

TRIBUNE



27TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION





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TRIBUNE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

QUEEN ELIZABETH the Second of Great Britain is in Sri Lanka this week. She was here in 1954 shortly after she ascended the Throne. From the euphoria that has enveloped this island at the moment, it is abundantly clear that this island is still "a little England" as it was in the days of the Planters' Raj. The Brown Sahibs had carried on the "Love British" traditions into the era of Independence with its emotional nationalist slogans based on romantic recollections of a "glorious past". To some the British Royalty was the legitimate successor of the unbroken Sinhala monarchy that had ruled Sri Lanka for more than 2,500 years from the days of Vijaya. Even after the island became a Republic in 1972, she continued to be part of the British Commonwealth and nostalgia for the British Crown continued in many quarters. But what is more relevant is that our elected hierarchy and the ruling dynasties in the political parties are ingrained in traditions and styles of governments said to be modelled after the Kings of old. The invitation to the Queen to visit Sri Lanka is therefore understandable and the celebrations for fifty years of adult franchise is no doubt an excellent excuse and backdrop for this visit. One thing that even the harshest opponents of monarchy and the perpetuation of the British connection cannot object to is that apart from beating the big drum about adult franchise and Sri Lanka's democratic system of government, the main thrust of the Queen's visit has been directed to spotlighting Mahaveli development. More aid, more credit and more investment, is needed to help the accelerated Mahaweli programme to get off the ground into economic viability and profitability. Inflation has increased costs four and five times in a short period of three or four years, and in pragmatic terms this can be met only with capital from abroad as there is none locally. Foreign investment has its dangers, but this government is willing to take the risks. It is argued that there is no way to go forward quickly into successful development except by obtaining foreign capital. It would be academic to discuss the merits and demerits of this policy at this juncture—it has been done often in the past. It would be better to discuss how the dangers that stem from foreign investment can be minimised and contained, and also examine how this country can get on the road to self-reliance and economic independence. Concrete plans must be worked out to propel this country through the labyrinthian maze of the present "export-oriented liberalised economy" where private enterprise plays the key role to a more balanced economy. Whatever the kind of economy, in ideological terms, the future of a third world developing (basically agricultural) country, like Sri Lanka depends mainly, if not entirely, on the production of food and other agricultural crops plantation and otherwise. And to this end Mahaweli can play an important part. A successful Mahaweli can also show the way forward for the better and more profitable utilisation of land in the older river valley and colonisation schemes. ON THE COVER we have a picture taken when the Victoria Dam was formally inaugurated. We have chosen this picture only to emphasise the importance of the Mahaweli scheme in the context of our economy. The Queen will no doubt be specially interested in the Victoria Project because it is funded by a British grant and the construction work is in the hands of a British Construction Company. Further grants, loans and investment from Britain will hasten the completion of the project and ensure the early realisation of profitable utilisation. The solution of the food problem—grains, subsidiary crops, meat, milk, eggs and fish (especially inland)—are essential for meeting the present inflationary trends and for raising the standard of living of Sri Lanka people.

Reaganomics & Rethinking

The value of the Sri Lanka rupee continues to drop. The prevailing exchange rates quoted on October 15, were as follows:

CENTRAL BANK OF CEYLON

Currency per 100 units	Buying	Selling
U.S. Dollar	Rs. 2073.00	2076.00
Sterling pound	3835.75	3841.25
Deutsche Mark	927.35	928.75
French Franc	370.50	371.00
Japanese Yen	9.0465	9.0595
Indian Rupee	229.88	230.34

It will be noted that the US dollar now costs very nearly 21 SL rupees. The Pound sterling which had dropped to a low point has now begun to climb up. One Singapore dollar now costs nearly rupees eleven. Although the value of the Sri Lanka rupee had depreciated earlier owing to the lag in our production, the present accentuated drop is due entirely to Reaganomics combined with Thatchermania. **All currencies in the world—except a few extremely hard currencies—have been badly hit. The high dollar interest rates backed by the increased rates in Britain are responsible for the currency debacle in many countries.** For instance: "Currencies of oil-rich Gulf states have been adversely hit by the high dollar interest rates", according to a report from Bahrein. "There are many people who want to borrow in local currency, but few customers are keen to deposit their money in the same currency, leading bankers point out. The appreciation of dollars had benefitted the Gulf States as their oil income was in dollars but at the same time their currencies had suffered. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been witnessing the flight of its money to the foreign markets in pursuit of higher interest rates. Major world currencies are fetching as much as 22 per cent interest and banks abroad luring away potential depositors in the local currency dirham. Leading bankers suggest that central banks in the region should provide assistance in controlling interest rates. Unless the interest rates were satisfactory, people would naturally be reluctant to hold dirhams or any other Gulf currency. Bankers suggest that Gulf central banks should spend more money in open market operations and help people by holding down interest rates. They recall how the dirham and other Gulf currencies were in surplus within the banking system in the mid-seventies. The situation has been reversed". This is the story in the oil-rich Gulf.

The EEC consisting of rich industrialised countries of Europe also face serious problems about current rates. A press report from Bonn reads: "Another round of fighting has come to an end in the Common Market. An emergency meeting of the EEC Finance Ministers has reached, following heated discussion, a compromise on changing exchange rates within the European currency system. Under the compromise, the West German mark and the Dutch Guilder will become dearer by 5.5 per cent, whereas the French franc and the Italian lira will go down by 3 per cent. This compromise, reached at the end of the meeting, saved the West European currency system from collapse. At the Conference the French Minister threatened to resort to unilateral measures to protect French industry from the influx of goods from other Common Market countries, primarily from West Germany, unless the present rates of exchange are changed within the European currency system. It was believed that the establishment of the European currency system, where the amplitude of vacillation of exchange rates is restricted by the joint efforts of its participants, will make it possible to turn Western Europe into a zone of currency stability. However, this has not happened. Although the compromise has damped rivalry within the Common Market, it has not put an end to it. According to the West Germany Finance Minister, retaining concord in the Common Market remains as difficult as balancing on rope in the circus". A report from Paris read: "For the past few years the rates of inflation in France have doubled the corresponding figures for West Germany, which made French goods relatively dearer both on the foreign and domestic market. Since May the exchange rate of the franc has been staying of the lowest permissible level within the 'currency snake', and this compelled the French national bank to constantly spend part of its reserves to maintain the rate of the franc. Reducing the rate of the franc vis-a-vis the West German mark by 8.5 per cent is supposed to cut down West German imports to France."

A left-wing comment on the "panic" in the Stock Exchange reads: "The leading stock exchanges of the capitalist world—in London, Frankfurt-on-Main, Zurich, Melbourne and Hong Kong are living through an obvious disaster. September 28 alone saw a drastic fall of almost 4,000 million pound sterling worth of shares in the London stock market. Stock dealers have been getting rid of their shares since the Bank of England, acting by instruction from the Government, announced an increase in the minimum bank rate from 12 to 14 per cent. According to *The Financial Times*, the share index of 30 major corporations dropped 'black Monday', as it was branded by stock brokers, by almost 30 points. "The financial upheavals stem from the state of the world capitalist economy and sharper rivalry in the trade and currency war between the world market tycoons, stresses the como

mentator. The rate of pound sterling in regard to dollar has shrunk and continues to slide down. Examining the behaviour of London's stock dealers, financial observers point out that many of them have long tended to strip themselves not only of British company shares but the British currency as well, transferring their capital to the United States, West Germany and other competing countries. The economic policy after the pattern 'Fly for your lives!' plays only havoc with the entire capitalist economy and steps up financial machinations to the detriment of production. For the working people that means the further growth of unemployment and the mounting feeling of insecurity in their future.

Comments in leading capitalist journals paint in equally distressing picture. In the US itself, Reaganomics has begun to play havoc. A despatch from Washington in the *Hindu* stated: "The announcement by the US Bureau of Labour Statistics of the rise in the unemployment rate to 7.5 per cent—or approximately eight million Americans—in September is linked to extensive loss of jobs among adults. While the number of registered unemployed rose by over 300,000 in relation to August, the ranks of those with jobs were eroded by nearly 675,000. The number of discouraged workers (defined as those who had stopped looking for work) reached 11 million in the third quarter. In the assessment of Dr. Janet Norwood, Commissioner of the Official Bureau, 'the September labour market indicators show continued weaknesses in the demand for workers'—and that at best the economy is flat'. The expert testified on the Hill on Friday that the increase in unemployment was most noticeable in industries sensitive to continuing high interest rates. Joblessness among Black people is around 16.2 per cent, at an unprecedented high, with black teenagers out in the cold on a scale that no one here can remember in recent times. According to Mr. Henry Reuss, a ranking Democrat who currently presides over the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, "it's difficult to recall a quarter of a year in which we've had a rise of half a percentage point in the unemployment rate'. He emphasises the fact that the 'particularly bad news' comes at a time when Reaganomics—whose content has been known for months—takes full effect."

