

TRIBUNE



27TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



MINISTRY OF MAHAWELI DEVELOPMENT

MAHAWELI AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA

TENDER NOTICE

FABRICATION AND SUPPLY OF GATES AND TRASH RACKS FOR THE MINIPE ANICUT HEAD SLUICE AND SILT EJECTOR

Tenders are hereby invited for the fabrication and supply of gates and trashracks for the Minipe Anicut Head Sluice and Silt Ejector.

The work envisaged in this tender is as follows :

- | | | |
|-------|--|-----------|
| (i) | 3.0 m x 2.75 m Slide Gates and Hoists | — 06 Nos. |
| (ii) | 3.0 m x 1.5 m Radical Gates and Hoists | — 02 Nos. |
| (iii) | 3.6 m x 1.55 m Trash Racks | — 12 Nos. |

Reputed firms including joint venture organisations with substantial previous experience and adequate capacity will be eligible to tender for this work.

Tender documents will be available from 16th November 1981 at the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Construction) Mahaweli Development Board, No. 11, Jawatte Road, Colombo 5, during normal working hours.

A non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/- will be charged for one set of documents.

Tenders will be closed at the office of the undersigned at 10.00 a.m. on 1st Feb. 1982.

DIRECTOR GENERAL,

Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.

500, T. B. Jayah Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

3rd November 1981.

TRIBUNE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE FIFTH BUDGET OF THE JAYEWARDENE Government is on everybody's mind. What our Finance Minister will pull out of his box will be known by the time this issue of *TRIBUNE* is out. We have been lucky in our Finance Minister if only because he has not pontificated on theories to justify the fiscal and monetary policies he has followed. And the Jayewardene Government too has based itself on pragmatic and realistic strategies that stem from a programme to achieve economic development through preponderance of open market free enterprise and a public sector totally subordinate to private managerial skills. We have been spared homilies on the virtues of tight-money monetarism as against decadent Keynesianism. We have not been called upon to delve into the theories of "the economy of supply management" or simply 'the supply side economics'. Even though we have not overburdened ourselves with theoretical concepts about economic panaceas, we have in recent times paid a great deal of attention to conservation and the protection of animals. *TRIBUNE* itself has been accused of being over-concerned about animals whilst ignorings the fate of human beings who get a raw deal. Many readers say that the attention we pay to elephants, to the Asian Elephant Secretariat and to Departments and Societies that devote their time, energy and money to conserve flora and fauna, should be diverted to the care and well being of humans. The accusation has also been made that on our Cover we have animals, as we have this time, more often than human beings. There is a great deal to be said for this view. The World Food Day on October 16 drew attention to the hunger and malnutrition that affects hundreds of millions of people. The annual convention of the FAO that has just concluded in Rome brought revelations that the hunger sweeping vast areas of the world is not an outcome of food shortages but rather the way food distribution is manipulated, particularly, by specialised transnationals. It is not food that is missing (every day the world produces 1 kg of cereal per inhabitant, which means 3000 calories per capita, not to mention the important quantities of meat, fish, vegetables and fruit), but the money needed to buy it. The principle blame lies with the practices of the agricultural transnationals which control the growing, transport, storage, milling and utilisation of cereals. These companies, and the countries behind them, used the monopoly policy to become unprecedentedly influential in the distribution of food in the world, their clout growing relentlessly on account of certain countries being almost totally dependent on grain imports. In this respect the most vulnerable are the poor countries and this seriously prejudices their political or economic options. The internationalisation of the meat industry, presently under the control of 4 or 5 transnationals, is considered to be another cause of hunger in the world. In order to expand the production of beef for export, the farmers in Costa Rica, Honduras and other Latin American countries, where pastures are cheap, gave up producing milk which had become too expensive for the poor families. And in order to expand the poultry production, they renounced growing beans and maize—the poor man's food—cultivating sorghum instead. And so, for one fourth of Colombia's population, a dozen eggs cost as much as a week's average wages.

The Budget

The 1982 Budget, presented on November 12, has been described as a "no surprises" budget. This was not unexpected. Over the years Budgets in this country have moved away from the earlier British tradition of sensational once-a-year disclosures that affected the economy drastically. Even in Britain, Budgets are no longer what they were. In the age of the empire with capitalism in its heyday, the imperial economy of Britain was easily fashioned by rigid budgetary proposals once-a-year. That gave the shopkeepers of Britain and the bankers and investors drawing their dividends from the colonies an assurance of fiscal and monetary stability on a year-to-year basis. In fact, if one studies British budgeting practices during the 19th century and the early part of 20th one is struck by the inflexibility of approach for decades. But with the first world war, the Bolshevik Revolution and the rise of Fabian welfare policies (misnamed socialist) in Britain, and thereafter with the mighty socio-political and economic upheavals that followed the Second World War British budgets were no longer what they were.

Though Budgets in independent Sri Lanka at first attempted to follow the classical British pattern, they did not succeed in doing so for long. Sensation-infused Budgets with 'secrets' pulled out of a black box on-D day have disappeared a long time ago. For over a decade now, taxation, direct, indirect, covert and overt, has been imposed whenever thought necessary though **ad hoc** gazette notifications and special parliamentary Acts during the course of the financial year. This year has not been different, but the Budget presented on November 12 has increased indirect taxation through the BTT and certain other taxes in a way that the whole community will be affected. This was no surprise. The Budget has only regularised and formalised what was known to be coming. The Finance Minister says that the heaviest burden of new tax proposals will be borne by the affluent, especially the post-1977 new rich. Opposition party spokesmen and other critics believe that consumers in all classes, especially the poorer sections, will be badly hit by the inflationary spiral that will stem from the BTT and other tax proposals. It has also been pointed out that the proposed pay increases for employees in the public sector will not be enough to meet the inevitable price increases merchants will pass on to the consumers. Apart from this, the pay increases will in themselves, it is stressed, add to the inflation—unless local production of food stuffs and other consumer goods increases in a substantial way. **Preliminary critical analysis of the Budget on ideological grounds has come from parties and individuals who are opposed to the**

private enterprise "liberalised economy" of this government. But criticism has also come from those who support the Government policies: they feel that the new tax proposals with protectionist overtones will undermine the basic fundamentals of the structure of the "free economy" introduced by this government. Others feel that the new rich, who are experts in tax avoidance and evasion will make a farcical mockery of the latest tax structure.

Opposition parties are yet to formulate a sustained analysis of the present Government's policies and present at the same time an alternate programme of economic development under the present national and international conditions. They have so far confined their criticisms to piecemeal comments from a 'socialist' angle which is different in the case of the different opposition parties—SLFP, LSSp, CPSL, JVP or even the TULF. Their main chorus-like slogan is that the Budget "soaks the poor" (exploiting them) and "tickles the rich" (pampering them). The Finance Minister's claim is that in the circumstances he could not think of better budgetary proposals than these to continue the development of Mahaweli and the other projects without courting national disaster. The Government believes that within a foreseeable future, it would be able to reap the benefits of the present development projects in a way that would bring immense benefits to the people in terms of higher standards of living and an improved quality of life. Whether this objective will be accomplished within the period envisaged is yet to be seen.

It must be also mentioned that many had expected a total or partial stoppage of some of the major projects like the Mahaweli or the Housing Schemes owing to financial constraints. But after the 25% cut imposed on expenditure in all Ministries earlier this year, and the elimination of further high-rise buildings, the Finance Minister believes he will bridge the huge budgetary deficit with foreign grants and loans on the one hand and domestic loans and taxation on the other. **It is yet to be seen whether these expectations will be fulfilled, or whether the government will resort to the time-honoured device of under-expenditure in selected sectors,**

TRIBUNE will publish articles and comments on the 1982 budget from different commentators on significant aspects of the budget. To enable our readers to understand and appreciate what these

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commentators will say, we will publish short summaries of the economic situation in the country as outlined by the Finance Minister in the Budget speech together with the logic which has impelled him to adopt the solutions he has relied on in the budget. We will also publish for the record brief summaries of the tax proposals not only for the record but also for the benefit of readers especially those abroad

funeral heavy-handed censoriousness that descended on the two main newspapers as a result of the government takeover and the restrictive vicissitudes of the long years of the Emergency during the last regime had reduced the media to a shadow of what it was. All the encouragement the present government has given the newspapers to publish and comment freely (except for very short periods of selective, but voluntary, "emergency" censorship) has done nothing to improve the situation. Whether "The Island" newspapers will help to improve matters is yet to be seen.

TRIBUNE

DELAY

This issue of the TRIBUNE has been inordinately delayed because electricity supplies to the area the printshop is situated had failed for ten days. All appeals to the authorities brought only one reply: "there is a major breakdown. We are doing our best to repair the damage" We apologise to our readers for the delay but all we can say is that it was "beyond our control."

THE MEDIA

"The Island"

The Island has brought a new liveliness into our newspaper world. With two main groups, the *Lake House* and the *Times* hamstrung by government ownership and inhibitive controls and the *Sun* group lost in ivory tower isolation by its virtual monopoly as the only "independent" national daily, this country had lost that exuberance and verve that had characterised our media in its heyday in the fifties and the sixties. With dynamic daily papers on the prowl for news and publishable gossip and palpitating with controversial issues, weeklies like the *Tribune* had meat to thrive upon for its analytical dissertations, and the party journals and occasional newsheets also had something to bite on before venturing into polemical comment. *But the sombre and*

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The Sunday edition of **The Island** is readable and has more reading matter than any other Sunday paper published by the big groups. Take the issue of Sunday November 15. The front page had a number of interesting pieces, but the main lead about the attack on the Sri Lanka Trade Office in Bombay was stale (having come over the SLBC airwaves) and, the second lead about compulsory military service for youth over 18 was both speculative as well as premature even under a headline with a question mark. The lobby notes on the budget—calling it "a good headmaster's report" was facetious and lacked objectivity—reflected the **Island's** bugbear personal dislike of the Finance Minister. The paper also published Manik de Silva's piece on "Ronnie vs Upali" in the **Far Eastern Economic Review** (FEER) (13.11.81) about the developments in Parliament and the polemical war that has erupted as a result of some saucy comments ("poisoned pen" according to the FEER) in the Anuradhapura Diaries. **The Island** took the bull by its horns for the publicity it gave the paper (and Upali) and published the FEER story in full. The bull in this case is in a far away land, but when the local bulls see red, then the real fun will begin. And **The Island** is not likely then to publish what is said.

