

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

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General Elections

Editorial

Stop this stone-throwing!

"Patriotism", Dr. Samuel Johnson said once, "is the last refuge of a scoundrel". There is a disturbing trend in Jaffna now, which suggests that Hinduism could well become the last refuge of some political rogue elephants.

Hinduism is one of the world's oldest religions, perhaps the oldest faith. It is eclectic in its very fundamentals, and all-embracing in its very attitude. "This religion has room for almost every religion, nay it embraces them all", said Max Muller. "Hinduism is a grand evolutionary process and not a narrow creed", said Gandhi. It withstood centuries and centuries of Moghul attack and British rule in India, and in Ceylon it has survived Portuguese persecution and Dutch and British rule. It has not shown any signs of crumbling under a strident, aggressive Sri Lanka brand of Buddhism either. It is a unique religion without a founder, and if any bounder in Jaffna thinks that he is the man to rescue Hinduism, he thinks either too little of a Buddha, a Vivekananda or a Sankaracharya or he thinks too much of himself. Barring either, he is probably thinking of only one thing: a convenient platform to come into the public and political limelight and gain public acceptability.

When twenty six years ago, the late S.W. R. D. Bandaranaike galloped on the twin horses of Sinhala and Buddhism, he deceived himself into believing that he was ushering in a social revolution. All what he did was to leave behind an unending trail of Indiscipline, Racial and Religious Intolerance. Successfully spreading the illusion that he was giving the Common man a place in the Sun, he merely managed to bring to the surface the worst hidden traits of the common man, reducing him to the position of being a part of a mob. Mr. Bandaranaike achieved his ambition of becoming Prime Minister of the country, but the country itself has yet to recover from the malefic effects of that short-cut ride to power. In fact, the damage done to the social and national fabric was so devastating that a re-constitution of a national outlook has now become well nigh impossible.

Sinhala-Tamil disunity is bad enough; to try to spearhead any move that is designed to bring greater insecurity to a minority within a minority is fatal. Hindu organisations that exist only on paper should not try to pose off as paper tigers. Where were these paper tigers anyway when a Buddhist temple came up from nowhere on the way to Koneswaram Temple, on its very fringe? Where were they when a Buddha statue was planted in Vavuniya? Only four years ago, in 1977, a series of Hindu temples were attacked, desecrated and burnt. Only last year members of the armed forces attacked the Nachchimar Kovil in Jaffna itself. Where were these small-time guardians of Hinduism? Did they emit one squeak? Make one protest?

Let it be known that when it comes to safeguarding one's basic individual rights, as Tamil citizens in this country, no Hindu organisation has yet shown one ounce of involvement. It is to the credit of Christian organisations that they have been in the forefront in the fight for human rights. Of what use are temples when the worshippers remain self-seekers?

There is a Chinese saying: "When you throw stones at a rat, beware of hitting the vase". Hindus who fancy themselves as religious heroes might please drop the stones in their hands. It is not only foolish; there is no political future in this stone-throwing.

this August: U.N.P. gets set to make it a one horse race

General Elections will be held in August this year, according to political insiders, who say that the Government took a firm decision on this last week.

The Secretary of the ruling United National Party, Mr. Harsha Abeywardene, had last week at a crucial party meeting held at party headquarters urged U.N.P. Members of Parliament to get ready to plunge into the electoral field, giving low priority to development work temporarily.

Political observers say that the Cabinet decision — taken on March 3 — to amend the election laws to disqualify M.P.s if any person deprived of civic rights had canvassed for them in any form, means that if it is proved in court that either Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, the former Premier, or Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, one-time Finance Minister — who have been stripped of their civic rights — canvassed for the Sri Lanka Freedom Party in the forthcoming elections, the entire slate of successful SLFP candidates would be legally wiped out.

This proposed amendment these sources underline, could mean in effect that the elections will be virtually a one-horse race, with the ruling party having a tremendous whip-hand in the election process.



Mrs. Bandaranaike



President Jayewardene

The Left forces, both traditional and new, are non-starters according to these sources, who also point out that the UNP government's recent rapprochement with the Tamil United Liberation Front — the main opposition in Parliament today — has further boosted its chances of victory at the elections. It is however felt that on current form, neither the UNP nor the TULF could be expected to retain the support both parties enjoyed about four years ago. Even if new alternatives do not present themselves before the voters in time for the elections the Sri Lankan voters who have always tended to vote negatively, in the past, could well bring about an electoral decision that could lead to a state of confusion, and possibly even chaos.

New polarisation before August?

It is also felt that between now and August, there could be a new polarisation of political forces in the country that could leave the present ruling party weakened. The move towards Muslim unity (see Page 12) is also being watched with interest, as a possible factor that could upset the current political calculations.

Saturday Review

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KANTHAYA A. (Retired Executive) Samuel Sons, son of Mrs. K. Appakuddy, husband of Navamalar, Staff, Wolfendhal Girls' High School, father of Kantharuban (Lesotho), Premaruban, Mohanaruban, Vasantharuban all of U. K., Subakanthi, KG Industries, Thushyanthi (Ramanathan Academy) father-in-law of Sivayogi, Shirani, Savithiri, grand-father of Mathura expired. Cremated on 2nd March at General Cemetery, Kanatte, Colombo.—129 5, Madampitiya Road, Colombo.



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NEWS BRIEFS

PARANTHAN STRIKE —the fourth month

With the strike at the Paranthan Chemical Factory entering its fourth month, the trade unions at a meeting held in Pandateruppu on Sunday 28th have threatened strike action on a national scale if the President did not intervene and help to settle the demands of

the workers. The workers have gone on strike following various alleged oppressive measures taken against them by the management when they protested against the establishment of a factory at Embilipitiya at the expense of Paranthan.

KILINOCHCHI ISSUE "FREEZED"

The Action Committee of the TULF at the meeting held on Saturday 27th February, has cautioned the membership against politicising the issue of making Kilinochchi a separate district. A 5 Member Committee consisting of four members of Parliament V. N. Navaratnam, T. Thirunavukkarasu, P. Ganesalingam, K. P. Ratnam and M. Thambimuttu was appointed to submit a report on the development needs of Kilinochchi district within a month.

Mr. Anandasangari, M. P. for Kilinochchi was not present at this meeting.

ELEPHANT PASS SALT GOES TO AFRICA

Seven thousand tons of salt produced at Jaffna's and Sri Lanka's premier saltern, Elephant Pass, will be shipped to Africa and Bangladesh in March. 4000 tons of fine-grained salt will be exported to Mombasa while 3,000 tons of salt will be shipped to Chittagong, Bangladesh. About 4000 tons of Indian coal, for the use of KKS Cement Factory, will be unloaded at the Kankasanturai port during the same period. Nearly 500 workers, 50 lorries and 30 barges will engage in loading and unloading operations.

TAMIL CONGRESS WILL SUPPORT

The All Ceylon Tamil Congress, Colombo Branch has declared its support for the demand to make Kilinochchi a separate district.

SWEDISH AID FOR JAFFNA

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Planning and Plan Implementation said that they have set aside 50 lakhs of Swedish aid to women in Jaffna to learn skills such as rearing cattle and poultry, making food products, dressmaking and marketing.

MPCS SACKS 11 MANAGERS

The Jaffna MPCS Management has sacked 11 managers for alleged corruption in the sale of sugar.

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Political Causerie

Nothing it now seems, according to the news emanating from New Delhi as we go to print, could prevent Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike and Mr. Anura Bandaranaike coming together again politically with no less a person than Mrs. Indira Gandhi taking a hand.

That the Indian Prime Minister had to intervene to bring about a settlement is the surprise because there are no personal differences between mother and son who live next door to each other at Rosemead Place and meet frequently.

The political differences were also not insurmountable, except that Mrs. Bandaranaike had put her foot down firmly against re-admitting her erstwhile deputy leader Mr. Maithripala Senanayake after the bitter exchanges between them, while Mr. Bandaranaike said he would not go back without him. Reportedly on Mrs. Gandhi's advice, during their meeting on February 24, Mrs. Bandaranaike has offered the post of S. L. F. P. leader to Mr. Bandaranaike while she becomes the patron.