Prime Minister Premadasa at a press conference in Singapore called for a New International Economic Order and said that rich countries were blocking the development of poor countries : According to a report in the *Ceylon Daily Mirror*, 15/10/81, "Visiting Sri Lanka Prime Minister, Ranasinghe Premadasa, said today foreign aid to third world countries must continue while they were striving to put their economies in order. He was commenting on President Reagan's

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recent statement that Third World nations should fend for themselves and rely more on trade than aid for their development needs. 'The tragedy is that developed nations are squandering their resources on arms race and say they cannot help developing countries because of budgetary constraints', he told *Reuter*. Mr. Premadasa agreed, however, that poor countries should work harder to improve themselves with their own resources. 'No amount of aid would help, if the countries did not help themselves.' However, he said a major cut in foreign aid would have serious effect on a number of developing nations, because the present world trade pattern favoured rich nations. 'Nature has given enough for all the world. But for their own reasons rich countries are blocking the sharing of wealth and resources', he said. Sri Lanka which will be among the 22 countries attending the North-South dialogue in Cancun, Mexico, later this month, will strongly support a New International Economic Order, Mr. Premadasa added."

A *Reuter* report from Washington stressed that Reagan was against "doling out" money to the Third World: "US officials expect President Reagan to stand firm against demands for a major shift of wealth from rich to poor countries when he attends a summit conference on world development next week. The officials said that although the American position at the 22-nation north-south conference in Cancun, Mexico, is still under review, it is not likely to depart from current policy. That policy set out by the President and US officials in the past few weeks rejects calls from developing nations and several industrial countries for a big transfer of money and resources to the Third World. Instead, while making exceptions for some of the world's poorest countries such as Bangladesh the policy stresses free-market economy, private enterprise and more international trade and investment as ways to break the grip of poverty. President Reagan will probably find himself somewhat isolated at Cancun because of increasing pressure from other countries for significant changes in current US policy. In a speech to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington this month President Reagan had emphasised "honest toil" and 'the magic of the Market place'. rather than big new aid programmes as keys to Third World development. Secretary of State Alexander Haig had earlier told the United Nations General Assembly that 'a massive increase in the transfer of resources is simply unrealistic'..."

Sri Lanka's Finance Minister, Ronnie de Mel, according to a report in the *Ceylon Daily News*, 15/10/81 stated: "Excessive budget pruning can lead to the risk of pushing the economy into recession. Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel has warned

in a speech delivered before the Development Society of Cambridge University at St. John's College, Cambridge yesterday. 'Due to escalation of costs, pruning budget deficits alone is not enough. I have pruned my own budget not once but twice. But this has helped very little. If this remedy is carried too far quite apart from the social cost of accelerating unemployment and growing misery we might run the risk of pushing the economy into recession', the Minister said. With Sri Lanka's 1982 budget less than a month away and the pre-budget estimate pruning continuing, economic observers have attached considerable significance to the minister's remarks. He has argued that Sri Lanka, unlike some of the developed countries cannot afford a recession. 'How far can we recede?' he rhetorically posed. 'We have already receded far enough due to hundreds of years of colonial exploitation and also due to world forces outside our control'. The Minister pitched his speech on the need for the rich countries and the multi-lateral agencies to help Sri Lanka carry through to final conclusion a unique development experiment based on a vibrant parliamentary democracy, an open society, a free economy, a higher physical quality of life, social welfare and social justice. He said that the country's goal was the creation of a viable democratic socialist state in South Asia where freedom and justice will prevail. 'Our people, are already with their backs to the wall. Our annual per capita income is less than US dollars 250. It is a tragic situation So we have to maintain a balance albeit a precarious balance', Mr. de Mel said. He told the Cambridge students and dons that the World Bank has made a grim forecast for the 80s where the most optimistic scenario for low income oil importers of Asia (like Sri Lanka) was two per cent growth. He argued that the standard economic prescription of market oriented economic management at home and export growth promotion abroad was relevant to middle countries, but not to low income countries like Sri Lanka where many people lived in absolute poverty. 'It would be dangerous to ignore the welfare of the poorest of the poor', he said. . . ."

It is clear from the Prime Minister's statement in Singapore and the Finance Minister's speech in Cambridge that there should be re-thinking about our economic policies. Tribune readers will recall that this paper has always been sceptical about the IMF formulae for the economic development programmes. The fears and apprehensions we had expressed from 1977/78 are now being echoed by Ministers of the Government. Sri Lanka must evolve a flexible plan, a programme and strategy to suit us—and not swallow IMF prescriptions because a carrot is dangled before us. Serious rethinking is called for. A "recession"

in this country cannot be avoided. This is all the more reason why rethinking is essential.



FILM FOCUS

Film Festival

It was an evening to remember at the BMICH on 2.10.81, when the Presidential Awards Ceremony got off on time with the arrival of the Honourable Minister of State Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis, deputising for His Excellency the President, J. R. Jayewardene who had sent the following message: "This year I regret it is not possible for me to be present at the National Film Festival and presentation of awards. I have suggested that the Chief Guest should be the Honourable Minister of State. The President's Award will be distributed by him and awards have my approval". Several surprises were in store as the festival glittered on, the colourful Programme almost stealing the show from the stars that shone on the stage when they graced in to receive their Awards. This programme consisted of a Pooja Natuma (Police Reserve Cultural Troupe), Bharatha Natyam (Mrs. Padmini Dhanayake, Miss Vasuki Shanmugampillai, Miss Aparna Sooriyanarayana), Pantheru Netuma (Army Cultural Troupe), Mayura Vannama (Police Reserve Cultural Troupe), Thelma Natuma and Ves Netuma (both by the Army Cultural Troupe). The chanting of Jayamangala Gathas by students of the Visakha Balika Vidyalaya, preceded the cultural Programme. Chairman Anton Wickremasinghe of the National Film Corporation who deserves credit for his organising ability of an occasion of this magnitude, together with the General Manager W. B. Ratnayake and the staff, then addressed those present of the year under review, dwelling on the credit side of the Corporation, with a few modest promises he held out for the future of local cinema, which he said had come of age and received international recognition—a note on which the Minister of State too dwelt before he spoke in characteristic style of the challenges that faced the cinema for the future, with the assurance that Television which comes under his purview, would not be so built up to become a threat to the healthy growth of Sinhala cinema. With this assurance that the Cine and TV medias would be used to fecundate, rather than submerge each other, the awards ceremony got under way. The film *Ganga Addara* as the Sarasaviya Film Festival this year swept many awards, while the film *Siribo Aiya* ran it close for a tie, with the best Directors Award being shared by Sumitra Pieris for the former and

Sunil Ariyaratne for the latter. Even the best actor emerged from the film *Siribo Aiya*, while the best actress, award was earned by that charming actress Vasanti Chaturani, who unfortunately is no more on the Sinhala film scene. The best supporting actor and actress were Somi Ratnayake for the film *Uthumaneni* and Geetha Kumarasinghe for the Tamil Film *Rathathin Ratheme* respectively.

Space prevents me from enumerating the other awards, but it is the opinion of this column that this year, the Jury who decided on the awards could not have done a better job, for the awards in question should not have left any heartburns behind. Film Focus however is happy to quote from the *Tribune* issue of 23.8.80 where the introductory paragraph under the heading "Sinhala Films Excel" read thus: "I am beginning to wonder whether 1980 will end up as a vintage year for quality Sinhala films. Even with so many films clogging up the queue, there has been a series of quick releases recently vying with each other for recognition, so much so that next year (1981), the Presidential Jury may have to use a fine comb to microscopically sift them for the Bronze Lion Awards. I have in mind for the moment *Siribo Aiya*, *Dandu Monara*, *Parithiyaga* and *Ganga Addara*". Readers may be aware that of these four—some *Dandu Monara* won the best film award at the OCIC Film Festival while *Parithiyaga* earned many citations, as one on this occasion too. While reviewing *Ganga Addara*, this column referred to it as a poem in celluloid which should be tested abroad for its worth in the *Tribune* of 23.8.80, while in the *Tribune* of 1.6.80, it has the following prophetic assessment of *Siribo Aiya*: "I feel that this film is heading for higher honours and recognition when the local Oscars go around next year. It is a gem of a film after a distressing spell, not to be missed particularly by those whose cinematic tastes are discerningly high". Well *Tribune* readers, this column wishes that it will not be grudged the few prophetic pats it has delivered itself in the wake of this rather memorable National Film Festival of 1981, for films released in 1980.