On the inside pages last Sunday, Ranjan Joseph had an interesting item about bureaucrats running riot in the Bambalapitiya flats. Ranjan Joseph has been turning out some of the best investigative pieces in *The Island* since its inception. B. C. Perera another who has also turned out some very good stories, had a revealing insight into Textile planted that may prove to be White Elephants. Dalton de Silva continued his excellent series on Parties and Politics.—this time interviewing the leaders of the Communist Party. The Anuradhapura Diaries this

week were not as vulgar and pungent as they usually have been. This time the column was mainly devoted to a defensive apologia about "Pali's" (Upali's) trials and tribulations since he became a publisher. Many references and innuendos in the Anuradhapura Diaries are still very much over the heads of even the most knowledgeable. Some of the cracks and witticisms are as old as the hills and those who have watched the journalistic scene in this country for a long time wonder whether the Anuradhapura Diaries will do more harm than good for the paper. One of the unwritten rules of the game is that the proprietor of a newspaper generally keeps his name and his personality out of the paper (except in a very indirect way). But more importantly, the publications are rarely used to push personal vendetta and private political ambitions of the proprietor in an open and blatant manner. If it goes on in this way, the Paper will soon not be The Island but Upali Land: Will The Island be submerged by Upaliland? This can happen sooner than many imagine unless corrective measures are taken.

The Sunday paper also has regular features on sports, films, drama, women, fashion, tourism, - all the topics to attract readers, Reinzie Wijeratne had an urgent plea about taxi fares in his column on Tourism. Television notes by BeeCee (who seems to be doing films also under his own name) was pointed, fair, straightforward and (so far) without any axes (for grinding). Altogether last Sunday's The Island was a good issue except for the overhanging pall of poison (political) darts from Pali's Land. D. R. Wijewardene never entered the political scene personally in spite of the power he wielded and one wonders what the "pull" of Lake House would have been if he had used the publications to propel himself to parliamentary politics. Lake House at the height of its glory under D. R. never deviated from the ethics of full and fair reporting, but when his successors started slandering, twisting and blacking out news, the paper lost credibility and invited a takeover. Lake house did not lose circulation or advertisements, but credibility became nil, And the Government only took over a profitable venture that did not matter politically. And politically, they still do not matter.

The Island, in some matters has, started slanting and twisting news with a touch of personal

animosity and cheap vulgarity, and although camouflaged in parables and allegorical anecdotes, it does not augur well for the paper's future. The whole project, some suspect, may be only a limited political exercise for Presidential stakes in 1989/90. But whether even the redoubtable wonderman Upali can last the pace until then is yet to be seen. It may be a case of the giant on the beanstalk. "Staying power" on single track for horses is one thing, but it is totally different in a complex political firmament with a multitude of tracks for political aspirants. The first issue (November 16) of Island (daily) came very much on time unlike the Sunday editions. It was certainly a brighter and better paper than any other daily published in Colombo. It starts by patting itself on its own back. This is a gimmick a successful entrepreneur may think will bring dividends, but blowing one's trumpets will not help in building up a reputation for quality for the newspaper. In seven weeks, the boxed item entitled "Good Morning" claimed that the Sunday edition had become Sri Lanka's "leading" English language paper (what has happened to the print order" or the circulation?) and then it hopes to be the No. 1 daily newspaper in the island. It can easily become this if it plays the game according to the rules and observes the unwritten Code everyone in the Fourth Estate knows. It is true that The Island is technically the best printed and produced paper. But its impact and credibility will be minimal if it gets a reputation that its main objective is to denigrate Upali's political rivals, by fair means or foul and by twisted stories and slanted innuendos. Character assassination and vituperative personal animus may boost circulation and bring in advertisements but credibility will be lost. In the post-56 era, the Lake House publications, in spite of having the largest circulations had little or no credibility and they lost elections for the UNP (which depended on them) because of their propensity for character assassination and slanted stories.

The first issue of **The Island** (daily) made a front-page lead of Migara's Weekend story (In his Men and Matters) about a Cabinet meeting where Prime Minister Premadasa is alleged to have lost his shirt and threatened to resign, But the Island's story was spoilt with a touch of cheap vulgarity saying how the PM "got into a huff and threatened to resign and walked towards the

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door of the Cabinet room. not that of the exit but the toilet". This will certainly raise a laugh in some quarters. but will prove counter-productive among the genarality of the readers. The Migara version of the incident was different: ". . . The repartee was short and was sharp. Then, suddenly the Prime Minister, rose. picked up his bag and threatened to submit his resignation. There was hushed science for a moment The good old soldier Major Montague Jayawickrema, Minister of Publlc Administration and of Plantations Industries, who also sits next to the Prime Minister in the manner of "an officer and a gentleman" calmed Mr Premadasa and told him to take his seat once again. The Prime Minister paused and then while startled Ministers stared took his seat again. It was decided then that no further discussion on this matfer takes place on that occasion and thus a major pre-Budget Cabinet crisis was averted". Iniquities reveal that the Migara version is correct. This fictitious "toilet" touch transgressed poetic licence because of bad taste and robbed The Island's story of its political content. The witticism may have been enjoyed by a few smart Alecs but the majorify of Sri Lankans have decent instincts and a sense of propriety. The Island is still weak on its foreign news coverage, and in-dept interpretative analyses of local and foreign developments are still very superficial. In the meantime, competition seems to have spurred The Sunday Observer, the Sunday Times and the Weekendto streamline their pages. but so far without much success. Last Sunday they were still drab and dull - except for the welcome reappearance of the Migara page. If only Migara will curtail length and verbosity and compress what he has to say into two columns or a little more (and this can be done quite easily without any loss in the meaning and significance of what he writes), his page will have added value. Most people find it tiresome to wade through five or six columns.

A great many things seem to be happening in the new world of television in Sri Lanka and this column, which we hope will appear regularly, will deal with some of those developments. The appointment of M. J. Perera as Chairman designate of Rupavahini is one best thing to have happened. It is one of the best selections to a top post made by this government. No better choice could have been made

Valmiki

TRIBUNE, November 21, 1981

Govt.



Notices

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

Reference No. LD/A 584

It is intended to acquire the Land described in the Schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 166/22 of 13.11.1981

SCHEDULE

<i>Name of Land</i>	:- 1. Wallahagodagedera watta 2. — do — 3. Hondawalgodawtta
<i>Name of Village</i>	:- In the Ranawana Village of Kulugamamana Siyapattu Korale
<i>D. R. O's Division</i>	:- Harispattuwa, Kandy District.
<i>Lot No</i>	:- 01 02 03.
<i>P. Plan No.</i>	:- Maha 2145 — do — — do —

The Kachcheri,
Kandy.
10th November, 1981.

K. B. Wijekoon
Assistant Government
Agent
Kandy District.

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

Reference No. 3/63/428
J.76 LG.842

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 166/22 of 13.11.1981

SCHEDULE

<i>Name of Land</i>	:- Kahatagahamulahena
<i>Name of Village</i>	:- Within Kuliypitiya Urban Council Limits, Kuliypitiya
<i>D. R. O's Division</i>	:- Kurunegala District.
<i>Plan and Lot No</i>	:- Lot No. 65 in Supplement No. 22 in F. V. P. 978

The Kachcheri,
Kurunegala.
04th November, 1981

A. George
District Land Officer
Kurunegala District.

TENDER NOTICE

NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

Tender No. NFC/81/13

Supply of 500.000 FT (152500 Metres) of 35 MM Magnetic Sound Recording Film

Chairman, Tender Board of the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka will receive sealed tenders up to 3 p. m. on 30th December 81 for the supply of above films.

Tender documents could be obtained from the Manager - Supplies and Sales, till 3 p. m. on 29th December 81. Offers should be made on the Tender documents obtainable by paying a refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 250/- and non-refundable tender from fee of Rs. 50/- per set. A cancelled set of tender documents could be obtained on payment of Rs. 50/-

Tender documents will also be available with the Foreign Embassies abroad.

Tender will be accepted only on forms issued by this Corporation.

GENERAL MANAGER

NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION
OF SRI LANKA

224, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 7.

W.F.C/484/M

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

My No. LA/1700

The Government Intends to acquire the Land described in the Schedule below. for a public purpose. For particulars please see Part III of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 168 of 20.11.1981

SCHEDULE

Name of Land :- Tharagan Thoddam
Name of Village :- Alvai North
D. R. O's Division :- Vadamarachchi North and East
Lot No :- 1.
Plan No. :- P.P. Ya 1524

M- Punchalingam

The Kachcheri Addl. Govt Agent (Lands)
Jaffna. Jaffna District.
28th October, 1981.

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

My No. LA/1666

The Government intends to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For particulars please see Part III of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 168 of 20.11.1981

SCHEDULE

Name of Land :- Kanuvil
Name of Villag :- Karaveddy West. Ward No. 6
Kanuvil within the Town Council limits of Nelliadi,
D. R. O's Division :- Vadamarachchi South and West
Lot No. :- 1 to 19
Plan No. :- P.P. Ya 1496

The Kachcheri. **M- Punchalingam**
Jaffna Addl. Govt Agent
1st October, 1981. (Lands)
for Govt. Agent,
Jaffna District

In The Nuclear Age

By Vladimir Simonov

NOTHING could be simpler. All you have to do is to prepare a cosy shelter where you could while away the nuclear war like a summer cloudburst. The hail rattles on the roof and presently the skies are blue again. Of course, the government's bankers cannot accommodate all. They are for the elite. The others have to fall back on the bank accounts and on the official pamphlet "Protect and Survive". It is full of useful tips. How to make a nuclear shelter from a door taken off its hinges. How to use drinking water from the flush bowl. And don't forget to order white-painted windows—it's good against thermal radiation from a nuclear explosion. This is the survival scenario Britons are being offered these days by the Governmental and other mass media. It is being drummed into people's heads that in the event of an atomic apocalypse most of the population would survive. But what exactly does "most" means? During my two and a half years on assignment in London I have seen that figure inflated from officially inspired optimism. First Lord Belstead, Home Office minister in charge of civil defence, claimed that 15 out of 55 million Britons will survive. A little later Air Force Marshal Sir Leslie Mayors gave the reassuring news that 30 million would survive, and the other day some local papers suggested that 95 per cent of the people would be lucky survivors of the atomic strike. But that is cold comfort for Britons who are increasingly aware that all this government fuss around civil defence has little to do with concern for their survival. The government ministers need the steel holes and concrete shelters not to save people's lives but to promote their doubtful right to massive military spendings. They need them to hide the truth about the consequences of a nuclear conflict. They need them to justify the arms race. Such civil defence reeks not of humanism but of suicide. An element in London's risky nuclear strategy, it is becoming a political propaganda mechanism pushing the country towards war. No, that is not the way to save civilisation.