Mrs. Bandaranaike's civic disqualification was the main ground on which the party split into the S. L. F. P. (S) and the S. L. F. P. (M), members of the latter group fearing that her continuance as party president would pose a serious legal impediment to the party at the next general election.



The new order of succession?
Mrs. Bandaranaike (from right) with son Anura and daughters Chandrika and Sunethra — a picture taken when the family was younger and the family ties stronger.

Prime Minister Ranasinha Premadasa launched his political come-back with a series of functions in the Kolonnawa constituency on Sunday. Judging by the crowds present, it appeared he had not lost any of his popularity despite the two-month absence. His speech at the final meeting was itself a fighting one, whose message was clear: he cannot be easily written off!

of five years of the Government's term and even those members who were elected to Parliament for the first time in 1977 would be qualified for a pension even if they were expelled!

This is one more reminder that, contrary to the protestations of most politicians, they always look after their own welfare first. Even if their gamble fails, they would still be assured of a four figure income for the rest of their lives!

There could be an additional explanation or theory. Many astrologers have been speaking of a malefic conjunction of planets in late July which, they say, is likely to be reflected in confusion, confrontation and convulsions within the ruling party. Who knows, politicians with vaulting ambitions and a profound belief in destiny may prove the astrologers right.

Defections are not uncommon towards the tail-end of a regime as members who believe the ruling party has little chance of success tend to buy insurance by hitching their fortunes to a party they think may fare better.

This time, there is a pressing reason for quite a number of UNP members, backbenchers as well as some Ministers who think hard about their future. There names are not likely to figure anywhere near the top of the district-wise lists of candidates, under the proportional representation system, to have a chance of being returned.

The Secretary-General of the LJP, ex-UNP stalwart Mr. Jinadasa Niyathapala also echoed this prediction.

Why July? He explained that it marked the completion

Will there be only one S. L. F. P. again?

While Dr. Fernando said "a majority" of the present Ministers and MPs would join his band-wagon, Mr. Niyathapala was more modest; he said "35 MPs and certain Ministers" would cross over, according to press reports of the meeting.

This may be wishful thinking on their part, intended primarily to generate confusion in the Government ranks and hope among their followers. But unless the number of members who defect is sufficient to reduce the Government's present strength of 144 members in Parliament to under 85, they run the risk of immediate expulsion. Defections of this magnitude are unlikely despite the known rivalries between the support-

rs of the President and the Prime Minister.

As for the LJP's policy, their is only one possible line: unbridled exploitation of Sinhalese Buddhist nationalism. The appearance of that statue of Dutugemunu at Panadura roundabout the night before the meeting should be warning enough.

Then how could Dr. Fernando have spoken at the same meeting about a "United Lanka"?

The most crucial question is whether Mr. Premadasa is going to be the leader that the LJP has been searching for?

Shall we wait till July, or will Mr. Premadasa come out with a disclaimer?

Cricket, Drought and Television

The playing fields of Colombo are now as parched as the tank beds of the Dry Zone.

But no matter, we can still play cricket on them, so that the Minister of Lands and Land Development and Mahaweli Development, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, who is also the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka, need not despair about the future of this gentlemanly game in our country.

Cricket! Lovely cricket! Thanks to the indefatigable efforts of the Minister, we had nine days of it.

What a wonderful diversion it was—in some ways as spectacular as the Mahaweli diversion despite the sad denouement—so that large numbers of people were able to forget their problems for a time.

Even the starving farmers and their families in the Dry Zone villages would have forgotten their woes momentarily if they, too, had television sets.

By the way, where are those Thai-trained rain-makers? And where is that politician who once claimed that it rained cats and dogs wherever he went, however dry the season at the time?

Not to worry, the rains will come, sooner or later, and we can forget about the farmers and their problems. Till then, why not encourage the sons of the farmers to play cricket on the dry tank beds with the parents and the other children having a grand-stand view from the tank bunds! It would be more humane treatment than asking them to engage in some nonproductive menial task to qualify for relief payments. It would also be a novel distraction for them. Oh, cricket, lovely cricket!

Some of them would have been able to buy television sets if this time's Maha harvest had not been devastated by the drought. Not the colour sets costing over Rs. 10,000

(Continued over leaf)

by GAMINI

Now Mrs. Bandaranaike is reportedly awaiting the arrival of the son in New Delhi on March 10 to set the seal on party unity at a joint meeting with Mrs. Gandhi, who has been a friend of the family for over two decades.

Maithripala's future

The vast majority of S. L. F. P. members and supporters must be jubilant over this dramatic development but the question remains: What of Mr. Senanayake? Will he have no place in the unity moves? If he does not, will he team up with those elements in the U. N. P. who have been toying with the idea of forming a new party?

Answers to these and allied questions may emerge even before the mother and son are due to return home.

Cricket, Drought and Television

(Continued from page 3)

but at least black and white ones at around Rs. 3,000.

As it is, many of the farmers are reportedly selling off whatever they can (radios, sewing machines, bicycles, jewellery, etc.) while others are even mortgaging the crops to be grown next year to raise money for food.

This is so because the relief in cash and kind offered by the Government is extremely niggardly in the context of today's cost of living.

How wonderful if some of the money and the energy spent on organising the cricket matches were diverted to the drought relief effort.

We enclose a copy of our letter for your interest, and that of your readers.

Yours sincerely,
CHEUNG KA-HING,
Managing Director.

Govt. Teachers, College,
Misau,
Bauchi State,
Nigeria.
14-2-82.

The Editor,
"Saturday Review",
Jaffna,
Sri Lanka.

Dear Sir,

Let us first congratulate you on your new Journal. An independent journal of this type which could be frank and forthright in its attitudes and which has the guts to call a spade a spade was a long felt need in our country. A multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-linguistic country like ours need, an independent paper like yours to build up understanding among different sections of the community, and your journal can go a long way to promote rational thinking.

We are sure that "Saturday Review" will fill a long felt gap and we wish the journal all success.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,
V Sivaprasam

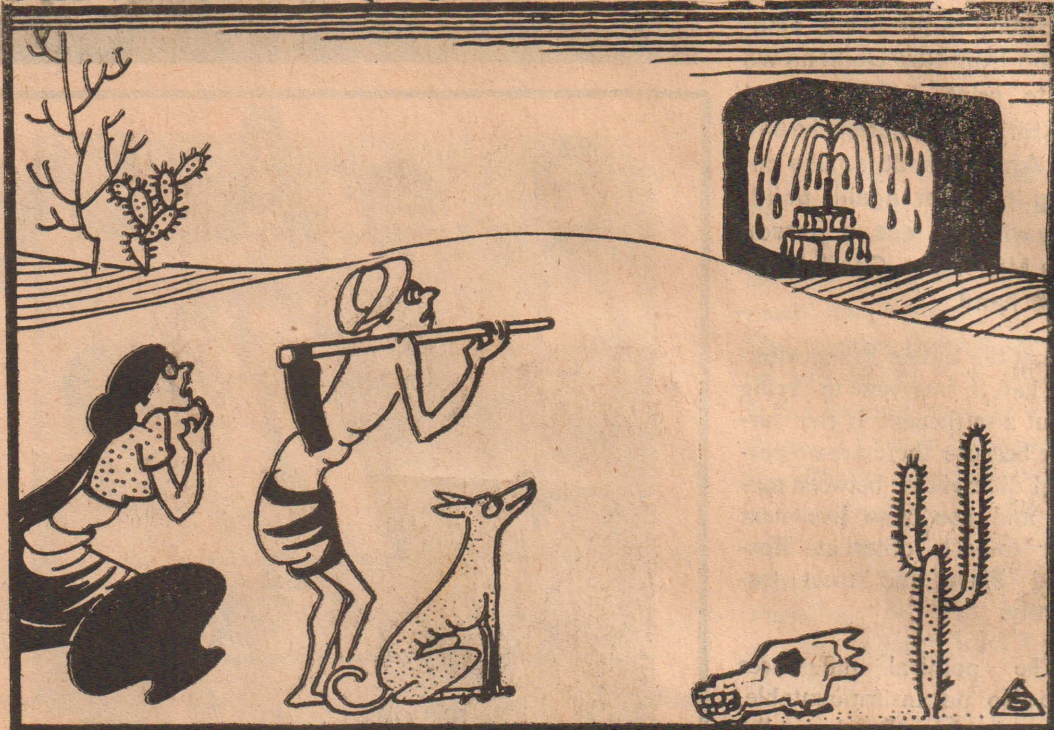
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Jaffna,
9-2-82.