THE FAMILY PLOT (English): This Universal Production is a creation of the late master of suspense Alfred Hitchcock, but with a difference, in that rather than building up the tension of the story to intermittent crescendoes in typical Hitchcock style, it is distributed evenly on a guessing course that propels two couples on independently, till the link is sprung on the audience half way through, to relieve the audience of a prolonged stress the rest of the way. An aging countess in search of her only heir engages the services of a tantalising clairvoyant (Karen Black), who wears a crush on a cunning Taxi Driver (Bruce Dearn) and they combine greedily to create a "heir" and collect the fee, a cool ten thousand pounds. Getting

on calculatingly in parallel are a crafty couple Barbara Harris and William Devane) who provide a diabolical connection to the plot, which I do not wish to reveal, with all respects to Hitchcock fans who revel in the ghastly plots that abound in his films, as a rule. I shall drop a hint however in that this master director had a penchant for making his villains more interesting than, and often almost as sympathetic as his heroes. "A Hitchcock Film" as postulated in a recent *Newsweek* magazine "has become a genre unto itself, eagerly awaited by moviegoers the world over, leaving behind a stream of images that have become archetypes of suspense, anxiety, passion and terror". Although, *Family Plot* has deviated slightly from this right formula, it holds the audience attention all the same—hence keep a date for it, for there may be no new Hitchcock films to look forward to. You will feel all the better for a dose of the Extra Sensory Perception (ESP) that pervades the course of this film, swinging from the ridiculous to the sublime at curtains.

AVAN AVAL ATHU (He, She and That) Tamil: Pregnancy by proxy is the reigning theme of this adult fare which has not been dished out in South Indian films before. Directed by V. Sreenivasan, who revels in the novelty of his presentation by portraying effectively the plight of a childless couple (Sivakumar and Laxmi) who resort to the services of a surrogate mother (Sri Priya) to consummate the only vacuum in their lives, with a dose of artificial insemination. This arrangement alone does not make a film story—hence it is embellished by the rigid iron curtain built around the seductive guinea pig, by the wife, in spite of which the husband runs into the former and places his fidelity to the test, strengthened by the test tube venture. A family break up booms high, but a timely sacrifice halts the story to a happy ending. But for a few coincidences and excellent histrionics displayed by Laxmi and Manorama, the story could have fallen apart—yet it raised the curtain sufficiently on the unhappiness of childless couples and medicates a modern cure for the malady. To the *Newsweek* once again on this rather delicate topic, which states: "Most legal experts agree that the contracts—there is one in this film—drawn up between surrogate and infertile couples would carry little weight in Court. If the former decides to have an abortion for example, she may be legally enjoined to do so. If she became emotionally attached to her child and chose to keep it, the father could sue for custody, but would not automatically win". This film is an Adult must for its unusual and provocative theme in a Tamil movie—but children were at this show with full tickets, to get confused if not confounded. Censor please note.

JAMES N. BENEDICT.

VACANCIES

Ministry of Local Government, Housing & Construction NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following posts in the National Housing Development Authority from citizens of Sri Lanka:—

01. Post of Deputy General Manager (Administration) Grade II

Qualifications Degree from a recognised University and 10 years experience at senior management level in state service or private sector.

Should have wide experience in personnel administration and a sound knowledge of Establishment matters of both Public and Private organisations.

Salary Negotiable.

02. Post of Deputy General Manager (Finance)—Grade II

Qualifications Membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Sri Lanka or Membership of the Institute of Cost and Managements, Accountant of London or Membership of the Institute of Certified and Corporate Accountants of London, with at least 12 years experience as an Accountant of which 2 years should be after membership.

Salary Negotiable.

03. Post of Deputy General Manager (Housing Estate-Management and Maintenance) Grade II

Qualifications Degree in Science/Arts, preferably in Estates Management, Economics/Sociology of a recognised University with at least 10 years experience at Senior Management level in the State Services or the Private Sector.

Prospective candidates who have a Post Graduate Degree in Estate Management, Economics or Sociology need have experience of only 6 years in a post at Senior Management Level.

TENDER NOTICE

**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT. HOUSING AND
CONSTRUCTION.**

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

Tenders for the construction of Cardamon Unit at Gammaduwa for the Department of Minor Exports Crops will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1 up to 10.00 a. m. on Wednesday 04th November, 1981.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Matale, before 4.15 p. m. on 30. 10. 81 by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 600,000/= and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/= issued by Building Department, Colombo or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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

N. Sivapathasundram,
for Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
P. O. Box 504,
Colombo 1. 19th Oct., 1981.

GENERAL

(I) A good knowledge of Sinhala and Tamil/English is essential

(II) Preference will be given to those who possess experience in Management of Documentation and Information Retrieval.

AGE

Should not be less than 25 years and not more than 40 years on the closing date of applications. The maximum age limit will not apply to those working in the Public Service or Corporations.

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The other allowances approved by the Authority will also be paid.

Note : (1) Applications from those working in State Institutions and possessing the necessary qualifications and experience will be considered if they are sent through the Heads of such Institutions.

(2) The selected applicant will be attached to the Head Office in Colombo but should be prepared to work in any part of the Island.

(3) Applications for the above post giving full details of qualifications and experience, should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the undersigned on or before the 30th October, 1981.

Chairman,
National Housing Development Authority,
5th Floor,
Sir Chittampalam Gardiner Mawatha.
Colombo 2.

7th October, 1981.

TENDER NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT. HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Tenders for construction of Workshop for Junior Technical Institute at Matale will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings Colombo 1, up to 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 04th November, 1981.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Matale before 4.15 p. m. on 30. 10. 81, by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 325,000/= 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.

N. Sivapathasundram,
for Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
P. O. Box 504,
Colombo 1. 19th October, 1981.

His functions will entail a wide spectrum of Activities connected with the overall Management and Maintenance of Housing Schemes of the National Housing Development Authority. More specifically, he would be responsible for the Management of Buildable Land belonging to the Authority, the sale of completed Housing Units, formulation of Rents for Housing Units, Land Sales, Security of Housing Schemes, Community Development Programmes in Rural and Urban Housing Schemes. Drafting of tenancy agreements, collection of Rentals, Prosecutions evictions, negotiations with private property developers etc.

The job calls for a person with enterprise dynamism, versatility and the ability to master a new professional discipline within a short period of time.

Salary

Negotiable.

GENERAL

(a) Age: Over 30 years and below 50 years.

(b) Employment on a contract basis could be considered.

04- Post of Librarian and Documentation Officer—Grade vi

Qualifications

A pass in the Degree Examination at a recognised University.

AND

A pass in the First Year Examination in Librarianship of the Sri Lanka Library Association with three years experience in Documentation Work

OR

A pass in the Intermediate Examination in Librarianship of the Sri Lanka Library Association with two years experience in Documentation Work

OR

A pass in the Final Examination in Librarianship of the Sri Lanka Library Association with one year's experience in Documentation Work

OR

A pass in the Degree in Library Science at a recognised University, with one years experience in Documentation Work

OR

A pass in the post-graduate Diploma or equivalent Examination in Library Science at a recognised University with one year's experience in Documentation Work or 05 years experience as a Documentation Officer.

October 4 - 10

**DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA
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*—Janadina; *SU*—Sun; *DV*—Davasa; *DP*—Dinapathi; *CM*—Chinthamani; *WK*—Weekend; *RR*—Riviresa; *DK*—Dinakara; *EN*—Eelanadu; *IS*—Island; *IDPR*—Information Dept, Press Release

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4: Minister of State Anandattissa de Alwis has sought Government sanction for new tough laws to prevent tourists from exploiting our youth for purposes of homosexuality; a Police spokesman said today that the proposed laws were designed to guard the youth of this country from falling prey to unscrupulous foreigners. Half the country's Police Force will provide security for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip when they arrive in Sri Lanka on October 21; this includes the entire staff of the CID and the Intelligence Services Division—*SO*. The ruling United National Party is gearing its machinery for a Presidential poll before the next General elections; a countrywide membership drive has begun and youth seminars have commenced in electorates to apprise party cadres of Government achievements and other developments; the UNP lawyers group too has been activated and trade union branches begun its own membership drive. A bi-lateral shipping agreement on cargo sharing and a deal to repair in Colombo, Soviet ships operating in the region is to be concluded between Colombo and Moscow shortly; consultations through diplomatic channels have already got under way for this purpose; this is a prelude to a delegation from Sri Lanka visiting Moscow this month to finalise matters—*WK*. Efforts to bring about a reconciliation between the two warring factions in the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the largest opposition party in the country, have collapsed; political observers believe the two groups, one led by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike President of the SLFP, and the other by her deputy