THE PROBLEM of preserving life on earth is worth talking about with utter seriousness, without propaganda overtones and political bias. And the time to talk about it is now. Nuclear weapons are coming out of human control. The men with real political influence in their countries must use every chance to take a sober and if you like, an academic look at that danger. Such an opportunity was seized in early October, by the Scotland-USSR Society and Edinburgh University, which cosponsored a meeting of Soviet and British scientists political figures, expert in international affairs and strategic armaments in

ecology and medicine, under the heading "*Survival in the Nuclear Age*". It was an unusual meeting with virtually no public present. The three-day Edinburgh meeting scrutinised the problem of nuclear danger with academic thoroughness in what was often a cosy, confidential atmosphere. This may be why the meeting's serious and weighty conclusions had such an impact in Britain. For example, when the accuracy of the Pershing-2 missiles was discussed at the Edinburgh meeting, the figures of 5—7 metres were bandied about. But General Hugh Beach named a different figure: 2-3 metres. The General should know as he has been involved in the Pershing-2 project. When somebody, in the course of the discussion, mentioned the Pentagon and the CIA publication "*Soviet Military Power*". Professor John Erickson described that declaration as "not very serious and very one-sided". The authority of that assessment was not questioned because the professor is in charge of strategic studies at Edinburgh University and a leading British defence expert.

What did the Edinburgh meeting have to offer in the way of recommendations for those who want to survive in this dangerous age?

For all the difference of political views and initial frames of reference, the participants managed to hammer out a joint document containing rather concrete practical suggestions. The Edinburgh statement opens up with a vigorous and urgent call to sustain a continuing political dialogue. The authors believe it to be "absolutely essential" to reduce the risk of nuclear conflagration and limit nuclear arms. All the positive gains in that field must be preserved and further promoted. The participants in the meeting are convinced that an international declaration must be adopted which categorically condemns any first use of nuclear weapons by any nation whatsoever the pretext or circumstances. The Edinburgh conference expressed serious concern over the plans to include novelties that lower the "nuclear threshold" in the European arsenals. The final document refers to the neutron bomb as the grimmest example of that trend.

On November 30, Soviet-American talks on medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe get underway in Geneva. The participants in the Edinburgh meeting could not have passed over that important event. The talks must result in an agreement which will guarantee a genuine reduction in the level of military confrontation, they have declared. Europe, or indeed, any other part of the world, must not be designated a theatre of nuclear warfare. The concepts of and planning for "limited nuclear war" stresses the Edinburgh document, are unrealistic and unacceptable. Some chilling figures were cited at the meeting to support that thesis. A Pershing-2 Missile would take just 5-6 minutes to reach Soviet territory. **What would be the Russian answer? asked Profess-**

Or John Erickson, having notified that eleven nuclear warheads would be enough to wipe out Britain.

These arguments, it must be said, were thought by some to be "unacademic talk" but that could not be helped, such are the realities of the 80s. As the Soviet-British meeting was taking place in Edinburgh a John Davis died at the other end of Britain, in Wales, at the age of 77. The event would have passed unnoticed if they had not discovered 3,000 cans with food weighing a total of 3 tons in the deceased's larder. His son explained that the old man, having lived through two wars, did not want his family to suffer hardship when the third war broke out. There is no doubt that John Davis sincerely wanted to help his relatives survive in this nuclear age. The trouble was he did not know how.

WEST ASIA

US Turns To Riyadh

Washington, November 4: As the pace of diplomatic manoeuvring accelerates in the wake of President Sadat's assassination it is becoming increasingly clear that Saudi Arabia is now the focus of Washington's hopes for its West Asia policy. Favourable references last week by President Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig to Crown Prince Fahd's eight point West Asia peace plan have triggered a major crisis between Washington and its one 'strategic ally' in the region, Israel. Israel appears to be worried that the United States may be abandoning the Camp David Accords in favour of building dramatically on its relationship with Riyadh. The talks here between Reagan and Jordan's King Hussein and between British Foreign Minister Lord Carrington and Saudi officials in Riyadh, as well as press reports that the United States has secretly undertaken a far-reaching military partnership with the Saudis, have added up to the Israeli worries.

The *Washington Post* published on Sunday details of an alleged 'grand strategy' said to have been worked out between Washington and Riyadh over the past two years. The AWACS deal was but part of the reported plan. According to the *Washington Post*, a highly sophisticated 'communications, command and control's system including intelligence capabilities, would be established towards the end of the 1980s. Building on the existing Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the plan would provide for the prepositioning of bases on Saudi soil for use by the US rapid deployment force in the Gulf, and the creation of an integrated air defence system linking those of the neighbouring Gulf Emirates with that of Saudi Arabia. Although both the Pentagon and Riyadh have formally denied the existence of

such an agreement, Pentagon officials have admitted that contingency planning along these lines has occurred.

But while these reports have bolstered Israeli fears that Washington is moving quickly towards an unrestrained embrace of the Saudis, their anxiety is presently focussed the US position on the Fahd plan. The plan, unveiled last August, provides for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, the creation of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a pledge 'affirming the right of all countries the region to live in peace'. Having initially dismissed the plan as 'nothing new', senior US officials, including the President, suddenly began speaking favourably about it last week after the AWACS vote, noting, for example, that the plan implied recognition of Israel. Meanwhile, Washington is looking to this week's Arab Foreign Ministers meeting in Beirut for more evidence of the possibilities of the 'Saudi card'. The Saudis are expected to try to initiate steps towards a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. The US Administration clearly hopes that such a move could increase moderate Saudi influence over the Palestine Liberation Organisation, possibly leading to PLO endorsement of the Fahd plan. This could provide the basis for negotiations between Washington and the PLO.—/PS/Lankapuwath

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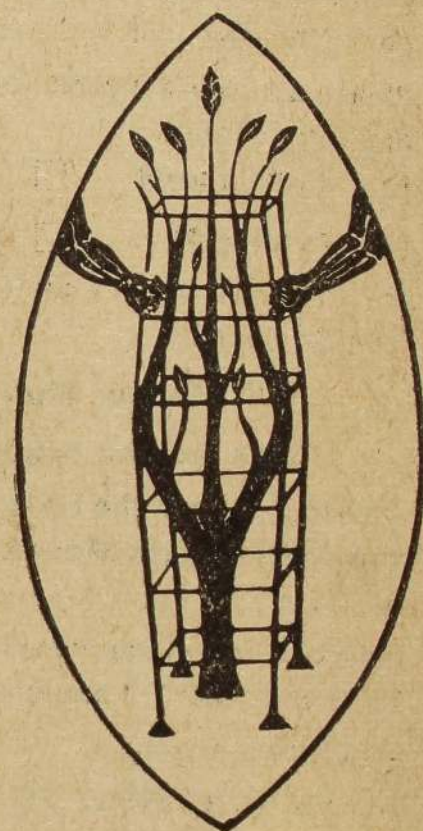
TRIBUNE, November 21, 1981

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November 1 - 7

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, NOVEMBER 1: The Employers Federation of Ceylon (EFC) has decided to increase the basic salary of a mercantile employee to Rs. 750 a month under the new collective agreement with the Ceylon Mercantile Union. Mr. A. S. Appadurai, Secretary EFC, said that under the new agreement, the starting salary of a clerk, supervisory or allied worker which was Rs. 240 a month will now be Rs. 750; the maximum will go up to Rs. 1,745 depending on the grade of the worker. A high level US mission will arrive in Sri Lanka in December to discuss investment and development possibilities in this country. A Saudi Arabian delegation will arrive in Sri Lanka on November 7; this is a sequel of the visit to Saudi Arabia by President J. R. Jayewardene—SO. A national movement to mobilise public opinion against terrorism is in the offing; the aim of this movement is to apprise the people of the danger to the security of the State from terrorist activity—ST. Galloping inflation and the resultant spiralling of prices will make Lankans face an economically uncertain 1982 with only eleven days to go for the government's fifth budget, there was concern among the country's economists, bankers, industrialists and businessmen over what the coming months hold for them. The situation in Jaffna after the recent events is now settling down to normal, Army Headquarters announced yesterday. An unit to process offers of non-formal assistance from Sri Lankan individuals and associations abroad will be set up in the Prime Minister's office, it was announced yesterday—WK. Key suspects wanted in connection with the recent incidents of violence in the North will be proclaimed "most wanted men"; Inspector General of Police Ana Seneviratne will this week gazette the proclamation under the Provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act; this is the first time that the Government acting under the provisions of this Act is proclaiming wanted men; according to knowledgeable sources about twenty persons are to be proclaimed. MPs of the Tamil United Liberation Front have decided