The Editor,
"Saturday Review"

Dear Sir,

The "Saturday Review" fulfils a long felt need for

THE RUPAUAHINI (MIRAGE)



an English journal for the Tamils of this country. The editorials and the contents of the paper give the impression of a forthright fear'less journal reflecting the need of the times. You have been focussing attention on the happenings of the Kankesan Cement Factory. I wish to bring to your attention one more disturbing aspect. The lime stone deposits in the area are being exploited on a large scale to feed the factories at Kankesarthurai, Puttalam and Galle. The excavation has gone fairly deep and is rapidly progressing towards Keerimalai while the gap is left unfilled.

It is important to note that on the northern side of this excavation there is only a narrow strip of land through which the coastline road passes separating the Palk Strait and the rest of the main land of the peninsula. Natural calamities have made huge tracts of lands disappear in the past. A mirror crack is all that is required across the width of this narrow strip of land that separates the "Palk Strait" and portions of our beloved homeland along with the factory could well be engulfed by the sea.

Will our politicians kindly act in this matter?

Yours etc,
M. MAHALINGAM

73, Manipay Road,
Jaffna,
25-2-82.

I read with interest the article on "What is Astrology" in your "Review" of the 20th instant. The article which opened up with a castigation of those who condemn Astrology & Astrologers and which charges them with "lack of knowledge" & "self conceit" was quite a hard knock on "some educated sceptics" & "important personalities". These people perhaps condemn astrology due to doubts and forecasts and opinions by charlatans.

I am neither a sceptic nor do I claim to know the fundamentals of astrology and as a layman I would wish to be enlightened by the writer on the following points referred to in the article:

TIME OF BIRTH OF CHILDREN.

If the astrologer writer's conviction that the time of "birth" is the time that the child utters the first cry is accepted then most of the horoscopes in our midst are purely faulty as these horoscopes must have been cast by adopting the simple method of taking the time that the child was delivered on this earth as the birth time. This method appears to be easy and rational. If the time of first cry coupled with the first breath is taken as the time of birth then what is the position of astrology in respect of children born dumb

and those who utter the first cry after several seconds, minutes, hours, days, months and years after they were born. There had been a number of such cases; in certain instances the child uttered the first cry only after medication or surgery.

In the November 1970 issue of the "Readers Digest" there was an article that at St. Louis Barnes Hospital in America children were delivered only during the day, i. e., between 9 a. m., and 5 p. m., to enable Doctors and Nurses to have undisturbed sleep in the nights. An article in this connection was contributed by me to "Eelanadu" and was published in its issue of 4.1.71, a copy of it is annexed. Its translation and publication in your "Review" would provide interesting reading. According to the "Readers Digest" article, full time pregnant women are closely examined, probable delivery time pre-determined by calculation and labour pains induced through drugs (oxytocin injection and surgery and delivery deliberately effected during day time only. The article mentioned that over 700 children were safely delivered at that hospital in this manner. So what is the position of astrology in regard to births which were so activated?

The readers of the "Review" would like to know when the "first cause" occurred and how it came about.

Yours,
C. Ratnasabapathy.

LETTERS

Palaly South,
Vayavilan P. O.,
22-2-82

The Editor,
"Saturday Review"
Jaffna.

Sir,

I was thrilled to read your paper and I have decided to be a life subscriber of the "Saturday Review".

The paper seems to be a magazine of timely truths for all people. I wish and pray this paper must be a Daily in time to come to spotlight more all the injustices to mankind without any fear or favour.

As the Chinese proverb says, It is better to light a candle, than curse darkness"

Yours respectfully,
J. A. ANANDAM
(A Subscriber)

CENTRE FOR THE PROGRESS OF PEOPLES

48, Princess Margaret Road,
Kowloon, Hong Kong.
19th February, 1982.

The Editor,
Saturday Review.

Dear Sir,

May we congratulate you on the inauguration of your weekly newspaper.

We have been extremely distressed to hear reports of police and army harassment of innocent villagers, on January 7, this year, in five villages in the Vavuniya District, and have written to President Jayewardene expressing our concern.

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FIFTY YEARS ago, to the horror of his devoted followers, Jeddu Krishnamurti announced that he was not a god. Turning his back on the vast fortune which had been accumulated in his name, and the organisation which firmly believed him to be the reincarnation of Jesus Christ and thus the new Messiah, he set off to teach his own philosophy of life.

Fifty years later, now aged 87, Krishnamurti is still teaching, drawing crowds in their thousands to listen to his lectures. Two years ago 8000 people have been camping in a Hampshire field, often in heavy rain, to hear his annual public talks at Brockwood Park, and they have not been disappointed.

Krishnamurti speaks simply but with extraordinary authority. But he offers his followers no easy messages. He belongs to no sect, shares no dogma and presents himself wholly without ceremony. Unlike the average Indian guru there are no saffron robes, processions or mantras. And no charge.

Instead, dressed simply in corduroy slacks and an open-necked shirt, and seated on a wooden folding chair, he tells his audience that all such things are deceptions—a hindrance in the search for truth rather than an aid to it.

'Discovered' by
Annie Besant

Which is not at all what Krishnamurti's original followers had in mind. The story of his early life is as bizarre as his present appearance is ordinary. He was "discovered" in 1909 at the age of 14 playing on a beach in the Madras province of southern India by the flamboyant socialist and suffragette Annie Besant and her companion Dr. Charles Leadbeater of the Theosophical Society.

Theosophists believed that a new Messiah would emerge in the East at the turn of the century as the next incarnation of the Lord Maitreya, last seen on earth as Christ. The young Krishnamurti, who was the eighth child of a retired district magistrate, lived with his Brahmin family in desperate poverty, but Leadbeater claimed to detect in this thin, scruffy child an "aura of unselfishness" which showed that he was the chosen one.

He was adopted by Mrs. Besant and brought back to England in 1911 to be groomed for his role. He was raised among the aristocracy—Lady Emily Lutyens was his surrogate mother and Lady De La Warr a constant companion—educated privately, and then sent to the Sorbonne.

The man who refused to be God...



The 'boy-God' Krishnamurti who was 'discovered' at age of 14.



Krishnamurti, the world philosopher, in his eighties.

The Theosophists had wide influence among the educated and wealthy all over the world and a great sense of expectation (as well as a great fortune) awaited the day Krishnamurti would be 'given' to the world. Yet when that day came, he renounced it all.

In August 1929 at Ommen in Holland, in the grounds of Castle Eerde which with its 5,000 acre estate, had been given to him by the Baron Philip van Pallandt, an elaborate ceremony had been planned to initiate him as the World Teacher, and to appoint his disciples. But when Krishnamurti rose to address his followers, he told them:

"You can form other organisations and expect someone else. With that I am not concerned, nor with creating new cages... My only concern is to set men absolutely, unconditionally free." With that he dissolved his organisation and gave away the vast fortune accumulated in his name. He has refused all such temptations ever since.

"I neither agree nor disagree with what Mrs. Besant thought about me in those days," he said last week. "It is irrelevant. I could see that any religious organisation is like any other and they all lead to mutual corruption. A belief is purely an individual matter, and you cannot and must not organise it."

Since leaving the Theosophists, Krishnamurti has gone his own way. In the last 20 years he has founded eight coeducational boarding schools like the one at Brockwood Park in Hampshire, where he now spends six months each year, and he devotes much of his energy to educating the young.

"You go off to your priests, your psychologists and your gurus for help in solving your problems," he says. You are probably sitting here now hoping that I will solve them, give you enlightenment. But no. Truth cannot be given to you by somebody. You have to discover it."

By truth he means a constant awareness of life, both

within and without, an awareness of self-deception, prejudice and parroted dogmas which can blind us to the wholeness of reality and the oneness of humanity.

"A problem only arises when life is seen fragmentarily when thought arbitrarily divides the 'me' and the 'not me,' the observer, and the observed. A mind unfettered by belief, ritual and superstition can be free of the conflict to which they give rise... it becomes extraordinarily quiet, absolutely silent. Do you see the beauty of that?"