TRIBUNE, October 24, 1981

until six weeks ago, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake have reached a point of no return. The Tamil United Liberation Front which has been boycotting Parliament since June will return to the legislature next week—*S*. The Minister of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, said that good relations exist between the Government and the TULF now and that he expected that this understanding will grow progressively; he also said that the problems of the minority community will disappear once the District Development Councils start functioning properly—*DP*.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5: A considerable number of government buildings, constructed at an appreciable cost are lying unused and abandoned in various parts of the country, a survey conducted by the Regional Development Division of the Plan Implementation Ministry has established. The Working Committee of the Tamil United Liberation Front which met in Colombo yesterday authorised the Parliamentary group to meet after today's government—TULF meeting to decide about the calling of the 4 month long boycott of Parliament—*CDN*. A new Company Law that will start the process of complete democratisation of the country's economic power and prevent private companies owned by a few becoming all powerful, will be presented by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade and Shipping when Parliament meets next Thursday; the bill when passed will be operative from January 1, next year—*CDM*. The terms of reference of the Special Presidential Commission of Inquiry is to be further extended by an year to cover the activities of the present government; the Commission was originally appointed to probe abuse and misuse of power of the previous SLFP government; President J. R. Jayewardene later issued a warrant extending the terms of reference of the Commission till July 1980—the first three years of the United National Party government. Five thousand and twenty young people will begin courses today at six universities, two university colleges and one campus in the country; the new University College at Batticaloa will admit 75 students for the first time; fifty of them will enter the science faculty, and 25 the agriculture faculty—*SU*. The Ceylon Tourist Board has decided to embark on an intensified Community Relations campaign aimed at resisting the ill effects of tourism in order that the public have a greater awareness of the actual benefits of tourism; today, the tourist industry is the fourth largest in the country; it earns about 300 million rupees annually—*CO*. The TULF will consider coming to Parliament only after considering the four demands accepted at the meeting of TULF and the President—*VK*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6: The cost crunch that has hit most of the big construction projects on which work is proceeding has compelled government to look for private developers who will take over and complete at least three major development projects in Colombo—*CDN*. The District Development Councils will be given authority to raise local taxes in order to effectively administer the affairs of these councils; however this matter would be finally decided with the return of the Prime Minister to the island; this was the general agreement reached at yesterday's talks between the TULF and the Government—*CDM*. A new law intended to re-orient the country's bureaucracy will be introduced in Parliament shortly; the new law which has been prepared by Public Administration Minister, Major Montague Jayawickrema will give legal effect to the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration and empower it to streamline the country's public administration which is said to be both outdated and colonially-oriented *SU*—The new electronic digital telephone system will come into operation in Colombo and the Greater Colombo Areas by 27 October said Mr. A. R. M. Jayawardene, Secretary, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the new system set up with French aid will cost nearly Rs. 140 million—*CO*. Attempts are being made to export cement manufactured in this country to China and obtain crude oil in its place; a decision will be taken in this connection during the talks regarding the exchange of products between China and Sri Lanka—*DP*.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7: There is evidence that some of the recent communal incidents were the work of rich elements similar to the "Teddy Boys" in England who have no regard for the law; President J. R. Jayawardene told the Government Parliamentary group yesterday. The Guthrie Corporation the well known plantation company with extensive interests in oil palm and rubber in Malaysia, will next week sign a formal agreement with the Sri Lanka Government to develop 24,000 acres of oil palm in the Mahaveli area—*CDN*. President J. R. Jayawardene has directed that an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 25,000 be made to the widow and family of S. Danapathi, an Indian who died under tragic circumstances here recently; the Foreign Ministry said this money could be provided from the President's Fund. The TULF delegation which met President J. R. Jayawardene and other UNP leaders on Monday has been asked to ensure that its members also refrain from making provocative public statements—*SU*.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8: The steep increase of fertiliser prices had resulted in their non-use on a large number of smaller tea and rubber estates; this could lead to the ruin of such small-holdings, said Mr. I. O. K. G. Fernando, Secretary to the

Ministry of Plantation Industries in a report to the Committee of Development Secretaries last week. Eight hundred bandsmen (and women) drawn from 25 school bands in the Colombo district will march past the Queen and Prince Phillip at Galle Face on October 22. President J. R. Jayawardene will award 400 university students the first instalment of the Mahapola Higher Education scholarships on November 14, at the BMICH, Prof. Stanley Kalpage, Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education said yesterday—*CDN*. Rev. Borukgamuwe Devamitta Nayaka, Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Sri Subadrarama Raja Maha Vihara of Gangodawila, Nugegoda and a litigant were shot dead in the Mount Lavinia Court premises yesterday; the monk had come with the litigant in connection with a land dispute case; the litigant was identified as Basil Thalayaratne. The continuance of the Emergency will be debated at a special session of Parliament on October 21 as this has become necessary in accordance to provisions of the new constitution—*CDM*. The intensive English courses for 4,500 freshers will get underway this week at all universities, university colleges and campuses. An international oil storage terminal will be established at Trincomalee by an United States firm in collaboration with the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation; the Cabinet yesterday gave its approval to this multi-million dollar project which will utilise a series of massive World War II oil storage tanks which now lie unused *SU*—A significant drop in the incidence of women in crime has been recorded by the Crime Detection Bureau, who attribute it to the influx of Sri Lanka women into the Middle East; the rate of crime among women used to be as high as 150 to 200 a year in past years; it has simmered down to a mere 75 odd criminals this year—*CO*.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9: The Government has decided to commission an expert study of the Rs. 760 million Nylon-6 plant at Sapugaskanda, following last month's decision to close it down and salvage as much as possible of the investment by selling off its machinery and making some use of the buildings. Several victims of the August riots in the Negombo and Ratnapura areas are suspected of having made false insurance claims, a spokesman for the Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka said yesterday. Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tyrone Fernando told Parliament yesterday that Sri Lanka's non-aligned foreign policy and its commitment to the Indian Ocean Peace Zone will not be compromised by permitting the US-owned Coastal Corporation of America to operate an oil storage terminal at China Bay in collaboration with the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. The Government yesterday announced the revised guaranteed prices of six subsidiary food crops effective January 1, 1982—*CDN*. University dons are perturbed at the relatively high dropout

rate of students who were selected to follow courses in the Open University System of education started last year; according to statistics 594 students dropped out in the first year of studies of a total of 3,491 admitted to the four courses—humanities, -social sciences, management science and technology. **CDM.** Retiring state employees will be entitled to an enhanced pension if they subscribe to government's family planning programme; the Cabinet has decided to amend the Pensions Ordinance to give effect to this proposal—**SU.** As the number of fatal accidents is increasing in the country, Police are actively considering of advising the government that the law should be amended to remand the driver of the killer vehicle; police say the number of deaths following fatal accidents had exceeded deaths by murder—**CO.**

development of fishing in the East; and that similarly the Mannar district is being developed with the collaboration of Abu-Dhabi and that similar development schemes will be implemented for the Jaffna district with the collaboration of a foreign country.—**VK.**



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

October 4 - 10

THE AMERICAS

UNITED STATES: The Reagan administration will build new strategic armaments that would escape and conjure Soviet reconnaissance satellites. The Annual Meeting of the IMF was a disappointment to the Third World countries. The rich industrialised countries were committed to further belt-tightening which left the Third World countries little hope of increased aid. A final decision on the sale of AWACs await Senate approval. The Assassination of Egyptian President may bring about a change of heart among American Senators. The US Customs recovered part of the 1.3 million sterling antique books stolen from the London University College Library. These stolen antique books were carried across for a dealer in the US. The US Defence Secretary, Casper Weinberger has assured Saudi Arabia that it would help her against any revolution. The Assassination of Egyptian President Sadat has caused bitter disappointment and blow to US interests according to both past and present administrations in the US. US beliefs that Wallenberg, Swedish Ambassador in Poland during the Second World War and who saved 100,000 Jews is still alive and in Soviet jail. Reagan has appealed for the release. To prevent Libya or other nations taking advantage of the situation in Egypt, US has put its Navy and rapid deployment forces on "increased readiness". US Secretary of State warned outside powers against attempting to interfere in Egypt. Ever since the Egyptian President Sadat began to play an important role in US West Asia policy US has spent millions on security for him. **CANADA:** British Premier Thatcher told her Canadian counterpart Trudeau that his proposed constitutional amendment to end British connections may run into opposition in London. Mr. Trudeau plans to end the need to get the approval of British Parliament for any constitutional amendment. 8 of Canada's 10 provinces are opposed to this plan as it would weaken the power of the provincial