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to call off their boycott of Parliament in the interests of the Tamil people, leader of the Opposition and TULF General Secretary Mr. Appapillai Amirthalingam said—IS.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2: A further reduction in the sugar price is very likely, the *Daily News* reliably understands; the Food Department is currently wholesaling its stocks at Rs. 14/90 a kilo; the co-ops and various other retail outlets are selling this sugar to the consumer at Rs. 15/50 a kilo. Air Taxis Limited, the government licensed charter operators inaugurated a flying training school at a simple ceremony at their office and hangar at the Ratmalana Airport premises yesterday; it was officially opened by the protem chairman Mr. Phillips S. Duleepkumar—CDN. The Urban Development Authority responsible for implementing the Greater Colombo Master Plan will raise Rs. 100 million by the sale of its debentures to the public; the Central Bank, acting on behalf of the UDA, last week invited the public to invest in the debentures and earn interest at the rate of 16 per cent per annum. Government has allocated Rs. 513,000,000 inclusive of foreign aid, for the development of seven districts next year; this follows an order by President J. R. Jayewardene as Minister of Plan Implementation to his Ministry—CDM. Government is to launch a series of joint ventures with foreign investment in a bid to find new avenues for the exploitation of locally available rubber; the projects which will be sponsored by the Export Development Board comes in the wake of the need to find new markets for the country's rubber, as a means to boost the industry which is the second largest foreign exchange earner. The Tamil United Liberation Front yesterday decided to call off their three-month long boycott of Parliament; they are expected to attend parliament when it meets tomorrow. Sri Lanka will receive five tube well drilling plants costing Rs. 50 million under the Sri Lanka-Japan aid scheme—SU. The Customs began a top level investigation into the activities of a new ring of gem smugglers after a local businessman, described as a gem merchant, was caught at Katunayake Airport attempting to smuggle Rs. 128,000 worth of gems to Bangkok yesterday—Co.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3: The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is actively considering the purchase of substantial quantities of crude oil for refining at Sapugaskande, from outside the Middle East; a CPC delegation led by Vice-Chairman Gamini Marapone is now in Malaysia to sign an agreement with the Malaysian National Oil Corporation, Petronas

for the purchase of 30,000 tons of crude valued at approximately Rs. 150 million. The Janata Estates Development Board is seriously concerned about poor tea prices obtained by several of its estates that are now incurring losses—*CDN*. The talks between the Government and the TULF has satisfactorily resolved most of the crucial problems that had been under discussion over the last few months; Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis, who was the spokesman for the Government revealed this at a Press Conference immediately after the talks at President's House—*CDM*. A peace and harmony, law and order committee consisting of non-political Tamils met President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday and received his blessings to form inter-racial and inter-religious bodies in the districts to campaign for amity. The working of Sri Lanka's tea marketing comes up for a full review by President J. R. Jayewardene on Thursday; he is expected to confer with Ministers, Secretaries and top officials in the public and private sectors connected with the tea industry, which is still the single largest foreign exchange earner for Sri Lanka. An officer of the mail sorting office in Colombo was yesterday arrested by the Fort Police with 200 foreign letters from several countries; the arrest was made outside the Fort Railway station where the officer was seen tearing open mail in a suspicious manner—*SU*. Immediate action will be taken to stop harassment meted out by army personnel to innocent people in Jaffna and its suburbs; at the same time an inquiry will be held into all incidents connected with such harassment; President J. R. Jayewardene confirmed this at the discussions held yesterday between him and the TULF—*VK*.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4: The 1982 Budget estimates presented to Parliament yesterday by Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel indicate substantial increases in government spending on both the current and capital accounts; according to these figures, the deficit in the current account next year will be Rs. 1.7 billion (against Rs. 232 million the previous year). The possibility of purchasing some of Sri Lanka's kerosene and diesel requirements from the People's Republic of China is now under active examination, authoritative government sources revealed yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene told the Government Parliamentary Group yesterday

that the Tamil United Liberation Front leaders had agreed to co-operate with the government in wiping out terrorism in the North and elsewhere, promoting peace and evolving solutions to problems faced by the Tamil people—*CDN*. President Jayewardene told the Government Parliamentary Group meeting yesterday that he believed the TULF had no relationship with the so-called "Tiger" movement as they had condemned the violence that occurred in the North; he said that if the TULF does not co-operate to tackle it, the Government would have to think afresh. The International Development Association of the World Bank has approved a loan of 90 million dollars to Sri Lanka for downstream irrigation and Agricultural Development to system C of the Mahaweli Development Scheme; this IDA loan is for 60 years including 10 years grace period and is interest-free *CDM*. Government is to introduce a series of new measures to crack down on manufacturers, marketeers, importers and exporters of sub-standard goods; these revolutionary measures which will include a strict quality control and compulsory certification will be given effect with the new Sri Lanka Standard Act. A Japanese firm, in collaboration with a leading local businessman, will construct a cement factory in Trincomalee—*SU*.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5: On the recommendations of the President, Cabinet approved the first experiment in the use of solar energy for the production of tea. Government has approved a proposal by Mr. S. B. Herat, Minister of Food and Cooperatives to sell 20,000 tons of sugar at Rs. 12 per kilogram; the estimated loss is Rs. 40 million. Government yesterday accepted the recommendations of the Victor Tennekoon Salaries Review Committee which has recommended, among other matters that the initial salaries of all executive grades should not be less than Rs. 1,500 per month—*CDN*. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has asked three Ministers to prepare an overall development plan for Trincomalee—*CDM*. State sector employees will receive a pay rise in the forthcoming budget it was announced yesterday; the increases, official spokesman and State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis told yesterday's news briefing, would be in the form of enhanced initial salaries. The first indictment under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act has been filed by the Attorney General's Department in the High Court of Colombo charging six persons in the Rs. 8.1 million Neerveli Bank robbery and double murder. Tourists visiting Sri Lanka will soon be requested to bring in a minimum of US \$ 10

per day at present they are allowed entry into the country if they declare a minimum of US \$ 3 ; the Tourist Board has sought this increase in view of the steady influx of cheap living tourists—*SU*. A shipment of 10,000 cwts of dried fish is expected shortly as part of a concerted effort by Trade Minister Lalith Athulathmudali to bring down the cost of living.—*CO*.

FR/ DAY, NOVEMBER 6: The Finance Minister, wrestling with the last bout of budget figures, had welcome news from Washington yesterday that the International Monetary Fund has decided to release a tranche of 37.5 million special drawing rights under its Extended Fund Facility to Sri Lanka. The Shanti Sena peace corps project, intended to bring about racial amity between the Tamils and the Sinhalese was launched yesterday with 100 Tamil and Sinhala youth, both boys and girls, at the Sarvodaya Headquarters, Moratuwa; the project, which has the blessings of the government, was inaugurated by Prime Minister R. Premadasa at a special ceremony *CDN*. Norway has announced an outright grant of Nkr. 55m (approximately Rs. 175 million) as development assistance to Sri Lanka in 1982; this represents an increase of Nkf .5 M over the 1981 allocation—*CDM*. The Government will abandon the multimillion dollar hydrocracker project and instead set up a Rs. 800 million thermal power plant; it will be sited near the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's Oil Refinery at Sapugaskande and will utilise excess fuel which was earlier meant to be produced by the hydro-cracker plant. A new Indo-Sri Lanka agreement will cover the 450,000 stateless persons here; discussions in this regard will be held by a Sri Lanka delegation which will leave for New Delhi shortly. An associate of the wanted terrorist Uma Maheswaran was arrested by the Armed Forces yesterday; the suspect, identified as Pararajasingham, is said to have been a close associate of Maheswaran; he was arrested in Nedunrkeni by Army personnel involved in a massive combing out operation. Jaffna Police have launched a massive offensive against gangs that have been responsible for a spate of major robberies in the North—*SU*. Pre-Budget speculation that stamp fees on passports would be increased had made thousands to rush to the department of Immigration and Emigration to hand in applications; over thousand applications were received every working day during the last few days and the already overworked staff at the passports office is now being taxed to the maximum.—*CO*.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7: The Health Department is seriously worried about pedlars of Super Drugs who are selling what authorities believe to be narcotic-based pills to students who are told they help improve concentration and study; these drugs are fairly aggressively pushed by sustained advertising, and official spokesman said yesterday. A delegation from the Saudi Fund for Economic Development arrived here last night for a visit that observers here regard as crucial to future Saudi Arabian support for Sri Lanka's Development effort. An award, on the lines of the Pulitzer Prize in the United States is to be made annually to three Sri Lankan journalists. The government yesterday agreed to recruit 400 teachers to schools in the plantation areas forthwith the Ministry of Rural Industrial Development said—*CDN*. President J. R. Jayewardene and Premier R. Premadasa, will speak on behalf of the government at the first all-party public meeting which will be held at Borella, Colombo on the 20th instant to appeal to all sections of the community to maintain communal harmony, peace and law and order in the country—*CDM*. Government is likely to grant an export duty relief to tea exporters; the matter is now being actively examined by the officials concerned; a decision on the amount to be reduced is expected to be made shortly, sources from the tea trade revealed yesterday. No decision has yet been taken by the Cabinet in regard to the reinstatement of the persons who struck work in 1980, either on the instructions of their trade unions or lost their jobs for vacating their posts in July, 1980 said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vincent Perera in Parliament yesterday. All consumers of pipe borne water in the Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia Municipal limits, those in urban limits of Kolonnawa, Moratuwa and Panadura and consumers of the Mawanella water supply scheme will have to pay for their supplies from November 1; the tariffs will be three-tiered for domestic consumption, commercial and industrial consumption, and stand post supply. The Treasury has decided to pay an additional allowance of Rs. 50 to all public sector employees from this month. Sri Lanka's export sector will receive a further boost with the inauguration of the Presidential Export Awards scheme on December 14—*SU*. Minister of Hindu Culture, C. Rajadurai said in Parliament yesterday that a circular regarding the use of Tamil in Government Departments will be distributed in a couple of weeks—*VK*.

October 31 - November 6

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA: Indian President Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy said that the Central Government should not neglect demands of the Federal States for greater autonomy. He warned that this may threaten the integrity of the country. Mr. Kalpanath Rai, General Secretary of Congress I, reacting to the President's remarks regarding greater autonomy said that "being a Constitutional head, the President should not have made such statements". The Indian naval chief R. I. Pereira has expressed dissatisfaction with West German submarines because they were too expensive and not modern enough. Indian External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao stated that India has not received any formal offer from Pakistan of a no-war pact.

EAST ASIA

THAILAND: Of the three anti-Vietnam Kampuchean liberation groups former Kampuchean Premier Son Sonn's faction pulled out of the ghost coalition, Cabinet that was formed by the three parties. Reports emanating from Bangkok said that the Kampuchean government has warned the 8-man UN team to investigate the alleged use of toxic agents in Kampuchea and Laos not to violate the sovereignty of the countries concerned. **SINGAPORE:** The Secretary General of the Workers Party won a by-election in Singapore. The victory of J. B. Jayaratnam (WP) was a serious challenge to the ruling People's Action Party as it had broken the 13 year monopoly of the PAP. **MALAYSIA:** Addressing a meeting of the Organisation of Asian News Agencies (OANA) Premier Dr. Mahathir said that developing countries have had long suffered illtreatment by the Western news agencies. He also accused them of sabotaging the governments of many developing countries. A new news agency called the Asia Pacific News Exchange was launched in Kuala Lumpur. **CHINA:** The China News Agency has called for Arab Unity to frustrate a Russian plan to influence events in the Middle East. China had welcomed the Saudi Arabia's West Asian peace proposal and compared Israeli Premier Begin with German dictator

Hitler. China now possesses a nuclear powered submarine capable of firing 12 nuclear strategic ballistic missiles.