'He clearly lives what he says'

Yet nothing that Krishnamurti says is especially new. The great teachers of the past, Christ, Socrates, Buddha have said much the same thing, and lesser men have been repeating it for 2,000 years. So why do people in their thousands flock to hear him speak?

"It's because of what he is," said a London psychiatrist who had just met him for the first time. "I've never before met anyone who so clearly lives what he says. He talks of the ending of conflict with the same simple factuality that I might say 'It's raining.' Once you've heard him say something, it's no longer a theory—it becomes real."

Danah Zoha

...and the woman who sees God through love

Bombay, February 0

Love is the greatest science on earth, said Mother Teresa, delivering the valedictory address at the seventh international trans-personal conference here today. And love was also a universal religion since it was born out of prayers, she stated.

Thus love united science and religion and thereby mankind. Mother Theresa, therefore, asked people to freely give love to fellow human beings since they too were children of the same God. Love also facilitated service to God, she said.

Mother Theresa's message of love and compassion carried conviction with the large audience to such an extent that there was a sustained ovation to the frail woman who had practised her precepts during her 55 years stay in India among the slum-dwellers and leprosy patients.



Mother Theresa cradling an orphan child at Calcutta.

She described the award of the Nobel peace prize for her as a gift to the poor and downtrodden. The world was more aware of the plight of the poor because of the Nobel prize, she said.

She saw in love the salvation for the world. She appealed to scientists to desist from using their knowledge for destruction. "Use your brain with the heart", she told them.

She described her mission as preparing people to die with dignity. She gave love to those who seemed beyond redemption to society. "I am happy at least some experienced love before they died", she said.

Mother Theresa, answering a personal question on her, said she was an Albanian born in Yugoslavia and came from a happy family. "Now

I am an Indian", she said.

She said the transpersonal conference in India was significant since that country had produced four religions—Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism and Buddhism and it nourished Christianity, Islam and Zoroastrianism. India was the workshop of the world religions, she stated in a spirited speech on spiritual evaluation of the country.

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Debates in the Legislative
Council of Ceylon - Thursday
November 8, 1928

(Sir Ponnambalam Ramanaithan's Speech : Continued from the previous issue)

But in Ceylon do we not know how many thieves have lifted bundles of bank notes and run away—bags of rupees? And do we not know how many men dog the footsteps of cashiers going to their offices with bundles of currency notes, and how often they rob the cashiers? Do we not know how many men going alone in this supposedly peaceful city are belaboured with clubs, as they go about in rickshaws, and their things removed? Universal suffrage to these persons? Where is safety for us? What are the Commissioners talking about? Universal suffrage has been given to men and women in England and other places. But we are not they.

The other day I came across an account in a paper in which the present Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, is reported to have expressed regret at universal suffrage being given in England. (I tried to hunt up that paper but unfortunately I was not successful). That is their experience. Universal suffrage is talking on the platforms of England owing to the pressure and vehemence of a class of men who want this universal suffrage. Why? To go to Heaven? No, Sir; to go to undesirable places. In the world there are such things as prisons, there are such things as misfortunes of all kinds.

Owing to these wrong principles and wrong notions, our perspective is not at all clear. What is the cause of all this? It is, I may say, first and foremost the report of the Special Commissioners and the suggestions made to the Commissioners by various persons about the needs of Ceylon. Then, Sir, I must say that distorted communications have been made privately to the Commissioners about the doings of some of the Members of the Legislative Council and the supposed *impasse* conditions which have been produced in the Legislative Council.

I must next refer, as a fourth cause, to the misunderstanding of His Excellency Sir Hugh Clifford with regard to the responsibility and power of the Governor. We

had a clear notion of the responsibility and power of the Governor. At one time the responsibility of the Governor was this. He had to govern the country with the approbation of the Secretary of State and he was made responsible, and in order to maintain his responsibility, that is, his answerability to the King and the Secretary of State, he was given sufficient power. Well, Sir Hugh Clifford knew this doctrine of responsibility and power as it was when he first came to Ceylon somewhere in 1907 and it pleased him. He is a man of great ability and he liked to have his own way. He went away and afterwards like a meteor he comes to this place and finds that doctrine of responsibility which prevailed when he was first here, had been swept away and another form of responsibility and power given in its place. The doctrine of responsibility and power, just as everything else, changes and disappears in this world of ours; it was bound to change with the progress of years.

A HIGHER RESPONSIBILITY

Sir Hugh Clifford found that His Majesty's Order-in-Council of 1923 was altered by the addition of an abundant number of Unofficial Members who are responsible to their electorates, but not responsible to the Governor of Ceylon. From our point of view there is a higher responsibility not set on paper but written deep in our hearts—responsibility to God and to mankind. We say we have to think, speak, and act bringing every thought, every word, and every action to the touchstone of responsibility to God and to mankind. There is nothing like this in any part of the Donoughmore report. The responsibility there is the responsibility to the King on the part of the Governor. The King's ideal of responsibility is this. I appoint you as Governor and you have the Executive Council to advise you, and there is the Legislative Council to criticise and to help you in the good acts of the Government. That is the theory of responsibility so far as His Majesty's Order-

the First FRANCHISE debate

in-Council of 1923 is concerned. But Sir Hugh could not understand it. His difficulty to understand it was seen in his eyes, in his limbs, in his tongue, and in his movements. He was sweating and fuming. He asked, what is the meaning of this responsibility?

The Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council have the power of the purse and they only consult the Governor. It was difficult for Sir Hugh Clifford to understand. Fortunately I have the privilege of speaking to Governors and Colonial Secretaries and high officers of State. I told His Excellency Sir Hugh, the doctrine of responsibility has changed. If you refused to give a vote which the United Council wants, you will find yourself in a difficulty. You must train your mind to yield to unofficial Members. If you do not, they will clamour for a ministry and the power of the purse will be handed from you to the Prime Minister who will be the Lord treasurer." "This is what you are courting," I said, "the transfer of the power of the purse to the Cabinet Ministers." Well Sir, what I said was not quite appreciated.

THE GOVERNOR'S DESPATCH

I came to Council and found my colleagues fighting against this obstacle founded upon an antiquated theory of responsibility by which the Governor was obsessed. In Council I explained the situation to my official friends too and my conversations with them has had some effect because I found that the Council Secretary and some of the other officials were prepared to yield as much as possible. I think that is on record. Things were in this position when His Excellency the Governor Clifford wrote a despatch to the Secretary of State. I do not know what His Excellency said except what may be gathered from the report of the Donoughmore Commis-

on. There is one fact staring us in the face, namely, the report of the Donoughmore Commission would not be taken by the Government and placed on the table of this Council. Well, in consequence of that Despatch of Sir Hugh Clifford we found the Secretary of State announcing that according to a promise made by the Duke of Devonshire that he was going to appoint a Commission.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Sir, we never asked for a Commission. We were all for settling our difficulties in the best way we could. Even the deputations that the congress and several other associations sent to England never asked for universal suffrage or a complete alteration of the Executive Council, much less the effacement and the abolition of the Executive Council. Nor was that asked in the interviews granted to them by the Secretary of State. I think you new that yourselves, Sir. The Government who was willing to do their best for the people then asked some of the leaders of the people to put their heads together and give them a scheme which they could consider. Then the Members did their best to evolve a scheme but we could not do it, Sir. So all that was proposed was to add four nominated Members to the Executive Council who, with the existing Members, would be safety enough for the Government of Ceylon. But a little time afterwards somehow these four Commissioners came. They asked everybody to state what was in their minds and they announced that they came with open minds. Their report came to us with all the authority apparently of the Government of Great Britain, but it was not so. We know that because it was a report ordered to be made by the Commissioners in order that it might be submitted to the Secretary of State to be considered by him.

Of course he would not consider it unless it was sent to the Governor and laid on the table of the Legislative Council. Well, the report was ordered to be simultaneously published in England and in this Island. We read in it the glittering warble of universal suffrage and Cabinet Ministers with Rs. 27,000 a year each. Interviews were sought by the papers with some of those men who think and they said they were not prepared to express an opinion just then but would do so in due time. In the meanwhile public opinion was gaining ground. The fair report was found to be unsuitable and unworkable; and it was resolved in the Legislative Council that the Executive Committee System with some of its attendant features should all be turned down. It is like the entrails of a man pulled out and thrown away. The entrails are gone and the man must simply go down having no legs to stand and no head to think; there is nothing else, and the only thing that remains to be done is cremation.

CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

That is the position of affairs which naturally developed according to the good sense of all our leaders. The leaders certainly found some trouble at one time.

The advice which the Commissioners give about universal franchise cannot be accepted, and for very good reasons.

All this is now being viewed with a great deal of amusement by all the communities, whether they be Sinhalese, Tamils, or Muhammadans. They say "Now, we have seen light, and we hope this light will continue to shine and work for our good."

(To be continued
on the next issue)

We publish below the full text of a Press Release issued by Krishna Vaikunthavasan, Convener Tamil Co-ordinating Committee: Editor

Saturday Review

55, Warren Road, Colliers Wood London SW 12HY9.

T.U.L.F. Leadership and the U.D.I.

As the storm of controversy which preceded the Declaration of the Tamil Eelam independence on Pongal Day (14th January) is moving away, it becomes necessary to review the whole matter in its true perspective. Also the question that naturally grips the mind of every politically conscious Tamil is What next?

As it is now well known, the Declaration was properly made with all solemnity in a very appropriate form, namely the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Again appropriately it is the Tamil patriots who took the initiative and made the historic Massachusetts Resolution and Declaration possible in 1979 who have now made the Independence Declaration, supported of course by many others from New York as from distant places. (Some travelled all the way from Boston to New York in freezing weather conditions)

Thillaiampalam Sri Kanthan deserves our continuing support for his grit, determination and exemplary courage in taking the lead by successfully carrying out the Declaration.

If we ourselves, for whatever reasons, are not in a position to take our Independence struggle forward, let us at least encourage and give our support to patriots like Sri Kanthan.

Now to the question,- What next?

The Leadership of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) has still a crucial role to play. All types of attacks were made against the TCC and its Convener in a desperate effect to prevent them from making the Declaration in London. No one from the TCC ever said that the Declaration would be made in London. All along from the time we passed the resolution in August 1980, the only issue was the making of the Declaration itself on Pongal Day 1982. Indeed we would have been jubilant if the TULF made the Declaration in Tamil Eelam on Pongal Day. But, the Leadership became frightened like little girls and even tried all tricks to frighten others also by scare stories of a new bloodbath etc. as if Tamil genocide plans could become worse than the mad burning down of the prestigious Jaffna public library with its 97,000 precious books and irreplaceable manuscripts.

When we knew that the Leadership was not going to do it, then we did the next best thing - to make the Declaration in the World Forum itself—the U. N. If we had made it public beforehand that the Declaration was to be made in New York and not in London, it is possible that the Sri Lanka Government would have sent its External Affairs Minister Mr. Hameed to see the US Authorities instead of his secret trip to London well before Pongal Day to meet Mrs. Thatcher, the British PM, in an effort to put a stop to the Declaration in London. The TULF Leadership also would have extended its smear campaign against the American Tamils.

The truth is: Questions of authority are raised only when what is to be done is against the interests of those who make the query, at the given time.

Now, when I addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York (5-10-78) and raised for the first time the issue of Tamil Freedom (incidentally also the Basques) no one in the world gave me any authority/mandate. Indeed no one knew—not even my wife—that I was going to address the UN.

But because what I did at that time suited the thinking patterns of the TULF Leadership, Mr. Amirthalingam

by Krishna Vaikunthavasan



Diplomatic eyebrows were raised when Krishna Vaikunthavasan was received by Indian Premier Mrs. Indra Gandhi in New Delhi in January 1980

We know all the time that Mr. Jayewardene's UNP Government continues to be against the very idea of independence for Tamils and obviously therefore against any step towards Tamil freedom. But what has intrigued us, is Mr. Amirthalingam's shameful attitude, especially after the so-called 6 months "moratorium" no-Eelam talks with Mr. Jayewardene?

Some ask: Who gave the Authority to the TCC, in the first place, to decide on such matters as the said Independence Declaration?

We reply: Who gave the mandate to the TULF Leadership to come to an agreement with Mr. Jayewardene to stop talking about Eelam Independence for 6 months? What happens after this 6 months? General Elections? Tamil MPs to go to the ancient Kotte Sinhala Kingdom?

praised me (in his foreword to the booklet—"The Tamil Eelam Nation and the UNO");—"Tamil Nation owes a debt of gratitude for that master stroke," and Mr. Sivasithamparam on his return from Boston after his brave address to the Honourable members of the Massachusetts State Assembly in May 1979) at a big public meeting held in London said:- "What Mr. Vaikunthavasan has done at the UN reminds me of the first words uttered by Neil Armstrong as soon as he set foot on the Moon:- "This is one step for man; but a giant step for mankind".

That is how both the TULF Leaders responded then. I have nothing personal against these leaders. After all, it is true that Mr. Amirthalingam has been in politics for the adult part of his life. True. He keeps on repeating that he has been at it for over 34 years. So, What?

It is not the number of years — it is not the period of time you have been at it— What counts is the Net Result.

Talking, repeating, We are for Tamil Eelam is not going to deceive the Tamil people any more. Because TULF candidates get elected as against the UNP, it does not mean that the people endorse and give you the mandate for whatever you do. We must be realistic. At the DDC elections, it is true that the people voted for the TULF. But the crucial point is: As against anti-Tamil UNP, any candidate who says he stands for Tamil Freedom is naturally preferred. So that is how the Tamil TULF gets the mandate as against the Sinhala UNP. Mr. Amirthalingam can't therefore boast that the Tamils are giving him a mandate for everything he does.

The mandate was given at the July 1977 General Elections to secure freedom, self respect and Independence for the Tamils. In the context it was given it meant only one thing:- The attainment of a Sovereign, Independent and Socialist Eelam.

In all earnestness, we ask Mr. Amirthalingam:- Please tell the Tamils (without verbiage), in point form:- What have you done for the last

4½ years to achieve the goal? Any solid, positive step taken? True, when the Tamils are hit, killed, raped and otherwise injured and destroyed, some MPs run to New York, London etc. (even Taiwan), often on invitations from Tamils (Boston included); then address public meetings, hold discussions etc. But with what result?

As we correctly anticipated the Pongal Declaration has generated so much of political clout both in Ceylon and outside. A journalist of international standing, Mervyn de Silva, sent a report to the BBC on the significance and implications of the Declaration which was duly broadcast by the BBC in its THAMIL OSAI and many other languages on 12th January. The TIMES, London, had a news item on 16th January on our Declarations.

The making of the Independence Declaration in New York must now serve to jolt the TULF to summon the National Assembly of TAMIL EELAM, as they promised in 1977.

For nearly 400 years the Eelam Tamils have been under foreign domination. Now that a great step towards our freedom has been taken on Pongal Day, Let us take stock of the developing situation both in Ceylon and outside and then proceed to the next stage.

Krishna Vaikunthavasan
Convener, T.C.

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In a country
that
produced
marvels of
Engineering
2,000 years
ago....

Here's one more of those 'Believe It or Not' stories under the United National Party Government's dispensation.

American and Japanese engineers and technicians are to be entrusted with the task of digging irrigation canals in the Mahaweli downstream development area.

AMERICAN AND JAPANESE ENGINEERS ARE GOING TO DIG IRRIGATION CANALS!

This is a country which over 2,000 years ago itself built massive irrigation works..... most of it now restored and in use...which are the marvel of modern engineers.

How the Americans and Japanese are going to come here is an interesting story.

For almost every project under the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme, only companies of the countries which are providing aid—mostly loans—and public and private sector organisations in Sri Lanka are "pre-qualified to submit tenders.

Generally, the main contracts have been awarded to firms from the aid or loan giving countries.

Thus, a British consortium was awarded the contract for the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme's prime project, the Victoria reservoir and power house, for which Britain made a £ 100 million grant, followed by a commercial credit of £ 20 million.

Sweden gave a loan for the Kotmale project and a Swedish firm is on the job,

Canada is financing the Maduru Oya project and a Canadian firm got the main contract.

Germany and Japan have pledged aid for the Randeni-gala and Moragahakanda projects, respectively, and only companies from these two countries will be eligible to undertake the work.

provided the contracts are awarded to companies from their countries.