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10: Deputy Defence Minister T. B. Werapitiya chairs a special security conference at Polonnaruwa on Wednesday when the police and the services will take a long hard look at prevailing security arrangements in the North-Central and Eastern areas; Wednesday's meeting assumes particular significance in view of an attack of a tourist car last Friday, when a Dutch visitor suffered a razor injury and the loss of his camera and some other valuables following a hold up on the Habarana-Trincomalee road. President J. R Jayewardene will inaugurate Vap Magul 1981 on October 12, at 9 a.m. at the paddy field in the vicinity of the Yapahuwa Rajamahavihara, —**CDN.** The Government's foreign investment drive, both inside and outside the Free Trade Zone, has created over a 100,000 new jobs as at the end of last year; according to Central Bank statistics released this week covering last year's performance, the investments which went into FTZ projects, amounting to Rs. 2,611 million alone, created, 38,84 new jobs at the end of December last year—**CDM.** The three member committee appointed to determine compensation for the northern incidents will commence public sittings on October 23. The drilling of the first exploratory oil well, Pearl One, began last week; it has been dug to a depth of 1,600 feet. Large-scale forging of citizenship documents—births and death certificates—by non-nationals, has led the government to introduce tough new regulations; these regulations which are now being put into final shape will confer powers on registrars to demand proof of ethnic origin before registering either a birth or death. City Police have launched a war on Teddy Boys; their offensive comes in the wake of President Jayewardena's disclosure that the recent wave of violence was caused by such gangs—**SU.** Minister of Fisheries Festus Perera said yesterday in Jaffna that neither he nor the government will leave out Jaffna in the development of the fishing industry; he further said that a scheme is being implemented for the

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government. **UNITED NATIONS:** At a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Conference held in the UN, its Secretary General Habib Chatti attacked both powers over their policies in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA: Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said in Melbourne that Pakistan cannot re-enter the Commonwealth until it had a democratically elected government. Following the recent hijacking incident involving Sikh extremists the Indian Government was considering the imposition of an informal ban on the carrying of Sikh holy knives kirpan on airline flights. Indira Gandhi and Canadian Premier Trudeau discussed the problem of Sikhs seeking political asylum in Canada. The pro-Khalistan Sikhs have been causing problems for Indian and Canadian Governments. Premier Indira Gandhi said in Manila that a strong support from outside weakens a leader in his own country, apparently referring to the assassination of Egyptian President Sadat. **NEPAL:** 6 Himalayan climbers have died and 10 others are missing. They include Frenchmen, Nepalese and Japanese. **PAKISTAN:** The military government in Pakistan has decided to end co-education in primary schools to Universities, including professional institutions. The Editor of Urdu weekly newspaper *Al Fatah* Irshad Rao was sentenced to one year jail and 10 lashes for publishing anti-state material. British Premier Thatcher visited Islamabad and offered moral support to Pakistan against all odds. She visited Afghan refugee camps and handed her arms strength. Followers of the Sunni and Shia sects of Islam clashed at a prayer meeting in which four were killed and 23 injured. **BANGLADESH:** The opposition Awami League has decided to go ahead with the election campaign of its candidate Dr. Kamal Hussain.

WEST ASIA

IRAN: A clergyman, Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei, leader of the ruling Islamic Republic Party, won the Presidency. Iranians rejected over the death of Sadat, "a traitor and mercenary" and announced that he has joined his old friend Mohammed Reza Shah. **SYRIA:** According to a decision of the Arab steadfastness and Confrontation groups decision South Yemenis forces have been sent to Syria. **LEBANON:** PLO was particularly jubilant over the assassination of President Sadat. They congratulated the assassins and said "We shake the hand that fired the bullet". A leading member of the PLO has called for the ban on British Prime Minister Thatcher from all Arab States for linking PLO with terrorism. **SAUDI ARABIA:** Iranian Pilgrims to

Mecca and Medina caused embarrassment to Saudi officials by organising rallies against the United States and Israel in Mecca. They also carried portraits of Khomeini (a Shia leader) in a land where the Sunni sect was in the majority. At the UN assembly Saudi Arabia urged the Security Council to adopt its 8-point Middle East plan and expressed grave concern over the strategic co-operation between US and Israel. **ISRAEL:** Israel has planned to establish between 12 to 18 Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and increase the population by 120,000. Prime Minister Begin said that the peace process with Egypt will continue despite the assassination of Sadat. Begin will attend Sadat's funeral on Saturday.

EAST ASIA

CHINA: Peking has made further overtures to establish close links with her breakaway province of Taiwan. One such overture was the proposal for daily shipping and air services between Chinese and Taiwan harbours and airports. This proposal was rejected by Taiwan. Head of PLO Yasser Arafat paid a visit to China. His request for arms and other aid appears to have not had the anticipated results. China told PLO to rely on her own and unity of the Arab people. Chairman Hu Yaobang invited the Nationalist Chinese President Chiang Ching Kua and other leaders to visit mainland China, irrespective of whether they like to have talks or not. **MALAYSIA:** Malaysian Deputy Minister Datuk Musa Nitani said that ASEAN group of countries will have talks with India. Relations between India and ASEAN group cooled off after India recognised the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea. **SINGAPORE:** Two people including a woman were hanged for drug trafficking. **SOUTH KOREA:** In an exhibition conducted by the Korean Defence Association public were treated to the full view of the products of its multi-million defence industry. **TAIWAN:** Taiwan was under pressure to re-unify with mainland China. Within ten days China made several offers including separate status for Taiwan in a unified State of China. But Taiwan has spurned all overtures and said that Nationalist China would have talks with Peking only if the latter renounces Communism.

AFRICA

LIBYA: Libyan official news agency JANA said that US, Egypt and Sudan were planning to invade Libya and Chad. The JANA also said that Col. Gaddafi pledged support to the Egyptians and Sudanese to topple their Presidents. Libyan leader Gaddafi warned Sudanese and US not to interfere in Egypt and said "we shall not interfere in Egypt and will not permit any interference in Egypt". Libya complained to the

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UN that an Italian jet fighter had intercepted her planes returning to Tripoli from Zurich. Libya expressed its satisfaction over the assassination of Sadat "head of treason". Also warned that any President who follows such a pattern will meet the same fate as his predecessor". *EGYPT* President. Sadat said that Libyan leader Gaddafi was planning to invade Sudan with Soviet help. President Sadat died in hospital after a group of soliders gunned him during the eighth anniversary celebrations of the victorious war with Israel. Vice President and former Air Force chief Hosni Mubarak will be the automatic choice as successor to Sadat but the Speaker of the People's Assembly will act until such time Mubarak is confirmed by a referendum. Several organisations such as "the Independent Egyptain Liberation Organisation, Opposition Front for the Liberation of Arab Egypt, claimed responsibility for the killing. It is believed that Saadeddin Shazli, a Lt. General, sacked by Sadat after the 1973 war with Israel was behind the killing. In the southern town of Asyut Moslem fundamantalist and security forces fought a day-long gunbattle. Three former US Presidents, British Prince Charles, Belgium's King Boudouin and several other foreign ministers including US Secretary of State Haig will attend Sadat's funeral on Saturday, October 10. Even the Moslem fundamentalists stayed away from celebrating the major religious event Idul Adha (marks the end of the Hadj pilgrimage) and Cairo looked like a ghost town.

EUROPE

BRITAIN: It is reported that Irish Republican guerillas have abandoned hunger strikes. Already 10 convicted guerillas of the IRA, INIA, starved themselves to death in an agitation for political prisoner status. The newly formed Social Democratic Party's (SDP) leaders expressed their confidence that they could form the next government. Following the end of hunger strikes Britain was planning to introduce prison reforms. Opinion polls in Britain declared Margaret Thatcher to be the most unpopular Prime Minister. They also revealed that the newly formed SDP and the Central Liberal Party have a strong chance to win the next general elections. *SWEDEN*: This year's nobel prize for physiology or medicine went to Roger Sperry and David Hubet of the United States and Torsten Wiesel of Sweden for their discoveries on the working of brain and eye. *BELGIUM*: ECM Finance Ministers agreed on an upward revaluation of the West German Mark and Dutch Guilder by 5.5 per cent and devaluation of the French Franc and Italian lira by 3 percent. *SOVIET UNION*: Kremlin appears to have permitted free market within the collectivized economy to overcome food shortages. E. Khalimov, a Soviet Deputy Minister of Oil was sacked for his inefficiency to arrest the scandal over the loss of millions of roubles on oil production equipment. According to Moscow Radio the assassination of Egyptian President Sadat was the result

of growing unpopularity in Egypt and the seperate peace agreement with Israel. The British Private Salvage firms have recovered 95 per cent of the gold bullion stored in a Soviet sunken vessel. The windfall worth 76 million dollars will be divided and shared between the Salvage Consortium and the British and Soviet Governments.