WEST ASIA

ISRAEL: Israeli Premier Begin has rejected Saudi's peace proposals. In a two-page letter to President Reagan he said that proposals would lead to the destruction of Israel in phases. Israel has also decided to speed up the development of three settlements in the Gaza Strip which the US said was an obstacle to peace. Asked to withdraw statements he made saying that US had been supplying arms to Iraq via Saudi Arabia and Jordan Defence Minister Ariel Sharon threatened to publish secret and embarrassing details to support his claims. Israelis were annoyed with the condition placed by Lord Carrington as to EEC's participation in the multi-national force to be deployed to Sinai once Israelis withdraw, EEC forces would participate only to the basis of return of Arab territories to the Arabs. Israel has indicated that they would yield to such pressures. **JORDAN:** Jordanian King Hussein on a visit to the US is reported to have said that his country would purchase arms from Soviet Union. **IRAN:** Iranians feel that the sale of Radar planes to Saudi Arabia implies the total occupation of the holy Islamic lands by United States and Israel. Iranians celebrated the second anniversary of the hostage drama which they consider to be the Second Revolution. **SAUDI ARABIA:** Saudi Arabia fervently hopes the Arab Summit scheduled for Nov. 25 in Morocco would endorse its proposals for mid-east peace settlement. Lord Carrington, as President of the EEC found the proposals very useful to solve mid-east problems.

EUROPE

FRANCE: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said that the outstanding debts of the Third World will be 524 billion dollars at the end of 1981. At a meeting of the 31 French-influenced African countries held in Paris, President Mitterand said that he would support an inter-African force to replace Libyan forces in the Chad. On the question of negotiations held for Nami-

bian independence he said that western contact group should set up a rigorous calendar. France has promised logistical and final support for the formation of an inter-African force to maintain peace and order in Chad. **HUNGARY:** Hungary has applied to join the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. **SOVIET UNION:** In an interview with West German news magazine *Der Spiegel* Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev said that nuclear war could not be limited, but would mentally develop into a worldwide conflict. He also gave the assurance that Soviet Union will not use nuclear weapons against those countries which renounce such weapons. Western Siberian oil production will exceed 6.68 million barrels per day. Western Siberia will continue to remain the mainstay of Soviet oil production. The proposed multi-national forces that will take over key positions in the Sinai desert once the Israelis withdraw would in effect an advance rapid-deployment force of the Americans commented Tass News Agency.

UNITED NATIONS: Commissioner General of the UN Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees has predicted a bleak future for Palestinian refugees. The projected expenditure of 1982 was 265 million dollars and at the present level of contribution it would receive only 185 million dollars. UN Security Council has again failed to nominate a candidate to take office as Secretary-General. **UNITED STATES:** Secretary of State Haig told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that US was committed to Camp David peace plan for the Middle East. It should be recalled that both President Reagan and Haig said earlier that Saudis peace proposal too were very encouraging. US Congress was told that a US firm has proposed to sell satellite communication equipment to an Arab group that included Libya and PLO. US has withdrawn the proposed 79 million dollar satellite communication equipment sale by Ford Aerospace for a consortium of 21 Arab countries and PLO. President Reagan has condemned feuds amongst his administration and appeared to the mass media not to tarnish the foreign policy image of the US. The second space journey of Columbia space ship was postponed. President Reagan intervened to settle the disputes between two of his close associates Richard Allen and Alexander Haig and it appears they would work together for a

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unified policy to safeguard The Reagan image. While Alexander Haig maintained that NATO had contingency plans to fire nuclear weapons for demonstrative purposes Weinberger denied that NATO has any such plans. **CANADA:** Canadian Premier Pierre Trudeau began talks with the provincial premiers regarding the transfer of constitutional powers from Britain to Canada. While Premier Trudeau wants Britain to insert a Charter of rights before sending the British North America Act of 1867 eight premiers opposed to any such moves.



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

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The Government intends to acquire the land described in the Schedule below for a public purpose. For particulars please see Part III of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No. 168 of 20.11.1981

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<i>D R O's Division</i>	:-	Tellipallai.
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<i>Plan No</i>	:-	P.P. Ya.1513.

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In Sri Lanka

By Nissanka Seneviratne

Much has been achieved in agricultural research in Sri Lanka—although this is a fraction of what might have been achieved. Yet, much remains to be done, for in Sri Lanka, more than 50% of her people are engaged in pursuits related to agriculture; agriculture accounts for a third of her gross domestic product and more than three fourths of her export earnings. Many wounds have been inflicted on the research structure and its personnel; research has not received the priority it deserves; the development of a strong and self-reliant national capability in research has been stunted and suppressed. In March 1980, the National Science Council of Sri Lanka organised a workshop to examine the question of establishing an Agricultural Research Council. This paper entitled "An Agricultural Research Council—Some Notes" was prepared for the workshop by Dr. S. N. de S. Seneviratne Plant Pathologist, Central Agricultural Research Institute, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya.

THE PREDICAMENT—IMPOVERISHMENT OF OUR HUMAN STOCK AND A MORAL DEGRADATION AFFECTING THE RESIDUE.

We are facing today the consequences of our failure since Independence to give a strong impetus to the development of our nation's self-reliant scientific capability, and of the failure to give the conditions necessary to attract competent and honourable men to serve our country's cause. So our institutions are crowded with individuals for whom these institutions are convenient operational bases for advancing their private interests and for deriving "fringe benefits". In such a situation science wilts. As Professor Karl Eric Knutsson remarked, the need is not for men with a mind only, but for men with a mind and a heart as well. Such men, regrettably are a rare species in our institutions. Even now, we might heed the view expressed by a lone dissenter of the Salaries and Cadres Commission, 1974:

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"The Scientists have a pre-eminent role to play in the development of a country. I wish in this connection to endorse the views expressed in this Dissenting Report by Mr. N. S. Perera, member of the Wilmot Perera Commission. We cannot hope to attract into the ranks of Scientists men of the highest calibre unless their salaries and cadre ratios are at least as attractive as those of the Administrative Service. Many of our problems including those relating to rice and other produce would have been solved long ago if only we had the foresight to give a proper place in the salary structure to the Scientists." **Foresight has been an attribute almost alien to the Administrators of independent Sri Lanka in comprehending problems such as those relating to rice and other produce." So the research ship is sinking. There are pirates and smugglers on board. Can it be rescued? This surely must be the challenge before the proposed Agricultural Research Council.**

NEO-COLONIALISM AND THE SEDUCTION OF THIRD WORLD ELITES. "...the neo-colonial phase, in which the penetration of the transnational corporation make physical occupation of territory unnecessary, has led to much greater control and ravaging of the Third World, and seduction of its elites into a global structure of power, privilege and wealth. With the Third World political, bureaucratic, military, academic and communications elites accepting the superiority of Western-style "modernisation and the role of science and technology in it, there has emerged a global system of control, hegemony, exploitation and repression all in the name of modernity and the theory of progress, all in the name of science and technology."—**Statement issued at the 14th meeting of the World Order Models Project at Poona, India, July 1978. Can this trend be countered in Sri Lanka?**

THE REALITIES OF THE OGLAR SYSTEM: "In 1971, the establishment of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (OGLAR), with financial backing from major industrial countries and private foundations, and with the cooperation of international agencies, provided for centralised financing and control of 11 major International Research Centres, of which three are for livestock. The way this network operates practically guarantees that Centre-Research must be of exclusive benefit to transnational agribusiness corporations. The

Centres monopolise, together with US research stations, practically all modern research knowledge and data. Under the circumstances, Third World countries are unable to carry out independent research on problems they might consider to have greater priority. **As a matter of fact, OGLAR destroys local research in agriculture."** Ernest Feder, **"The counter-reform bloc" in Ceres, March-April 1979. Can we develop our ability to carry out independent research and still collaborate with the international scientific community?**

THE ABSENCE OF AN INTELLECTUAL FERMENT

There has been, sadly lacking too; an intellectual ferment from the academic community to stimulate a vigorous drive on the agricultural front. The vital need of a country such as ours, in which agriculture constitutes such a dominated sector of the national life, to develop an adequate University capability in the agricultural sciences was not recognized at the dawn of independence, at any rate in action programmes. And the Faculty of Agriculture, when eventually established, was strangled almost at birth by the personal ambitions of scheming individuals, bitter feuds, factionism and professional communalism. **It has remained a dwarfed and stunted organisation, incapable of generating an intellectual ferment.**

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PRESENT INFRASTRUCTURE RELEVANT TO THE SRI LANKAN SITUATION:

There is however, something on the credit side and due recognition must be given to the positive features in whatever organisations that exist at present. Change must not be sought merely for the sake of change. Nor should we borrow uncritically from elsewhere systems suitable in other situations but not necessarily appropriate in our own. Positive elements, therefore, must be retained, defects in existing organisations remedied and the infrastructure "modernised" so as to better serve current needs. Thus it is well to recognize that there is a plantation sector in our agricultural system, primarily export-oriented, involving relatively large estates and land holdings, served over the years by the commodity research institutes established during the colonial era focussing on more organised and sophisticated establishments. There is a separate Ministry and appropriate Departments with responsibility for this sector.