This means that if these offers are accepted not even Sri Lankan firms will be able to

by our Colombo correspondent

In the case of the downstream development in the areas designated "B" and "C" in the Accelerated Programme, both the United States Government and the Japanese Government have offered aid-

tender for these work.

Then Sri Lanka's subservience to foreign aid and foreign experts would be almost total, for the work involved is so simple that even Navaloka Mudalali can undertake it.

HOW IS THIS WEEK FOR YOU?



(March 7 — March 13)

S. Ratnarajah

MESHA—ARIES

This week starts with signs of substantial improvement in your professional activities. Short journeys are indicated. Children will be helpful. In the case of some, the partner will have a chance of some good luck—there will be unexpected gains. Generally speaking, this is a favourable week both for you and your partner.

RISHABA—TAURUS

There will be chances to travel abroad. Harmony in the family will be prevalent this week. Tuesday and Wednesday will be excellent as far as your profession is concerned. Sun in the tenth house will bring you in contact with Government officials and important personages who will be helpful to you. Those who are suffering from lung complaints must be careful on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday as the combination of Moon, Mars and Saturn in Kanya will aggravate the condition.

MITHUNA—GEMINI

Expect difference of opinion between yourself and your spouse especially on Sunday. Harmonious situation in the family will be disturbed by obstinacy and rash action. You will have the goodwill and favours from good people. Unexpected things will happen in the professional sphere. Your enemies will come to your feet. Unexpected financial gains indicated. You will be unnecessarily taxing your mind by worrying over minor matters.

KATAKA—CANCER

Professionally this is a prosperous week. Superiors will be helpful. Family harmony will be prevalent. Children will bring you happiness. In the case of some the health of the father will give you some anxiety but there is nothing to be alarmed. You will experience irritable temper on Monday and Tuesday. Your friends and relations will be helpful till Tuesday. On Wednesday try to keep your temper down lest you antagonise an important personage.

SINHA—LEO

This is an ideal week to gain favours from superiors and for dealings with the Government. Professional gains

can be made and changes of gains are indicated. Unnecessary medical expenses will have to be incurred on the spouse due to sudden illness. Generally speaking this is a week where your gains will be more than your losses.

KANYA—VIRGO

People born in this lagna should be very careful especially on Friday and Saturday. Possibility of accidents and also ailments which would need immediate medical attention. Professional gains will be unexpected and sudden but you will have to face hidden opposition. Good people will be there to help you. In the case of some the health of the mother will need attention.

THULA—LIBRA

Professional gains can be had as wished by you during the early part of the week. Religious and good people will be very helpful to you in order to get out of difficulties. Expect to undertake short journeys in connection with your profession at short notice. A child will bring you happiness and prominence.

VRICHKA—SCORPIO

You will be required to make journeys which will bring you success in your profession. Family harmony will be to your liking. You will be helped by members of the opposite sex in your professional matters. Financial gains will be made. Do not be hasty or impulsive. Consider well and resort to action. There will be minor ailments due to nervous weakness which can be easily got rid of.

DHANU—SAGITTARIUS

Exercise caution on Sunday as it is chandra ashtamana day. You will have unnecessary worries and disappointments. There will be harmony in the family and financial gains will be made this week. Professional gains and professional upliftment can be expected this week. Events will happen without much effort.

MAKARA—CAPRICORN

This is an ideal week for family harmony and professional gains. On Monday and Tuesday be careful of hidden enemies who will try to bring about disruption in family smoothness. Expenses will be heavy. Journeys will be undertaken with success. Friends and relations will be helpful. You will be popular in society.

KUMBA—AQUARIUS

Sun will be in lagna till the end of the week and during this period you will be busy and take a prominent part in social affairs. Professionally a very prosperous week. You will have to be careful on Thursday, Friday and Saturday as chandrastamana brings you worry and ill-health. For some the father will be helpful and children will give you worry.

MEENA—PISCES

Lagnadhpathi is in the eighth house and Mars and Saturn are in the 7th house with moon joining them on Thursday. For some this combination will cause abdominal complaints and sudden journeys. Money will come in after a struggle and the same condition will prevail in the case of professional affairs. This is a week of ups and downs.

A number of top engineers interviewed by the "Saturday Review" conceded that for financial and technical reasons, Sri Lanka on its own could not have launched simultaneously the five major Mahaweli projects. What they said was that the Government should have obtained the foreign currency and then hired the necessary engineers and purchased the machinery and material in the cheapest foreign markets.

This way, they said, the cost of the Accelerated Programme could have been more than halved. (Estimated at Rs. 8 billion in 1977, the latest projection is that the final will be over Rs. 40 billion.)

This way, they also said, there would not have been such an exodus of Sri Lankan scientists, engineers and technicians to other countries. For it would have been possible to pay them higher salaries.

Until the recent salary revision, a top engineer in the public sector was paid a maximum of Rs. 3,500 a month. But low-grade Chinese technicians, not engineers, working on some Mahaweli projects are paid Rs. 8,000!

That Sri Lankans do not lack engineering talent is proved by the fact that a number of those who had gone abroad have been hired by foreign contractors for Mahaweli work on what, by local standards, are fantastic salaries. One such person is paid Rs. 80,000 a month!

A world known Sri Lankan scientist, commenting on the proposal to award the downstream development work to American and Japanese scientists, remarked: "This is indeed the ruddy limit...Where is Sri Lanka heading?"

This Government has displayed a profound inability to think for itself, judging by its economic policies some of which have been very inimical to Sri Lanka's interests. In fact, it has been said in some quarters that all the economic thinking of and for the Government is done by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund!

That may be the case with the Government, but within the United National Party there are still some people who can think, who can see the way the country is drifting and who have repeatedly advised the rulers to take remedial steps.

Last week, we published extracts from a document submitted to the Government by one such UNP adviser. He proposed "a solution which is both political and economic." This is because a purely economic approach, as adopted by the Government, only leads to the heaping of more burdens on the masses and is certain to have adverse repercussions at the polls.

The first thing that should be done, according to him, is to "BAN ALL THAT SRI LANKA COULD GROW OR MANUFACTURE." As the Government is committed to an "open economy", the ban, he has said, should operate through high import duties.

The document submitted by him is so tantalising that we are tempted to quote more extracts from it!

"For instance, a very good meal could be cooked on an open hearth with only three bricks or on a microwave oven. If one does not have the money one has no choice left but to cook on the open fire. Similarly, by selective high restrictive tariffs one could still continue the consumer society to which Sri Lanka under the UNP Government is accustomed by banning de facto the import of foreign finished goods and instead producing or growing in Sri Lanka finished goods both agricultural and industrial which are adequate.

"This will enable the UNP programmes and promises to be implemented while reducing the foreign exchange and rupee gaps significantly. Today a whole range of foreign products are being imported when adequate products, both agricultural and industrial are available. To eliminate these gaps altogether, considerable time will be needed but the UNP must immediately take sufficiently far reaching measures to have an effective impact on reduction of inflation and the revival of economic activity, particularly stimulate increasing exports from the various agricultural and industrial enterprises.

"Ban all that Sri Lanka can grow or manufacture"

"Thus, as the solution is to be both economic and political, it will be one that will be of help to the UNP at the elections. Certain parameters emerge as the logical consequences of such a decision, if it is taken, and they must be embodied in a directive of the highest priority to all agencies of the Government most of which are now working at cross-purposes and pulling in the opposite direct-

1. To produce everything that Sri Lanka could grow or manufacture subject to adequacy in price, quality and quantity. This should be determined by appropriate state organizations.
2. Policymaking by state organizations.
3. Buffer stocks where necessary by state trading organizations; and

minor tanks for which funds should be provided as of the highest priority.

"This will in all provide at most 300,000 jobs, both direct and indirect, in all a quantum inadequate to offset the delay in the massive employment and opportunities of work the Mahaweli Scheme was expected to provide. Actually, much more than half this 300,000 are

"As far as the private sector is concerned, the phase of expansion from 1978 has virtually come to an end except for a few enterprises because the Old Tariff Committees of officials merrily allowed foreign finished goods to flow in and generally be heavily dumped in Sri Lanka by drastically reducing tariffs, and the Foreign Investment Approvals Committee acting without any adequate directives from the Government, allowed many foreign firms to take control of the domestic companies through local running dogs.

