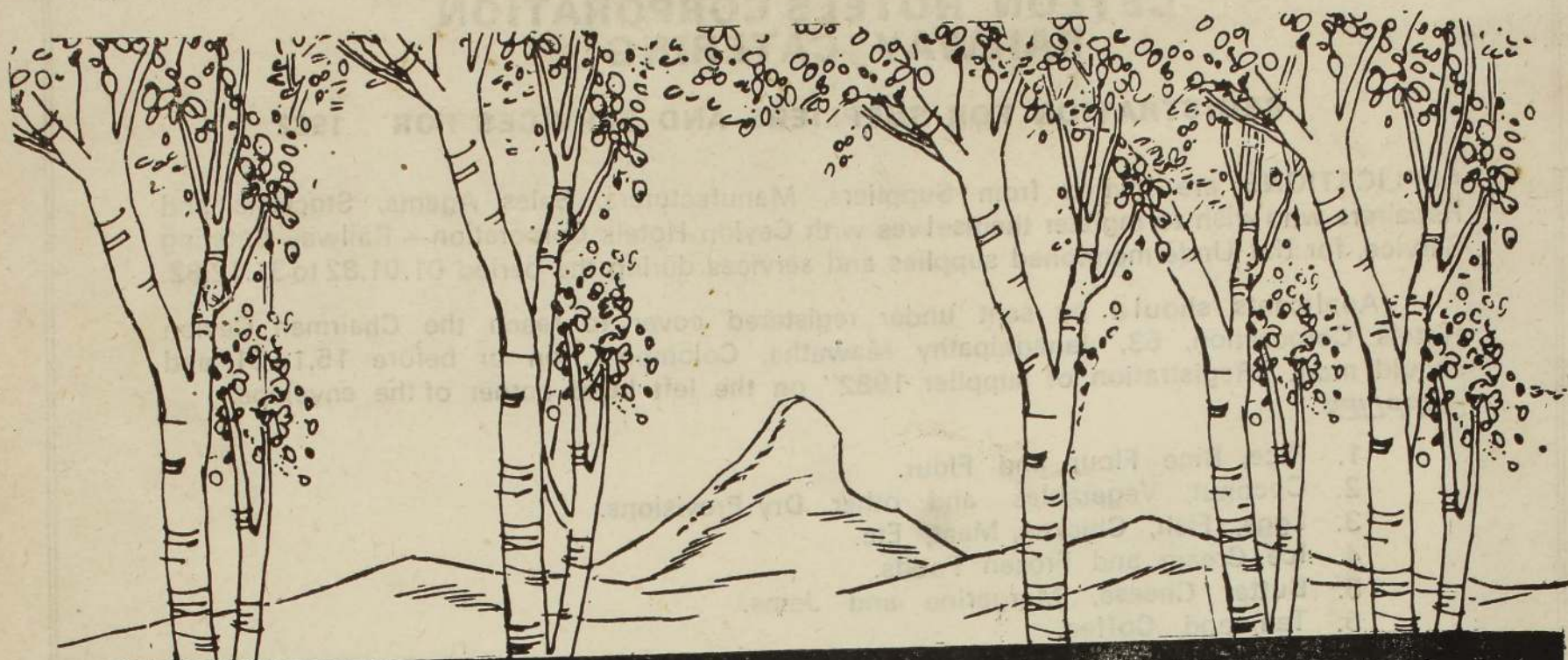
1. Printing & Binding.
2. Supply of Uniforms and Tailoring of Uniforms.

Applications for registration should contain the following particulars:

- (a) Name, Registered Addres & Telephone Number.
- (b) Category of goods for which registration is sought.
- (c) Business Registration Certificate Number
- (d) Availability of Credit Facilities.
- (e) Names of Institution Presently served by the supplier.

We reserve the right to select suppliers, and to call for quotations even outside the registered list in order to obtain competitive offers. Successful Suppliers who fail to effect delivery of requirements within the stipulated period will be struck off from the register of suppliers.

CHAIRMAN,
CEYLON HOTELS CORPORATION



WOOD FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

It's time you cleared some popular misconceptions about wood

Popular belief and prejudices maintain that for purposes of building and construction the most suitable timbers are Milla (*Vitex pinnata*), Alubo (*Syzygium makul*), Liyan (*Homalium zeylanicum*), Dun (*Doona zeylinica*), Tawenna (*Plaquim rubiginosum*), Ubberiya (*Carallia calycina*), Jak (Kos) (*Artocapus integrifolia*), Wal Del (*Artocapus nobilis*), Keena (*Calophyllum* spp), Dambu (*Syzygium gardneri*), Welipenna (*Anisophyllea cinamamoides*), Dawata (*Carallia bra chiata*), Palu (*Manilkara hexandra*), Ranai (*Alseodaphane seme carpifolia*), Satin (*Chloroxylon sweitenia*).

But this is not true. There are many other species growing in our forests which are as good for construction purposes, after seasoning and preservation. Varieties which can provide long lengths for beams and have the strength, hardness and durability for every need of the building industry.

The suitable species are –
Etamba (*Manzifera Zeylanica*),

Bata-domba (*Syzygium operculatum*), Bomi (*litsea glutinosa*), Rukkattana (*Alstonia schdaris*), Bulu (*Terminalia bellerica*), Thiniya (*Doona congestifolia*), Diyapara (*Wormia triquetra*), Iriya (*Myristica eri-yagodi*), Hulanidda (*Shorea stipularis*), Kataboda (*Cullenaia zeylanica*), Kekuna (*Canarium zeylanicum*), Ketakola (*Bridelia retuse*), Godakirilla (*Holoptelea integrifolia*), Dawu (*Anogeissus Latifolia*), Ovilla (*Polyathea Longifolia*), Mora (*Nep-helium Longana*), Labu (*Tetrameles nudiflora*), Kaduru (*Strychnos nuxvomica*) Kirikon (*Walsura piscidea*), Divul (*Ferronea elephantum*), Karaw (*Phyllanthus indicus*), Lunumadala (*Stereospemum personatum*), Keeriya (*Acacia Leucophloea*), Wa (*Cassia species*), Wanami (*Madhuca fulva*), Para-mara (*Albizzia lebbek*).

Confining yourself to a few well known species of timber is both costly in terms of your expenditure and costly in terms of national resources.

Feel free to consult us
if you need further advice,