There is also domestic agricultural sector, essentially with a rural base, comprising more than a million small farmers, with the peasants' livelihood dependent, often almost wholly, on small land holdings. This sector is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research and the Department of Agriculture. Over the years, the organisations focussing on these various components of

our agricultural system, each with its characteristic features and special requirements, have acquired an understanding of and an expertise in the roles they are called upon to play. What has been built up, the systems and the structures and the organisations must not be dismantled. Yet, they have defects, serious distortions and paralysing ailments within their administrative ghettos. **In the Department of Agriculture, for instance, the Central Agricultural Research Institute at Gannoruwa is a tragic example of distortion, degradation and administrative thuggery. An Agricultural Research Council, hopefully, may be able to overcome such shortcomings so that our organisations and institutions could function more effectively.**

To be concluded



JOURNEY TO AFGHANISTAN—6

National Day

S. P. Amarasingam

It was 8.30 in the morning Kabul time when I stepped out of the plane into a fierce sun and a windswept tarmac. It was hotter than any day in Colombo. Luckily, I had been told in time to take only clothing for hot sweltering heat. Thinking of the latitude and the high altitudes in Afghanistan I had my woollens, cardigans, mufflers and even a balaclava ready for packing. Warned, I had left them behind. The one light woollen suit I took as a precaution was never used, nor the cardigan. The nights were cool (never cold) but the days were frightfully warm, really hot. I was advised against exposure to the noon day sun lest I went down with sunstroke. This was in August at the tail end of the summer. The story would be very different, I was told, when winter set in with snow and biting cold winds from the mountains.

I was one of the first out of the plane. I had only a small brief case to carry. Nearly all other passengers had plenty on their hands including jerry cans full of whisky. A reception committee, consisting of top officials from the Foreign Office, the Bakhtar News Agency and the Department of Information was on hand to greet me. I did not know that a fellow-invitee was on the same flight from Delhi until I was introduced to him at the airport. He was El-Hallab Saleh, editor of the Beirut daily *As-Safir*, said to be a very influential leftwing Arabic daily. Saleh was a Palestinian, and by our standards extremely young to hold so responsible a post. But I soon

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discovered that journalism was in his blood. He was a political animal and that had the makings of a great editor. He had travelled a great deal, and from him I learnt about men and matters in the Arab countries. He had been to Iran several times after the stormy upheavals of the Revolution and some of the things he told about what could happen after Khomeini startled me.

Four other journalists were expected to arrive a little after us but as the planes bringing them were late, Saleh and I were taken to the prestigious Government Kabul Hotel right in the heart of the City, not far from the Presidential Palace. The Central Telegraph Office was next door, and the Radio and TV stations not far away. Important government offices like the Foreign Office were also nearby. Many "eye witness" accounts of the shoot-outs and coups in 1973, 1978 and 1979 that appeared in the western press were provided by those who claimed to have been at Kabul Hotel during such crucial days. From the windows and balconies they said they had seen modern Afghan history being made. It was also the hotel to which the ill-fated American Ambassador Dubs had been brought when kidnapped by terrorists and where he had been killed during the attempt to rescue him. Kabul Hotel was described in a tourist booklet as "first class" whereas Hotel Intercontinental on a hill-top in the outskirts of the city was classified as "luxury class". But Afghanistan, like Iran, has been taken off the tourist map since 1978. No all-Asia tourist guide book now lists Afghanistan as a tourist attraction or includes any information about hotels there. At the moment tourist visas are not granted. Kabul Hotel was clean and comfortable and its rooms spacious in the style of hotels of a vintage three or four decades old. Each of us was given what might be regarded as a suite of rooms with a large balcony. Everything was first class. But the service was no different from what obtains in government-run socialist "east"—in China or the Soviet Union. I do not know if matters have improved in these countries in more recent times. Nearer home, in Sri Lanka, we get the same kind of bureaucratic "service" in our government-run resthouses and circuit bungalows. But being "honoured guests" in Kabul, service and attention was showered on us in a way that was sometimes embarrassing.

As I drove to the hotel, I was told that the day, August 19, was a holiday, as part of the national celebrations for the Restoration of Independence in 1919 after a long struggle against the British who had held Afghanistan in their imperial grip for over a century. The extra attention paid to these celebrations was no doubt part of the endeavour on the part of the Babrak Karmal government to identify the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) as the true heir and successor of the first truly independent Afghan state that came into being in 1919. Afghanistan

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tan was founded as an independent nation in 1747 by Ahmed Shah Durani, an Abdali tribal chief of the Pushtuns, but it was only in 1919 that it became truly independent and sovereign. Afghanistan is a landlocked country lying between the Soviet Union, Communist China, Pakistan and Iran. Great mountain ranges cover approximately three-fourths of the nation's total area dominated by the Hindu Kush which rises to meet the western end of the Himalaya near the border with Communist China. As the mountain mass spreads westward; "it gradually ends in a series of low ridges and treeless plateaus which slope into a rocky desert region of sun-baked sand along the border of Iran." Within a distance of 700 miles, altitudes above sea level vary between 20,000 feet in the east and 500 feet in the west. Only 20,000 square miles, or less than 10 percent of the country's total area of 264,000 square miles, is under cultivation. Much of the non-cultivated countryside, however, provides summer grazing lands for large herds of sheep, goats, and camels, all important sources of income. In this area is a heterogeneous collection of ethnic groups linked by blood and history with peoples of neighbouring areas, and each of these groups whether settled or nomadic, is largely concentrated in particular sections of the country. "This diversity of ethnic groups uses more than 20 languages. Many people can speak at least two languages, but only a small proportion, estimated at less than 10 per cent, can read and write."

It was in 1747 that the country was brought under the control of the dominant Pushtun group under Ahmed Shah Durani (Sadozai). Two lineages, each belonging to a tribe of the Durani Confederation, had thereafter ruled successively. The Sadozai lineage of the Popalzai tribe was in power until 1818, when after a quarrel, members of the Mohamadazi lineage of the Barakzai tribe took over. To this day tribal differences still play an important part in Afghan affairs. Even today Afghanistan remains a land of separate peoples not yet moulded into a strong national society. "Until very recently, only a small proportion of the population, consisting mainly of people living in the larger urban communities and in nearby tribal areas were actually affected by or were conscious of a national government's presence". The political ferment set in motion by the Saur Revolution and the many propaganda wars carried on in the international radio and television services have brought a new awakening to Afghan peoples and a consciousness about the oneness of Afghanistan. For more than 3,000 years the country had shared historical ties as well as cultural and ethnic affinities with peoples in West and Central Asia and the Indian sub-continent. The earliest religious book of the *Arianas*, the people who first inhabited these mountains and valleys, is called *Avesta* and is

a counterpart of the Rig-veda of the Indo-Gangetic Aryan civilisation. The cultural ties with Iran are also very strong. Parts of what is now Iran were ruled at different times by Afghan kings. At other times Afghanistan was ruled by Persian kings. That is why Dari, the Afghan variant of Persian, is one of the two major languages of the country. In the 1964 Constitution Dari and Pushtu were declared the official languages of the country. Now after the Saur Revolution more national languages have been recognized and are used in official documents.

Pushtun ascendancy under Ahmed Shah Durani had come only after a lengthy struggle against the Safavid empire of Iranian Shahs which for a long time included the Afghan territories of Herat and Kandahar. From the time Babur captured Delhi in 1526 and established the Moghul Empire until its collapse at the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, the rulers of Delhi had sought to extend their control over Afghanistan primarily to block the historic invasion routes across the Hindu Kush and the Sulaiman Ranges. The Safavid Empire which begun in 1502 had reached its climax under Shah Abbas the Great at the turn of the 17th century and was in constant conflict with the Moghuls. Throughout this period of Moghul-Iranian rivalry, Pushtun tribes steadily increased in numbers and spread out from their mountain habitations over the more fertile lands of Kandahar and nearby valleys. The Iranian Shahs had obtained the help of the Durani Pushtuns to rule the region and thereby made them strong enough to become dominant in the area. The Moghuls, however, were able to keep the Pushtuns in the eastern areas around Peshawar divided and under their control. But this was done in such a way that the whole area had become a No Man's Land (even to this day—when the people are hostile to all outsiders).

Ahmad Shah Durani crowned himself in 1747 and took the title Dur-i-Duran (Pearl of Pearls) with Kandahar as his capital. He tried very hard to establish a unified state based on the domination of Pushtu-speaking peoples but the kingdom continued to be torn with internal tribal rivalries and dynastic intrigues. Ahmad Shah Durani however is said to have had "not only the skill of a conqueror but also the genius of an administrator" He filled his Treasury by the time-honoured method of raiding India, but his main concern was consolidating the tribes under his rule. His son Timur was less of an administrator and internecine wars among various Durani *Kheyls* (lineages) brought a return to near anarchy. Timur moved the capital to Kabul where the population was mainly Persian (of Persian descent and Persian-speaking). On Timur's death, the Sardozai dynasty was further weakened by quarrels among his 23 sons over succession to the throne. This family quarrel was ended in 1818 when the Mohammadazi *Kheyl* also of the Durani tribal

confederation led by Dost Mohamed Khan rose to power and even extended his control over Kashmir and Peshawar. Dost Mohamed was formally crowned in Kabul in 1826 and declared himself Emir of Afghanistan in 1835. But the outer provinces of the former Sardozai Empire were all lost: the Uzbeks of Balkh had claimed independence as had the people of Baluchistan and Sind; the Sikhs, an ethnoreligious group in the Punjab had retaken Peshawar and Herat was ruled by Kamran, the last of the major Sardozai chiefs. To regain this territory, particularly Peshawar, which the Pushtun rulers of Kabul had long claimed, became Dost Mohamed's chief aim.

It was at this time that European powers appeared on the scene and sought to extend their influence and sway in the region. The British in India began to expand into all neighbouring territories. Tsarist Russia, in the early stages with French support, was active in Central Asia and had come on to the borders of Afghanistan. The British, to start with, concluded the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1809 with Kabul not only to improve relations but also to warn the Russians to keep their hands off Afghanistan, in particular not to come south of the Hindu Kush. But Tsarist Russia could not be contained so easily. Then followed a period of intense Anglo-Russian rivalry in the region. The Shah of Iran, with Russian support had besieged Herat shortly after Dost Mohamed proclaimed himself Emir (in 1835). Dost Mohamed asked for British assistance to fight the Iranians, but Britain declined to help him because he had earlier sought Russian assistance to regain Peshawar from the Sikhs. To teach Dost Mohamed a lesson, the British invaded Afghanistan in 1838 in what became known as the First Afghan War (1838—42). There were three such Anglo-Afghan Wars, and in the course of this series, I will examine some interesting aspects of the complicated seesawing twists and turns of the manipulative cunning of the British in their heyday and provide an insight into the methodology of colonialism in the quest of power and wealth. For the moment it will suffice to note that though the British failed to conquer and occupy Afghanistan in the first Anglo-Afghan war, and though the British military expedition suffered grievously inside Afghanistan, Britain nevertheless succeeded teaching the Emir a lesson and thereby "tame" him and the ruling dynasties into subservience to the British. Dost Mohamed was sent into exile and brought back again willing to do Britain's bidding. Throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th, the British undoubtedly had the upper hand in Afghanistan and controlled its rulers and changed them whenever it was thought necessary. In the Treaty after the Great Crimean War (1854-55), Britain and Russia recognised Iran and Afghanistan as independent countries, a Britain was named as the arbiter in all future disputes between them. Shortly after this in 1855 the British

compelled Dost Mohamed to sign the Treaty of Peshawar recognizing British paramouncy.