"The Rural Industrial Development Ministry under Mr. S. Thondaman licenses foreign enterprises to operate and sell in the domestic sector as happened in the famous case of Lalithas joss sticks. The recent half-page advertisement of this Ministry is quite contrary to the policies of the Ministry of Industries under Mr. Cyril Mathew. This contradiction must be urgently resolved.

"If Sri Lanka industries which satisfy the tests of adequacy are to be made to export, then the free onrush of similar foreign finished goods, particularly when they are dumped, or foreign entrepreneurs being freely given licences to produce for the domestic market, as Mr. Thondaman appears to be intent on doing, must be curbed."

Good advice, but which has so far been ignored by the Government!

(To be Continued)

by our Economic Correspondent

ion. This directive must clearly order all Governmental agencies in whatever they do that—

1. They must create employment in Sri Lanka.
2. They must not create any further unemployment in Sri Lanka.
3. They must seek to bridge appreciably the foreign exchange and rupee gaps while continuing the programmes necessary to implement the Government's promises. These instructions must be given specifically.
4. They must introduce active incentives and take all possible measures to stimulate substantial increases in agricultural and industrial exports.
5. Their actions must provide effective results by the end of 1982.
6. They must not allow foreign ownership of control in the Domestic Sector except in special cases.

"Hence, by their very nature, these constitute together immediate short-form "rescue measures" designed to create employment and prevent any further unemployment."

Emphasising that employment should receive "the highest priority", the adviser in question has proposed that "all our policies must immediately be altered—

4. Strengthening enterprises for effectively exporting and/or importing substitutes which process must be stimulated, assisted and policed by the relevant ministries.

already employed under these schemes.

"The nett new employment work to be found will be for about one million persons. The Ministry of Employment and Youth Affairs estimates about 700,000 need work at present and another 300,000 will need work by the rate of about 150,000 in 1981 and 1982. So our task is to create the opportunities for work employment for another one million people before the elections or at least for most of them.

"At present, the other areas of appreciable public sector employment are the Greater Colombo Development Scheme the Greater Colombo Economic Commissions; the construction of Jayewardenapura; and work to be provided through the colonisation of lands under the Mahaweli Scheme and restoration of

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JAFFNA.

It is very distressing to find a minority of Sinhala leaders taking the fatalistic view that the TAMIL RACE AND LANGUAGE is a threat to the existence of the Sinhala Race and Language. An international journalist says that they suffer from a MINORITY COMPLEX THE fear of the SINHALA RACE AND LANGUAGE being swamped by millions of Tamils from India.

Even if the Sinhala Only policy eliminated the Tamil language, and the Tamil dominated areas are reduced to minority status by colonising them by Sinhala colonists, the problems of Sri Lanka cannot be solved because they are plainly economic and have nothing to do with Language, Race and Religion. It is a human problem and solutions can be found only by sincere and frank discussions, recognition of rights, dignity and the freedom of the other to live as human beings and to lead a full life.

Linking Sinhala with Buddhism

Another canard is to link Buddhism (a religion of Compassion and Love started by an Indian Sage) with the Sinhala Language and Race. Buddhism started a reformation of the existing religions which had become corrupt through nonobservance in the breach. At one time the whole of India was practically Buddhist, including Tamils in Ceylon. Then dynamic Hindu leaders like Sangarachariar reformed Hinduism (just like after Colonial rule, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam were made more vigorous by their respective reformers) and the Hindus went back to their religion. So if some Buddhist relic is excavated from a Hindu area it does not mean only Sinhala Buddhists lived in that area. The existence of Hindu and Buddhist shrines all over the island proves that Buddhists and Hindus generally and practically lived with an attitude of Tolerance and understanding.

Every child that is born in Sri Lanka is born blank like a clean slate. The children are brainwashed into consciousness of their race, religion and caste and the vested interests to which they belong. So long as the children are brought up and equipped to get into useful vocations leading to satisfied lives no problem arises. But if the youth feel frustrated and cannot find fulfilment in useful activities, they resort to violence and terrorism (Reference 1971 J. V. P. Youth uprising and the Tamil Youth resorting to Terrorism).

The youth do not want to give some gases in chemistry, clad lives which can be des-

A Plea for Sanity: A point of view

by S. P. R.

cribed as colourless, tasteless, odourless and insoluble in water. This is due to the old people hanging on to power instead of handing over to the promising young.

I therefore suggest certain principles so that there will be UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND DIVERSITY IN UNITY AND PEACE AND PROGRESS IS ENSURED FOR SRI LANKA.

I. THE POPULATION OF SRI LANKA

The population of Sri Lanka consists of Sinhala speaking Sri Lankans born of the Sinhala father and Tamil speaking Sri Lankans born of the Tamil father. The children should be taught in the medium of their mother tongue Sinhala and Tamil. Ceylon being a patriarchal society it is logical and automatic. No choice is involved.

English has become a readily available universal language. So every child should commence the study of English from the 3rd. When Franklin Roosevelt defeated Wendell Wilkie for the U. S. Presidency he sent him on a world tour. He came back and wrote a book "ONE WORLD OR WORLD GOVERNMENT" ENGLISH AS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE CAN HELP ACHIEVE THIS.

Similarly the Sinhala child should commence Tamil and the Tamil child commence Sinhala from the 7th Std. stage. All languages should be taught in a systematic and scientific way to help in communication of thoughts and ideas and spread understanding so that peace and progress with the world as a whole is ensured.

UNITED WE STAND
DIVIDED WE FALL OR
COMMIT SUICIDE

II EDUCATION

Every village should have a Junior School from the per-school to the 7th standard. All should be standardised and

offer the same facilities all over the island.

District schools from the 8th standard to Grade 12 depending on number of Junior schools which act as feeder schools and according to the needs of the district. A general course of studies which can become specialised into Arts, Science and Commerce etc., from Grade 10.

A High School or University College for each District will provide for technical and professional courses for students qualifying from District Schools. They should grant Diplomas or degrees to enable students to get professional qualifications for skilled jobs.

There should be only one University of Sri Lanka to which every University College of the various Districts should be affiliated. It should supervise the curriculum of studies and maintenance of standards so that it will be same in all the District University Colleges.

The University College in each District should supervise curriculum, maintain standards of all the District Schools and Junior Schools which qualify students for admission to that University college to enable students to get the proper training.

The University of Sri Lanka in addition should deal with Research and the co-ordination of all research activities in Sri Lanka. It should also provide for post graduate qualifications, Foreign research scholars should also be welcome and be provided with all facilities.

III COLONISATION

Colonisation should not mean the plucking a farmer from a familiar surroundings to a strange place and surroundings. It should also not mean reducing the majority areas of Minorities by planting Sinhala colonists to reduce them to a minority.

There should be State Farm Schools in each District providing agriculture training for 4/5 years. Colonists should be selected from that District. If there is a vacancy nominees from State Farm schools from like areas should be selected. But a farmer from the wet zone should not be sent to the Dry Arid Zone and vice versa.

The whole of Sri Lanka should be divided into FOREST LAND, AGRICULTURE LAND, Non agriculture land and colonisation land. For each District, the Forest lands should include traditional land through which the Sri Lanka elephants once roamed. The Sri Lanka elephant being unique in the world should be a protected species. In the wild state it should be allowed to roam through its traditional paths which have been upset by colonisation plans.

IV ADMINISTRATION

Each Sri Lankan should be allowed to form deep roots and associations in his own semi-autonomous village and encouraged to take part in the village activities and hold responsible posts giving everyone a chance. No one should be allowed to hold posts more than 2 or 3 times. If he is serving in another area he should be given leave to see his village. This gives an emotional sense of security.

There should be autonomous Districts in charge of Development as regards the special needs of that District. Central Government institutions to co-ordinate the Development plans of various Districts and to harmonise them with the country's development as a whole.

Officers in District Services to be confined to recruitment from that District. Officers to Central Government Institutions by direct recruitment as well as by promotions from the District services.