Next Week

- SADAT OF EGYPT
- TRUTH ABOUT "AID"
- FILM CORPORATION'S REPLY
- TOURISM'S PITFALLS
- DAMBALA GIMMICKRY

WORLD'S FOUR RICHEST COUNTRIES

The world's "richest" countries in terms of Gross National Product (GNP) per capita in 1980 are Kuwait, Switzerland, Sweden and West Germany in that order. A just released study by German Chemical Employees' Association here put Kuwait's per capita income last year at 37,700 marks, followed by Switzerland with 30,300, Sweden 25,550 and West Germany 24,500 marks. Of the worlds some 4,400 million inhabitants in 1980 over half (55 per cent) lived in countries with a per capita GNP of less than 1000 marks. A further fifth of the the world population (19 per cent) inhabit such countries as Argentina, South Africa, Portugal and Mexico, with an annual per capita GNP of between 1000 and 5000 marks. The "upper ten" the richest countries of all with a per capita income of 28,000 and over are all-with the exception of the United States and Kuwait--European states- uni/dpa

TENDER NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT., HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION. DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

Tenders for construction of Class Room Block for Junior Technical Institute at Matale will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 04th November 1981.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Matale before 4.15 p.m on 30.10.81 by registered contractors or **"Trial Letter"** holders of Department for Rs. 350,000/= 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.

N. Sivapathasundram,
for Director of Buildings.

Department of Buildings,
P.O. Box 504.

Colombo 1. 19th October, 1981.

TENDER NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT. HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Tenders for construction of Training Centre for Department of Minor Exports Crops at Wariyapola in Matale District will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to on 10.00 a. m. Wednesday 04th November, 1981.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Matale before 4.15 p. m. on 30. 10. 81, by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 850,000/= 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.

N. Sivapathasundram,
for Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING,
P. O. Box 504,
Colombo 1. 19th October, 1981.

TENDER NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT., HOUSING AND
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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Tenders for the construction of Regional Office for Department of Minor Exports Crops at Wariyapola in Matale District will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 a. m. on Wednesday, 04th November, 1981.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Matale, before 4.15 p. m. on 30. 10. 1981, by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 450,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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N. Sivapathasundram,
Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
P. O. Box 504,
COLOMBO 1. 19th October, 1981.

A Little About Bias

By S. P. Amarasingam

Everytime I have written a series on a trip to a country which is the centre of a cold war controversy, I have thought it necessary to establish a rapport with my readers by telling them a little about myself and also about the angle from which I look at contemporary events. All writing today, without exception, especially on socio-economic, political and even cultural matters, is coloured by bias and is slanted to make an audience captive. Professional writers have their individual points of view and they are entitled to them, but very few have the freedom to express what they really think or feel. To get into print or on the air, they have to tailor their writing to suit the financial prerequisites and ideological whims of the publishers—the owners of newspapers, of broadcasting and television stations and of book publishing firms. All publishers, whether government institutions, private companies or individual entrepreneurs, have their particular *raison d'être* for being in business. The *Pravda*, *The New York Times*, the *Le Monde*, the *Guardian*, the *Hindu*, the *Ashahi Shimbun*, the *Economist*, the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and even academic journals like *Foreign Policy*, *Asian Survey*, *Indian Quarterly* or *Aussenpolitik*, each have their special bias, slant and point of view. Signed articles by well-known writers and publicists often put forward an individual view but it is nevertheless within the institutional and ideological framework of the particular publication. Unfortunately, the average reader is not equipped to evaluate the intrinsic merit of these articles—from his own or his country's point of view. This is mainly because all well established and prestigious newspapers and journals claim to be 'objective and independent', flourishing on their slogan that they publish everything that is fit for print.

I will examine, in some detail, later in this series how the international media, especially the news agencies, have presented the news about Afghanistan especially after the Saur Revolution of April 1978, to suit the political imperatives of a handful of rich industrialised countries that own and control the global communications network. What is surprising is that they continue to play this game in spite of the fact that many events in recent times have proved them hopelessly wrong. Take the case of China. From the time Mao's Communist Party became master of China in 1949 until US President Nixon went to that country in 1972, China was a leper and a political outcast. She was kept out of her rightful place in the UN. Everyone who had any dealing with China was a betrayer and an enemy of "democracy". Nearly everything said about China

by the Western press during this period was incorrect: every interpretative comment was slanted, based on half truths or total falsehoods. But such things do not worry the tycoons of the West. They glory in such lies in the belief that it will protect the system that brings them profit. When I went to China in April 1958 the US-led Western trade embargo and propaganda war were at their height. What I wrote about China after my visit in 1958 proved a more correct and realistic evaluation than all that Western propaganda machines had churned out for years.

In his regular column, "People, Places and Politics", in the magazine *South*—described as the Third World magazine—of September 1981, Sri Lankan Denzil Peiris writing about the *Debasing of Words* said that: "Words, like Truth, are the earliest casualties in war and partisan politics. So, the word 'terrorist' and 'patriot' can be switched one for the other. The change would be determined by which cause had the TV or print media commentator's approval. In several documentaries armed resistance by Arabs to Israeli expansion are the acts of 'Arab terrorists'. In contrast similar attacks by Afghan guerrillas against the Soviets of units of the Babrak Karmal government are the work of 'patriots' or 'heroes of the resistance' or 'tribals with an irrepressible commitment to freedom'. Quite often, savage Israeli repression in Arab villages is presented with phrases that are meant to diminish or excuse their horrors. It is put in the context of an Israeli response to an Arab attack. Arab violence was rarely traced back to the 'first cause' or 'originalism' of an Israel occupation of their homelands. The camera eye glazed over Israel's provocation. " Denzil Peiris has hit the nail on the head. Words are debased by cold war propagandists to suit a particular bias. China is not the only country that has suffered from media imperialism. Afghanistan has one of the main targets today, but is not the only country. Words are twisted to prostitute writing. Numerous examples can be cited. SWAPO is recognised by the UN as the representative of the Namibian Liberation Movement but to the Western media it is a "terrorist" organisation because to white Africa SWAPO and all black African freedom fighters are "brigands and terrorists". At one time Jomo Kenyatta's fight for independence was Mau Mau head-hunting.

But to come back to China, Sri Lanka was once under severe attack by the Western media for proposing to enter into a trade agreement with a communist country. My book, *Rice and Rubber, The Story of China-Ceylon Trade*, published in 1953, sets out the efforts made by the US to prevent Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) from signing the barter agreement with China. The book was a "fully documented chronological record of the great controversy that

aged in the island whilst the negotiations with China were in progress. The controversy epitomised the struggle between those anxious to confine Ceylon's trade to Anglo-American markets and those ready to deal with all countries willing to trade with Ceylon. Opposition to China-Ceylon trade came from those diehard elements who placed the American-inspired obsession against Communism above the interests of the Ceylonese people who stood to benefit by selling rubber to China and buying rice from her. The attempt on the part of the Ceylon Government to establish trading relations with a Communist country brought to the surface all the political currents and cross-currents in the island focussing attention on the anxiety of the international opponents of such trade to turn Ceylon into a battleground for the Cold War". Sri Lanka was the first non-communist country to sign a trade agreement with Communist China and the US government and the entire Western press looked upon this as an act of betrayal of the "free world".

The demarches and comuniques from the State Department, the speeches and statements of important US Senators and the venomous campaign by the international media to stop Sri Lanka from signing the *Rice and Rubber Agreement* are reminiscent of the way the US now approaches the Afghan Revolution. Boycotts, embargoes, threats and false news were the weapons used to fight the Chinese Revolution and even a country like Sri Lanka which sought to have trade relations with China. Even after the *Rice and Rubber Agreement* had been signed and ratified, it is on record that officials of the US Embassy had gone round to rubber exporters in Colombo, each time a shipment was due, to "persuade" them that it was anti-democratic and anti-free world to sell a strategic commodity like rubber to China. It took a long time for Washington not only to learn to coexist with the China-Ceylon Rice and Rubber Agreement but also for the US to enter into many agreements with China as it has now done. It is worth recalling that the most important of the local newspaper groups had faithfully echoed what Washington had demanded and had carried the propaganda barrage against China and the proposed agreements in columns. Only a few newspapers—and certainly not the biggest or the most powerful—had at that time refused to succumb to this onslaught by media imperialism against Sri Lanka's entering into a trade agreement with China.

There are no doubt, differences between the situation in China then and Afghanistan today, but the motivation of the capitalist West is the same. Before we left for Peking our delegation was deluged with "information material" from western sources, no doubt as insurance against brainwashing. For one thing, we were told that Peking and other Chinese cities

were over-run by Russian advisers, technicians and (may be) even soldiers. This "unofficial" Russian presence in China at that time was estimated at several lakhs. The Russian presence in Afghanistan today is "official" and western estimates place the number at 85,000. The Russian "presence" in both countries was on the invitation of legitimate governments. But in any case the presence or otherwise of Russians, at a particular time, whether in China or Afghanistan, though relevant, is not the final or only determinant in evaluating the situation. The Russians left China when the Chinese Government asked them to go. So will they when the Afghan Government requests them to do so.