But when Emir Sher Ali, who succeeded Dost Mohamed in 1863, entertained Russian envoys in 1878 whilst refusing entry to a British mission, the British started the Second Afghan War (1878-79) to teach the Emir not to play politics with the Russians. Though the British found military occupation untenable, they succeeded in driving out Sher Ali (1879) and replaced him with his son Yakub Khan. Then the British compelled him to accept the Treaty of Gandamak in May 1879. This agreement left the new Emir free to rule internally but bound him to follow British advice in all relations with other powers. This Treaty further confirmed Afghanistan as a virtual British protectorate making it a buffer between Tsarist Russia and British India. Yakub also consented to the British occupation and ownership of the Khyber Pass. But the British soon deposed Yakub Khan and placed Abdur Rahman Khan on the throne in 1880 (which he held until 1901). He reaffirmed both the Treaty of Gandamak and the British right to Peshawar. Earlier in 1873, by the Anglo-Russian Treaty, Russia had accepted the Amu Darya as the Southern boundary of the Tzar's empire, and this became part of the Northern boundary of Afghanistan.

But this did not end Tsarist intrigues, particularly through Iran, and Britain and Russia were on the brink of war many times. But by the Anglo-Russian Agreement signed at St. Petersburg in July 1887, the Russians agreed to make no further advance southwards. The Anglo-Russian Pact of 1895 made the Wakhan (the eastern panhandle of Badakshan) a permanent part of Afghanistan's border. The northern boundary was thus now clearly drawn and demarcated except for an exact definition of the boundary along the Amu Darya (this was done in 1946 when Russo-Afghan agreement adopted the mid-channel of the river as the boundary line). After gaining control of Afghanistan's foreign relations, the British were also anxious to demarcate the eastern and southern limits of the Emir's domain—vis-a-vis British India. This they did in November 1893. A team led by Sir Mortimer Durand compelled Afghanistan to sign an agreement fixing the southern border along an irregular 1200-mile line running from Sinkiang (Western China) to Iran, through territories Afghanistan regarded as its own. The Durand line cut the Pushtu tribal areas in half. Even the British stooge Abdur Rahman Khan, according to a commentator in the Kabul paper *Islah*, said that he was "forced to sign the treaty in 1893 and recognize the Durand line as the border of Afghanistan" because of the British troops concentrated on the Afghan border at that time. The Durand line divided the Afghan people. The Emir had to give up his rights to the districts of Swat, Bajur, Chitral, a greater part Waziristan, Davar and Changeh which were mai ly

inhabited by eastern Afghan tribes, Pushtuns or Pathans. As a result of the Durand line there were now as many Afghans beyond the border of Afghanistan as in Afghanistan proper. The new border cut through the lands of many Afghan tribes, Momands, Aphridis, Shinwars, Yusufzais, Kakaris, Waziris having divided the tribes and tribal unions. The Durand line thus dealt a severe blow at the national consolidation of the Afghans. It was a classic case of divide and rule. And after the formation of Pakistan it has been the source of strain in the relations between the two countries with the problem of Pushtunistan.

The surrender of control of foreign policy was the price Afghanistan paid for its British-imposed Emirs to have a free hand in the internal affairs. Aodur Rahman Khan (1880-1901), a British nominee, was followed by Habidullah Khan (190-1919), another British stooge. But even in this period British-Russian rivalry continued. Habibullah Khan continued to rely on the British even at a time when nationalist sentiments continued to grow in Afghanistan as in the rest of Asia. He was assassinated in 1919. He was briefly succeeded by his brother Nazrullah Khan, but was displaced by one of Habibullah's younger sons, Amanullah Khan shortly after. Amanullah Khan was crowned king on February 28, 1919. On that day he issued a manifesto stating that the government of Afghanistan should be independent in domestic and foreign affairs having all the rights enjoyed by other sovereign states of the world. On March 3, 1919 the Emir officially informed the Viceroy of India, Lord Chelmsford, about his accession to the throne and had stressed that Afghanistan should thereafter be regarded as a free and independent government. This had amused the Viceroy. But when on 16th March 27, 1919, Soviet Russia recognized Afghanistan's independence and sovereignty the British were alarmed. The USSR was the first country in the world to recognise Amanullah's. The British did not send a reply to Amanullah for a long time, and on April 13, at a great durbar in Kabul, the Emir said: "I proclaim myself and my country completely free, independent and sovereign in all domestic and foreign issues. My country will thus become an independent state, just as other countries of the world". On April 15, the Viceroy sent an evasive reply. Without referring to Afghanistan's unwillingness to be any longer under British trusteeship, he touched distantly on "commercial interests" as a "bargaining lever". Britain no doubt hoped to "tame" or "buy up" Amanullah Khan like his predecessors. They probably wanted to know his price. The British no doubt believed that the Emir would prefer gold to a conflict with one of the biggest and most powerful states possessing inexhaustible resources and a huge modern army. The British however had failed to recognize the changes that had swept through the world after

the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and the upsurge of nationalist movements in all Asian dependent countries.

Britain evidently had no intention to let Afghanistan slip out its hands quite so easily. The British mustered an army of 340,000 men (soon raised to 750,000) with mechanised units and an air force on the borders of Afghanistan. The Afghan army had only 38,000 infantrymen, 8,000 cavalrymen and 4,000 artillerymen, badly trained and poorly armed. The Afghan army had neither planes nor mechanised units. Having provoked and "manufactured" border incidents on May 3, 1919 near the Khyber through the usual agents provocateurs, Britain declared war on Afghanistan on May 6, 1919. This was the beginning of the Third Anglo-Afghan War but it went on only for 30 days. An armistice was signed on June 3, 1919. It came to be known as the thirty days war. The British army did not fare well though it did not engage in major battles. The morale of the British troops, weary after World War I, was low. Indian troops were ready to mutiny. Having won the first world war, Britain suffered defeat in Afghanistan. It was a political rather than a military defeat. The British had suffered only 236 dead and 615 wounded and 900 had died of disease and mishaps—all in all 1751 men, among them only 49 Englishmen dead and 137 wounded. The British had called for a truce as a cunning change in tactics—to get more time to "tame" the new Emir before and during a peace negotiation which they deliberately delayed.

In the meantime, the Emir and the Soviet Union began to establish cordial relations. This expedited the peace negotiations and they took place in Rawalpindi (India) from July 26 to August 8, 1919. The British team was headed by Sir Hamilton Grant, Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, and was assisted by D. Maffey, Private Secretary of the Viceroy. The Treaty of Rawalpindi was signed on August 8, 1919 and it sought to establish peace between the two countries and repealed the British monopoly in supplying arms and ammunition to the Afghan army. The frontiers were not changed. Britain expressed a desire to restore the old friendship on condition that Kabul "proves its desire to earn it". The Rawalpindi Treaty, however, had made no mention of the principal demand of the Afghan people—**independence**. But the head of the British delegation, very reluctantly in a supplementary letter, had to add that on the insistence of Afghan representatives, among other things, an acknowledgement that Afghanistan was independent and sovereign in its internal and external affairs. In his minute to the negotiations sent to the British government, Sir Hamilton Grant had stated that rejection of Kabul's demands could have led to resumption of hostilities so undesirable for Britain. He had also pointed out that if Afghanistan was treated with tact and understanding, the need for money and its own interests

would sooner or later force it to again rely on Britain as its foreign relation adviser. And had he added that this would be done in a more loyal and sincere manner than in the past. But London was aghast Sir Hamilton was demoted and appointed High Commissioner for the Northwestern province. Amanullah however was hailed as a hero for wresting independence from the world's greatest empire.

I did not ask anyone why the celebrations for the Restoration of Independence began on August 19. I had thought that the Treaty of Rawalpindi had been ratified or that some other event of significance had taken place on that day. In my subsequent readings and studies I could not find anything to suggest why this day had been chosen. All I can remember is that some one (I cannot remember whom) had mentioned that the celebrations were always held in the second half of August because the weather would be excellent for marches, meetings and holidaying. There were three days of holidays at a stretch, Wednesday 19th, Thursday 20th and Friday 21st (Fridays are holidays as in all Moslem countries). But in these three days we got through a heavy programme on a tight schedule.

To be continued



FILM FOCUS

Crime And Sex

THE FILM CENSOR BOARD has to be particularly careful in the present context of the violence that is sweeping the country, about the quality of films that are being passed for general viewing. At least some of the daring robberies and the hold ups that are being staged throughout the Island have a touch of romancitism, bravado and planning, the stuff which most of us have become accustomed to seeing only in films up to now. It is just possible that some of the 'fodder' to gun-toting gangsters may be coming off film sequences that gloat over crime all the way and provide a remedy for it only in the last few seconds. Spectacular hold ups on the highways and bank robberies are big draws in American films generally. A free flow of such films, some of which make heroes out of hoodlums are not hard to come by, ingenious entries into Bank vaults proving a popular menu. **Hence the censors of today have to be particularly cautious in releasing such films without the necessary cuts in the interests of curbing the spiralling crime rates in the country**

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There are more sophisticated criminals on the rampage now than never before, and proving quite a kettle of slippery fish as the present DIG, Police Crimes, R. Sundaralingam has mentioned. That great social worker, and champion of the indigent estate classes in the Ratnapura district, has in his own prolific file sent me a sheaf of clippings about the violent films that are going the rounds with a coating of sex, quite contrary to Dharmishta aspirations. It is quite often, the advertisements that do more damage than the films concerned and Fr. Pio has referred to such an advertisement thus: "At an entrance to a well-known cinema, the film 10 is advertised repugantly with an exposed mini pant to degrade the dignity of the woman, of the human person and all those who see it. Modesty and respect for 'Shakti' are surely not improved by such methods of advertising a film" he concludes. This column cannot but agree that such a remark must find resonance in a multi-religious society such as ours and the elevated moral values, we often crow about, must receive priority in practice, even in our attitude to films. And in this moral mission, our Censors and the Press media have much to do for the healthy growth and well being of our country now more than ever.