V. MAHAWELI AND THE THONDAMANAR FRESH WATER LAGOON SCHEME,

Legislative Council Member the Hon. Mr. Balasingham first asked for the diversion of the Mahaweli north towards the Iranamadu Tank. The surplus flood waters to be allowed to flow into the Jaffna Lagoon and the Thondamanar Lagoon. Subsequently the salt water would become a huge fresh water lake. This will enable Jaffna farmers to engage in large scale Dairy Farming. It will also be possible to get at least 2 crops of paddy.

The Sinhala dominated Government as a gesture of friendship and reconciliation should start a massive scheme (THE JAFFNA THONDAMANAR FRESH WATER LAKE SCHEME OR AUTHORITY) For this scheme it should seek foreign help in the form of experts and financial aid. This scheme will be of immense benefit to the island as a whole. Did not KING PARAKRAMABAHU SAY THAT NOT A SINGLE DROP OF RAIN WATER SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO FLOW INTO THE OCEAN UNTIL THE BEST BENEFIT HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT OF IT?

At present only the initial steps to prevent salt water from entering during high tides have been taken as part of THE COMPLETE SCHEME.

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Seminar on Export Promotion in the Jaffna District (13th & 14th March)

A 2-day Seminar on Export Promotion in the Jaffna District will be held on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th March at the District Office of the Bank of Ceylon at Hospital Street, Jaffna. The Seminar is sponsored by the Bank of Ceylon in association with the North Ceylon Chamber of Industries, and will commence at 8-30 a. m. and conclude at 4-30 p. m. each day.

Mr. L. Piyadasa, General Manager, Bank of Ceylon is expected to inaugurate the Seminar on the 15th, and the keynote address will be delivered by Mr. V. E. Santiapillai, Chairman Sri Lanka Export Development Board. Mr. R. J. Gunaratnam, Vice President of the North Ceylon Chamber of Industries will make the welcome address. The first session

will be chaired by Mr. Devanesan Nesiah, Government Agent, Jaffna.

Resource personnel from the Sri Lanka Export Development Board, the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Ceylon as well as executives engaged in Development work drawn from the Public and Private Sector will lead the discussion on both days.

The objectives of the Seminar are to acquaint the participants with the promotional and fiscal policies and strategies of the Government in regard to Export development and to examine the potential for Export which exists in the field of Agricultural and industrial production in the Jaffna District, among others.

Festival of India in London

A Festival of India opens on March 22nd in London to coincide with the official visit of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to Britain.

All tickets for the inaugural concert were sold out within half an hour of the opening of the box office in London on Feb 22nd.

The inaugural concert will feature a vocal recital by the celebrated South Indian singer M. S. Subbulakshmi and a performance by the London Philharmonic conducted by Zubin Mehta to a score composed by Ravi Shanker.

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Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Postmasters threaten to pull down the shutters on week-ends

Postmasters are demanding a five-day work week, "like other public servants", or extra payment for extra work.

To focus public attention on their "long-standing grievance", they are planning to launch a campaign shortly whose twin prongs will be staying at home on Saturdays and closing the public counters at 1-30 (like the banks and most other state institutions) where cash is handled).

According to a Post and Telecommunication Officers' Union spokesman, this form of protest has been planned after all appeals to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the Government have "failed to elicit a satisfactory response." At present, postmasters and assistant postmasters, as well as female telephonists and creed operators are required to work on Saturday, too, without any extra payment.

On Sunday, at the main post-offices, postmasters are expected to be on duty for two and a half hours to receive and despatch mail. For this they are paid overtime, but the amount is "not enough to cover the cost of tra-

velling and a cup of tea or cigarette," the spokesman said.

He said, "The U. P. T. O., as well as the Sri Lanka Thappal & Viduli Sandera Niladaringe Savgawaya & the UNP union had hoped the Salaries Review Committee would grant relief. But its report does not contain even a separate salary scale for the postmasters' service. Our salaries have been almost equated with those of the Clerical Service, though our work is more specialised and we handle cash as well."

The planned action of the postmasters could disorganise the entire postal services, both in Colombo and the outstations, especially by holding up mail movements during the weekends.

The closure of the public counters at 1.30 p.m. would mean that there would be no sale of stamps, acceptance of telegrams and issue of postal and money orders after this time. (Sandesa News Agency)

Minister Mathew's plans for North-South dialogue

Minister Mathew has discovered the existence of over 250 Buddhist shrines in the Northern and Eastern provinces. He has been urging Buddhist associations to adopt Buddhist shrines and establish a colony around the site. Mathew's plan is to introduce a Buddhist monk and Sinhala colony around the site for its proper maintenance.

Siri Perera Q. C., President of the Y. M. B. A. told Nation that on the urging of Minister Mathew the YMBA has decided to adopt a shrine and proposes to despatch a

monk with dayakas to the North to form a protective ring around the site.

Meanwhile a section of the UNP is urging President Jayewardene to shelve the Mathew proposals. They predict this would seriously jeopardise the ongoing talks the President is having with the TULF. A fear expressed by the dissident group is that the colonists Mathew proposes to plant in the North may not be religiously inspired.

(From "The Nation" - February 26, 1982.)

Muslims to get together and form one party for the elections

Negotiations are under way in Colombo for the formation of a new Muslim political party bringing together leaders of the community now scattered among a number of parties.

Spearheading these moves are several prominent Muslims in the UNP, some of whom are also members of the All-Ceylon Muslim League, which is affiliated to it.

The two main organisations of the Muslims at present are the Muslim League and the Islamic Socialist Front led by Dr. Badiuddin Mahmud; the latter supports the SLFP.

Both, however, are parochial organisations without island-wide representation. The

T.U.L.F. leader now in England

Mr. A. Amirthalingam, leader of the Opposition left for London on 1st March to attend a seminar organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Committee.

While attending this three week long seminar Mr. Amirthalingam will also campaign amongst Tamils living in London, towards raising a fund of Rs. 10 million for the Jaffna Public Library. He is also expected to acquaint them with the TULF's position at the impending elections.

Cement Factory: 9 deaths now

"The Cement Corporation is entirely to blame for the deaths taking place at the IIIrd stage worksite at Kankesanthurai", said Mr. K. Thurairatnam, M.P. for Point Pedro at a meeting of the Jaffna District Development Council held on 2nd March, following the death of Rayappu Francis Julius, 19, of Pandateruppu, who plunged 55ft. to his death, on 1 March. The death of Julius now brings the tally to nine.

new party, which is expected to be formed before the next election, will invite Muslims from all parts of the island to join it.

The sponsors believe a new party will strengthen their hand in bargaining with the next regime, whichever party forms it. So far most of the leading Muslims have been supporters of the UNP. Most of them have benefited immensely from the "open economy" instituted by the UNP.

But there is said to be a feeling among them that the UNP may not be able to retain power, so that they do not want to continue to be tied down to it.

A flow of Arab money into Sri Lanka for "Cultural purposes" has also given the Muslims courage to strike out on their own, believe observers.

An international conference of Muslim leaders is scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka in March or April.

Community Policing In Jaffna becomes a workable idea

A scheme initiated in Jaffna by the D. I. G. (Northern Range) Mr. A. Navaratnam involving popular participation at the village level in checking the incidence of crime, is already producing results.

Called Community Policing, the scheme begins with the Police making contact with an elderly respected leader in the village who gathers a group of twenty people in the area to do patrolling in the nights. The credentials of the twenty selected are checked by the Police and thereafter the community patrols keep in touch with the mobile Police units.

The objectives of the scheme are three-fold:- Firstly, getting the community involved in vigilance activity is felt to be the most effective way of policing an area; secondly, in the background of Police-youth conflict over the past few years, it is felt that the time is not

ripe to send police personnel on the beat; thirdly, this scheme is expected to narrow the "psychological distance" between the Police and the public that had developed in Jaffna over the years.

D. I. G. (Northern Range) Mr. Navaratnam told the "Saturday Review" that the Community Policing idea has already caught on, and is working very well in villages such as Karainagar, Chavakachcheri, Chunnakam and Kokuvil. In fact, in Karainagar and Chunnakam, the scheme has led to the arrests of some involved in crime. He hopes to set up about fifty to sixty Vigilance groups for each Police station area.

Mr. Navaratnam has also initiated Sports activities in the peninsula in which Police personnel themselves will participate along with school youths and members of the public.