China is not what she was then. Today, she is no longer a victim of media imperialism, but has (temporarily, I hope) become a participant of that propaganda conglomeration directing its energies to cloud the issues about countries like Afghanistan. China, Pakistan and Iran have common borders with Afghanistan and all three countries have turned hostile to the Saur Revolution. Even a semi-secular, left-leaning, anti-big landlord government in Afghanistan with a tilt to the Soviet Union is regarded as a threat to Islamic fundamentalist orthodoxies on the one hand and to rightwing reactionary military dictatorships on the other. The USA and China regard the emergence of a democratic and socialist Afghanistan as a further strengthening of their arch enemy, the Soviet Union, in the context of the cold war that has been mounted by the West to make the world safe for capitalism. China is not for capitalism: she wants to stabilise her version of Confucian "socialism". But she no doubt thinks that by her present strategy she can kill two birds with one stone, namely, US Imperialism and Soviet social imperialism."

At the time I went to China in 1958, the cold war was raging with unrelenting fury. And, I therefore took the precaution in my series on "The Journey To China" to provide a brief autobiographical note to introduce myself to my readers: "The first fifteen years of my life", I had written, "had been spent in and around Kuala Lumpur, presently the capital of the Federation of Malaya. In 1930 I had come to Ceylon to complete my secondary education. Two years after that my father had come with rest of the family to settle down in his ancestral village in Jaffna in the north of Ceylon, thus severing his connections with a land in which he had lived and worked for over forty years. In the quiet of the Britannia cabin (of the plane in which I flew to Hongkong), I could not but help reflect how much I was a product or a by-product of the British impact on South East Asia. For centuries my ancestors had flourished in the peasant feudalism which had prevailed in our part of the world. If family legends are to be believed, my forefathers had made their living from the land and

also from intellectual pursuits as teachers, traditional physicians, astrologers, and some even as writers of rhyme and doggerel. The Portuguese and Dutch occupation of the coastal areas of Ceylon and undermined this old-world civilisation, but it was the British conquest which finally smashed the social and economic equilibrium of a society that had remained unchanged for over two thousand years. Caught up in the vortex of the cash nexus that came with the British, my grandfather had died an impoverished man, totally unable to cope with the problems of contemporary survival. With a smattering of English picked up in one of the schools set up by the British in Jaffna, my father had gone to Malaya to seek his fortune in the last decade of the nineteenth century. He found employment as a clerk. But he continued his studies, and won a scholarship to study medicine. As the Singapore Medical College had not yet been established, he was sent to Madras in South India, to qualify as a doctor. He returned to Malaya to serve the British administration for over thirty years.

"As the plane flew towards Singapore memories of my early days in Malaya came crowding into my mind. I remembered how my father was always indignant about the way coloured people were treated there. At that time, the best hotels and parks were reserved for Europeans. *Asiatics and Dogs Not Allowed*—was a common sign in many public places. It was also the policy that the highest salary an *Asiatic*, however experienced or well qualified, was paid, in Government Service was lower than the initial salary of a raw white-skinned recruit from Britain. All this has changed in Malaya now, but at that time it made my father most unhappy. During his stay in Madras he had imbibed the ferment of early Indian nationalism, and this had created problems for him which did not trouble most of his coloured colleagues. He resolved these conflicts by prematurely retiring from Government Service to return to Jaffna to live amidst his books and his dreams about liberty and freedom. Not having been sufficiently infected with the acquisitive instinct of the society in which he lived and not having learnt the secret of money-making he had no regrets about leaving a far richer country for the arid regions of Jaffna. It was enough for him to feel that he belonged there.

"Ordinarily I do not have the time or the inclination to think about myself. But as the plane sped eastwards, I was lost in a reverie of introspective self-analysis. Besides the nostalgic sentiments which Malaya aroused, there was the more pressing and immediately concrete problem of how I was going to react to the land behind the much publicised Bamboo Curtain. How would I respond to the impact of Communist China? To appreciate my reactions, was it

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not necessary to know my mental make-up? What motivated my thinking? What was I? I thought of my boyhood days in Malaya where I had grown up on the upsurge of the Indian renaissance preached aggressively. In Chatterjee's *Modern Review* and Gandhi's *Young India*: my student days in Colombo, where I had flitted uneasily from economics to literature, from philosophy to law, and spent my time discussing everything from Vedantism to Buddhism, Hedonism to Dialectical Materialism. Then, came my long sojourn in India, during the greater part of the second world war, where I witnessed the birthpangs of new India. My work as a newspaperman, as a lawyer, as a writer of stories, and my adventures in political journalism—all came tumbling into my thoughts. And yet, I could not say what I was. Was it necessary to know what I was? All I had to do was to record honestly and faithfully what I saw and what I felt during my visit to China, and it would be for others to say what I was (if that was relevant) from what I said."

Speaking of the *Tribune*, I had then written: "The *Tribune* which I represented was the only non-party political paper in the English language in Ceylon. It was nationalist liberal in content with a distinct bias in favour of a socialist pattern of society. In foreign affairs, it emphasised *Pancha Seela*, the Bandung principles and the struggle of Afro-Asian peoples for economic and political freedom. In domestic matters, it stressed the need for national unity, and for a better life for the under-privileged. And *Tribune* was regarded as the stormy petrel of Ceylon journalism because of its persistent efforts to expose all that was corrupt and rotten in the political, social and commercial life of the country..."

And finally, after writing about the other members of the delegation to China, I had said this about "bias": "Such was our delegation. I have set out something about each of us, our background and the papers we represented, so that our reactions to the realities of China as they unfolded themselves in the course of our journey could be more readily understood. There was no doubt that each of us had a bias, a bias even in regard to China. I had mine. I do not mind admitting mine, so that those who read this book will not have to keep guessing as to where I stood. My bias was for the underprivileged millions of Chinese in their fight for political and economic freedom. I have the same bias towards underprivileged countries in all continents, particularly those in the still-colonial dependencies in Asia, Africa and Latin America. I am not ashamed of this bias, and I believe that I share it with millions of people in the world today."

Since 1958 I have grown older in age and experience, but the basic bedrock of my attitudes remain the same.

In the introductory note of my book *Havana to Kabul* (1980). I had reiterated, "I grew up in the era of anti-imperialist struggles and even today I am unrepentant anti-imperialist. I am not one of those who has been persuaded that imperialism has disappeared simply because of political independence to all but a few of the former colonies. In spite of this, it is an undisputed fact that imperialist exploitation in matters economic continues in many new, sophisticated and camouflaged forms so that even respectable bourgeois now speak of 'neocolonialism'... I am really a product of Sri Lanka in an Asian Third World setting. I have spent a total of less than 40 days of my life in Europe (including the Soviet Union) I have a point of view and my views on international affairs and world problems are well known to readers of *Tribune*. The first issue of *Tribune* had appeared shortly after the Asian Prime Minister's meeting in Colombo in 1954. Bandung had come a year later. From that time *Tribune* has published a great deal about international affairs and the problems of the contemporary era with special emphasis on non-alignment."

As in my writings in the *Tribune*, in this series on Afghanistan too I will use sources on which I rely and they are understandably those which support my outlook on global and domestic matters. These sources are really the only silver linings in the perennially gloomy horizon of the present global information (or misinformation) order.

I propose to set down what I saw in Afghanistan without any frills. I will also include everything relevant I heard from a wide variety of people including extracts from the tape-recorded speeches of leaders and others interviewed. I will also recall and refer to pertinent reports published in the media in different countries. Interspersed in this reportage will be my own reactions and my own conclusions on various aspects of life in Afghanistan. In the time I spent in Afghanistan, I could not see everything or learn everything, but it was enough to get a sense of the prevailing atmosphere. All that I had read, heard and seen (on the TV) in the 3½ years since the Saur Revolution, overwhelmingly from the Western media, was in the forefront of my mind as a painful reminder of what media imperialism really means. My own reactions are personal and straightforward. I have no official position to inhibit what I say or write. Good or bad, what I say is a reflection of my native logic and personal ethos. To me the few days I spent in Afghanistan will remain in my memory as an unforgettable sojourn in the midst of a real revolution in a country already two hundred years behind time and under fire from the entirety of the still strong and powerful capitalist world.

To be continued

Govt.