SATHARA DIGANTHAYA (Sinhalese): Director Sarathchandra Edirisinghe who has directed this excellent film is one to be watched from now on. It portrays giant sized and down to earth life situations that one encounters daily. The story embraces the heartbreaking path of two drifters (Ravindra Randeniya and Wimal Kumar de Costa) to get its message across with a rare conviction. With everything they touch turning to nought, they weave through life on a hand-to-mouth existence. While Wimal earns his daily bread by miming and mimicking Charlie Chaplin and Clint Eastwood among others on the pavements, Ravindra's trek leads him to the heart of a shapely daughter (Geetha Kumarasinghe) of a dubious contractor and his wife (Joe Abeywickrema and Rukmani Devi) who are opposed to the match. The direction and camerawork is geared to a high watermark and the artistes excel in their difficult characterisations. I gather from an article by Dr. Sundra Mahendra that scripts of this film are being published together with the stills for the first time in a local cinema, and the dialogue whittled down to a bare minimum to chance and emphasise the value of the screenplay. The writer contends that this film will be of use basically to two important types of scholars—students of fine arts and the readers of creative literature, who are keen to understand and appreciate a cine experience before and after seeing a film. It is a pity that this brilliantly conceived effort of Director Edirisinghe has not received the patronage it so richly deserves. But this column is certain that adequate recognition will come its way at awards time in 1982. It is strongly recommended for those who consistently retain a

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taste for elevated cinema, although those in this category are generally in a minority.

KALI (Tamil): This is yet another I. V. Sasi directed film, that uses the tough matinee idol Rajni (Thee) Kanth to good purpose as a convict, who with the first whiffs of freedom, jets off a vengeance trail for the "G" "Godfather" who decimated his brother's family. On the same course are Vijayakumar a first-tested pal of Kanth, the late Surulirajan and actress Monorami who never fails in a role. Director Sasi's wife Seema provides the love interest, tripping and toeing the pops fantastically and with ease in a dual role. This film although in the simliar mould as "Guru" has the edge over it in style, direction and photography, with several sequences being borrowed from like Western films. There is a suirfeit of fisticuffs mingled with a "Mad Max" styled Motor Cycle encounter and a deadly game of Russian Roulette, with Ragni Kanth breathing "Thee" all the way till he vanquishes the cool villain. If it is action you are after, with attractive Seema in the cocktail, here is the film for you.

10 (English): This Blake Edward Production is based on the voyage of a voyaur pianist in his roaring forties (Dudley Moore) with his prim and proper love (Julie Andrews) taking "cudgels" to cure him of his fetisch. A garden telescope that peeps into the "bluish" goings on next door is the aphrodisiac that sets the tempted George Webber to conscience crisis and drives him to a priest counsellor and a psychiatrist who diagnoses the malady from on a numerical scale and settles on a "10" category as the summit of his statistical need. An estrangement and crossing telephone lines drives him to Mexico where Webber meets his 10 in the ravishing figure and form of Bo Derek—the curvaceous *piece de resistance* of the film. A rescue and a tempting Edward of the resort, leads to an enlightening climate moment of realisation for Webber, who returns post haste to Julie, the wiser for his forbidden forays. While Moore excels in the sex safari, the virtuosity of Julie (Sound of Music) Andrews is juxtaposed against the devastating sex appeal of Bo who is not selfish with her physical attributes. The film so titillates to the extent of submerging the light hearted story proper, that a clipping or two by the censor would have done it no wrong. Even an infant in arms (6 months) was turned away from the film, probably in the fear that the child would have turned precocious to the charms of Bo Derek. It was "Adults Only" with a vengeance quite justifiably perhaps.

JAMES N. BENEDICT.

U Know Who - I

IS IT NOT A FACT that according to the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* of November 7, 1981 that a top-level investigation has been launched both here and in Malaysia into certain disclosures made on Tuesday, November 3, by Finance and Planning Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel. on the floor of the house? That the Finance Minister, speaking on the new Companies Law, revealed certain activities of a top Sri Lankan businessman which he said affected about 150 minority shareholders of two public companies registered in Sri Lanka? That Mr. de Mel said that the shareholders, mostly Government pensioners, had been for seven years at the "receiving end of gross mismanagement and gross oppression?" That following these disclosures the Minister of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, has ordered an immediate investigation into the activities of the Sri Lanka businessman who now holds full controlling shares of the *Perak River Coconut Company Limited and Lower Perak Coconut Company Ltd.* which two companies have large holdings in coconut and cocoa plantations in Malaysia? That according to the *CDM* it is reliably understood that the Sri Lanka Government will shortly seek the assistance of the Malaysian Government to investigate the disclosures and a special team from the Ministry of Trade and Shipping will be visiting Malaysia to conduct on-the-spot investigations? That Mr. de Mel also revealed in Parliament that the Minutes book of the Company, the Lower Perak Coconut Company Ltd., had been forged and the Registrar of Companies Mr. Allen Wijekoon, will shortly seek the assistance of the CID to investigate this aspect of the matter? That the Registrar who will spearhead the local investigations has now been given wide powers under the new Companies Law to investigate all Complaints of shareholders of both private and public companies? That it is also understood that some of the shareholders have also sought legal advice to take the matter to Courts under the provisions of the new Companies Law which was passed in Parliament shortly after these disclosures were made?

IS IT ALSO NOT A FACT, that according to the Finance Minister's statement in Parliament that the issued shares in these two companies stood at 135,000 ten rupee shares, and 154,000 ten shares respectively for a large number of years up to 1973? That a big Sri Lankan businessman built up a shareholding in the above two companies from 1971 to 1973? That interrupted, Mr. de Mel said, "I will give the name later if you want. Let me finish the story first?" That by June 8, 1973 he became the majority shareholder having acquired nearly 40 per cent of the issued shares? That the balance 60 per cent (Interruption) Do not disturb me, I will finish and tell you. Let me finish the story first. Let me at least tell the story in the way

it should be told"? That the balance 60 percent of the shareholding was diffused? That it was owned by a large number of small Sri Lankan shareholders, a number of them old pensioners, government servants whom I know, retired persons whom I know? That none of them was represented on the board of directors because they were small Sri Lankans? That this is a Sri Lankan company? That this businessman along with one of his employees and his lawyer came on the board of directors of the company with effect from June 8, 1973? That thereafter wonderful things began to happen? That at a meeting of these directors this businessman, his employee and his lawyer, on August 24, 1973, passed a resolution behind the backs of the shareholders of this Company to lease out the properties of the Company in Malaysia to another company called Curil Plantations Burhark, a company incorporated in Malaysia, of which this Sri Lankan businessman was almost the sole owner, at an annual lease rent of Malaysian dollars 60,000 for each company? That this is 120,000 Malaysian dollars a year for both companies for 21 years?

IS IT NOT TRUE that at some time in 1973-75, the same businessman was involved in exporting rubber from Sri Lanka? That allegations were made at that time that in this export he was diddling the government and the people of Sri Lanka to the tune of several millions or billions of rupees? That he did this by violating not only Exchange Laws but also the Export laws of this country? That even so august a body like the Rubber Exporters Association had made serious protests about this wholesale robbery of the country's export income? That at that time, the Rubber Exporters Association was branded at a UNP outfit and the SLFP Establishment of the day had given him immunity and had also given retrospective covering sanction for the alleged illegalities? That a Ministerial Secretary was on protracted leave for an Acting official to "okay" part of the deals which the Rubber Exporters Association had questioned? That *Tribune* at that time had raised these matters, but the Government, armed with permanent Emergency Powers had refused to order an inquiry into the allegations? That those interested in tracing how this tycoon made first billion "abroad" should order an investigation into his rubber exports from Sri Lanka between 1973 to 1975? That nobody would have bothered about him if he did not thrust his ambitions into the political firmament? That having failed to get into politics through the straight and narrow path, he has more recently started a campaign of insidious character assassination of his rivals through gossipy tittle-tattle circulating in the political circuit? That he seems to be particularly worried about the schools the children of some VIPs attend forgetting that the ordinary people of Sri Lanka will be reluctant to vote for a man who trades in horse flesh on the race track?

MAHAWELI AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA

POST OF ACCOUNTANT GRADE II

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for a Post of Accountant Grade II in the Mahaweli Authority. The vacancy is in the Head Office.

Qualifications and Experience:-

(a) Intermediate Examination of the institute of Chartered Accountants.

OR

(b) Professional Part I of the ICMA or ACCA, Diploma in Accountancy with 1 year post qualification experience.

(c) Knowledge in financial Accounting and Book keeping will be an added suitability.

Salary Scale: Rs. 1350/- (8xRs. 50) Rs. 1750/- per month plus all other Government approved allowances.

Applications indicating age, qualifications, experience and other relevant particulars should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the undersigned on or before 30th November, 1981. The post applied for should be clearly indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Applications from persons in the State Sector will be considered only if the head of the Department/Corporation certifies that the candidate can be released if selected.

SECRETARY - GENERAL
MAHAWELI AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA
No. 500, T. B. Jayah Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION**

**A quota of houses
at Bullers Lane, Colombo 7 and
Maddumagewatta, Nugegoda
is being allocated to
Public Sector and Mercantile
Sector employees
on instalment basis**

1. Bullers Lane, Colombo 7.

A three bedroomed, two storeyed house on approximately 9 perches of land, priced at Rs. 800,000/-

2. Maddumagewatta, Nugegoda

- i) A one bedroomed, two storeyed house priced at Rs. 97,500/-
- ii) A three bedroomed, two storeyed house priced at Rs. 250,000/-
- iii) A four bedroomed, two storeyed house priced at Rs. 450,000/-

The terms are:-

A down payment of 25% of the purchase price and balance spread over not more than 15 years at 18% interest.
Please fill in the application below and post it before 23rd November 1981.

Application

The Chairman
National Housing Development Authority
Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 2.

Name.....

Address:.....

Place and type of house required:.....

I agree to make down payment of 25% of the value and pay the balance in instalments with 18% interest within.....years

.....
Signature

**National Housing Development Authority
-towards a sheltered nation**