Notices

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/2/601

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below, for a public purpose. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No. 164 (part III) 0.310.1981

SCHEDULE

Situation	
<i>D R O's Division</i> :-	Piliyandala
<i>Village</i> :-	Deltara
<i>Name of Land</i> :-	Thanakanawattawatte, Keenagahawatte Hegahawatte.
<i>Plan and Lot No</i> :-	1 & 2 P.P.CO 5589
The Kachcheri, Colombo. 1981	H. C. Gunawardena District Land Officer and Acquiring Officer, of Colombo District

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

Ref No. 25/4/203

It is Intended to acquire the Land/ described in the Schedule below. for a public purpose For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 164 (Part III) of 23.10.1981

SCHEDULE

<i>Name of Land</i> :-	Leemabgahamulatenna
<i>Situation</i>	Situated in Waldeniya Village, Mawathapattu North, Kegalle D. R. O's division in Kegalle District.
<i>Plan and Lot No:</i>	1 in P. Plan. 1738
The Kachcheri Kegalle. 30. 9. 1981.	W. M. T. B. Menikdiwela. Asaistant Government Agent Kegalle District.

TRIBUNE, October 24, 1981

Jaffna College Miscellany : Centenary Publication

Editor S. Sebanesan—1981

The Christian missionaries were one of the important modernising agencies that ushered Jaffna into modern times. As the American missionaries concentrated their activity mainly in the Jaffna Peninsula their influence was almost all pervading. By a well planned network of schools, both vernacular and English, having the college at Vaddukoddai at the apex they reached every nook and corner of Jaffna. Their paper *Morning Star* published in English and Tamil provided a forum for "intellectual" discussions and news. Their hospitals at Manipay and Inuvil, the teaching of modern medicine first in English and later entirely in Tamil, their translations of Medical books into Tamil have had tremendous influence on the life of the people. In the process of introducing and effecting many changes they directly and indirectly challenged the traditional moorings of the people. Their contributions have been the subject of many well researched treatises but the subject has not been exhausted. This modest introduction was deemed necessary to introduce the Centenary Publication of Jaffna College Miscellany which saw light of day in 1879. The present issue is a belated publication yet it contains all the aroma that was required to make it a historical document. Besides the usual matters that find a place in a publication of this nature such as Greetings, record of important events and profiles of men who made significant contributions and selections from past issues, the volume contains articles which are valuable for both ordinary readers and scholars.

Prof. K. Indrapala of the Jaffna University writes "on the founding Father of the Batticotta Seminary 'The American contribution to the Modernisation of Tamil Studies—The Work of Daniel Poor and his Colleagues'". It was Dr. Daniel Poor who drafted the blue print for the success of American missionaries in Jaffna and the author has pointed out the salient features. Prof. K. Kailasapathy's article is on "Arnold Sathasivampillai and the Tamil Renaissance". Studied together, these two articles would show to what extent Jaffna Tamils were the pioneers in the field of "Tamil Renaissance" and the help provided by the missionaries to achieve that purpose. This also emphasises another aspect of the social history—that the missionaries never wanted to alienate the "natives" at least in Jaffna from

their language. This may perhaps account for the hold of language on the Jaffna Tamils. If any one charged that their "products" became "elite" themselves, it was far from the expectations of the missionaries. An article on the contribution made by Dr. Samuel Green would have still enriched this section. Dr. S. Pathmanathan of the Peradenaya University contributes on the pioneer historians of Jaffna—"C. Rasanayakam and S. Gnana-pragasar" S. Sebanesan has written in Tamil on "American Mission and Tamil Community. The reminiscences of past pupils are usually written in lighter vein. But the reminiscences of Messrs John W. Bicknell, S. Durai Raja Singham, A. S. Kanagaratnam, N. Sabaratnam, read together with Santaseelan Kadirgamar's article on the "Liberal Traditions at Jaffna College (an extract from his book on Jaffna Youth Congress) provides glimpses of an age in which best of American liberalism compromised with Gandhian nationalism. They are veritable source materials for any student of politics and social science. A close study of the college would unfold the secret of its success it had been always willing to think and act ahead of others. Beginning with the seminary (1823) has passed through collegiate school to the Technical Institute (1968). The proposal to establish a Community Project is under serious discussion at present. The notes on the Jaffna College Technical Institute and the article of Mr. W. R. Holmes (author of Jaffna 1980) taken together offers some serious suggestion that could eventually contain the blind "outflow" of sons of the soil only to be burnt down in the hot climate of middle east and South Africa or suffer snow bite in cold climes. V. Buvanasundaram, reputed meteorologist bemoans that college gave up its meteorological records and instruments.

With clear and readable print and at a price of fifteen rupees (subscribed perhaps) the Miscellany is within the reach of all those who are interested in the subjects found in this issue.

K. Arumainayagam

26.09.81.



CONFIDENTIALLY

Tariff "Leak"

IS IT-NOT TRUE that the *Ceylon Daily News* on Wednesday, September 30, 1981 had a front-page scoop, banner-headlined, CHEAPER RAW MATERIALS AND TARIFF SHELTERS: PROTECTION FOR LOCAL INDUSTRIES which read: "A blanket reduction of import duty on all raw materials imported by local industries is expected to be announced shortly by the Presidential Tariff Commission. The import duty at present varies from 5 to 25 percent. The new uniform import duty will be five per cent. Industrial chemicals, steel, aluminium, lead, wire, raw materials used in textile and other industries that come under the BTN (Brussels Tariff Nomenclature) classification would benefit by this reduction. Meanwhile, the Presidential Tariff Commission has decided to increase the import duty on 70 items from the current 5 percent to 25 per cent. This increase will affect newsprint, printing ink, tiles, soap, asbestos sheets, joss sticks, rubber goods, electrical goods, nuts and bolts etc. The import of foreign made tyres and tubes would be subject to very high duty a spokesman of the Presidential Tariff Commission said, "it will be as high as 100 per cent", he revealed. He said this would satisfy the Industries Ministry which had been campaigning for protection for local industries. A survey carried out by the Industries Ministry in the early part of this year revealed that many local industries were in bad shape and unable to withstand the competition of mass produced goods dumped here by multinationals. It took a lot of fighting for the Industries Ministry to get its point of view accepted. The list of 150 items submitted was pruned to 36 and the Industries Ministry had to go to a Cabinet sub-committee to add 34 items to the list liable to increased import duty. The Industries Ministry is still not content. It intends asking for further inclusions. The changes in the import duty structure have been so devised to safeguard revenue, reduce prices of local manufacturers and make imported items more expensive. Local industries have been required to improve the quality of their products."

THAT NO SOONER this news appeared, imported goods—seventy of them—went underground? That these items which were in plenty the day before disappeared completely from view? That a black market was immediately created? That hoarding took place and an artificial shortage was created? That it was clear that there was a genuine "leak" on which the *Daily News* story was based? That this "leak" was almost as good as a Budget "leak"? That in the normal course the new tariff rates should have been released only as part of the new budget

proposals on November 12? That this premature "leak" came as a shock and surprise to all people?

THAT THE SILENCE of the Tariff Commission about this "leak" for at least five or six days made everyone believe that the story was correct? That on October 6, the *Daily News* published a report on the bottom left hand corner of page one THE TARIFF COMMISSION WRITES: "The Chairman of the Presidential Tariff Commission Mr. G. Cumaranatunge, referring to the *Daily News* report "Protection for local industries" published on September 30 states: 'Paragraph 5 of the lead news item appearing in the *Ceylon Daily News* of Wednesday, September 30, 1981, reads as follows: 'The import of foreign made tyres and tubes will be subject to very high duty a spokesman of the Presidential Tariff Commission said. It will be as high as 100 per cent he revealed. He said this would satisfy the Industries Ministry which has been campaigning for protection for local industries. The Presidential Tariff Commission at its meeting held on the morning of Wednesday September 30, 1981 discussed the abovementioned paragraph in your news item. Inquiries were made as to whether any of the commissioners or any of the staff of the commission had made the abovementioned statement as a spokesman of the Presidential Tariff Commission. All the members of the commission and all the members of the staff denied making any such statement. In the circumstances the commission decided to request you to publish a correction giving it the same prominence as has been given to the news item under reference.'? That it is significant that the "correction" related only to imported tyres (one of the seventy items)? That the Chairman was at pains only to point out that no member of the Commission had stated that the duty on some varieties of imported tyres would go up as much as 100%? That not one word was said about the "leak" in general that had created a black market overnight? That the news had appeared in the Government's premier English daily and the news was therefore, accepted as correct? That even though a government-owned newspaper is entitled to publish its scoops the question is how did the "leak" take place—and from the Tariff Commission? That this august body is directly under the President and it is surprising that a "leak" should have taken place "at all? That as a result of this a few importers and merchants will take in a few millions? That the public are surprised that no action has yet been taken about this leak? That it is to be hoped that something is done about preventing such "leaks" from the Tariff Commission?

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