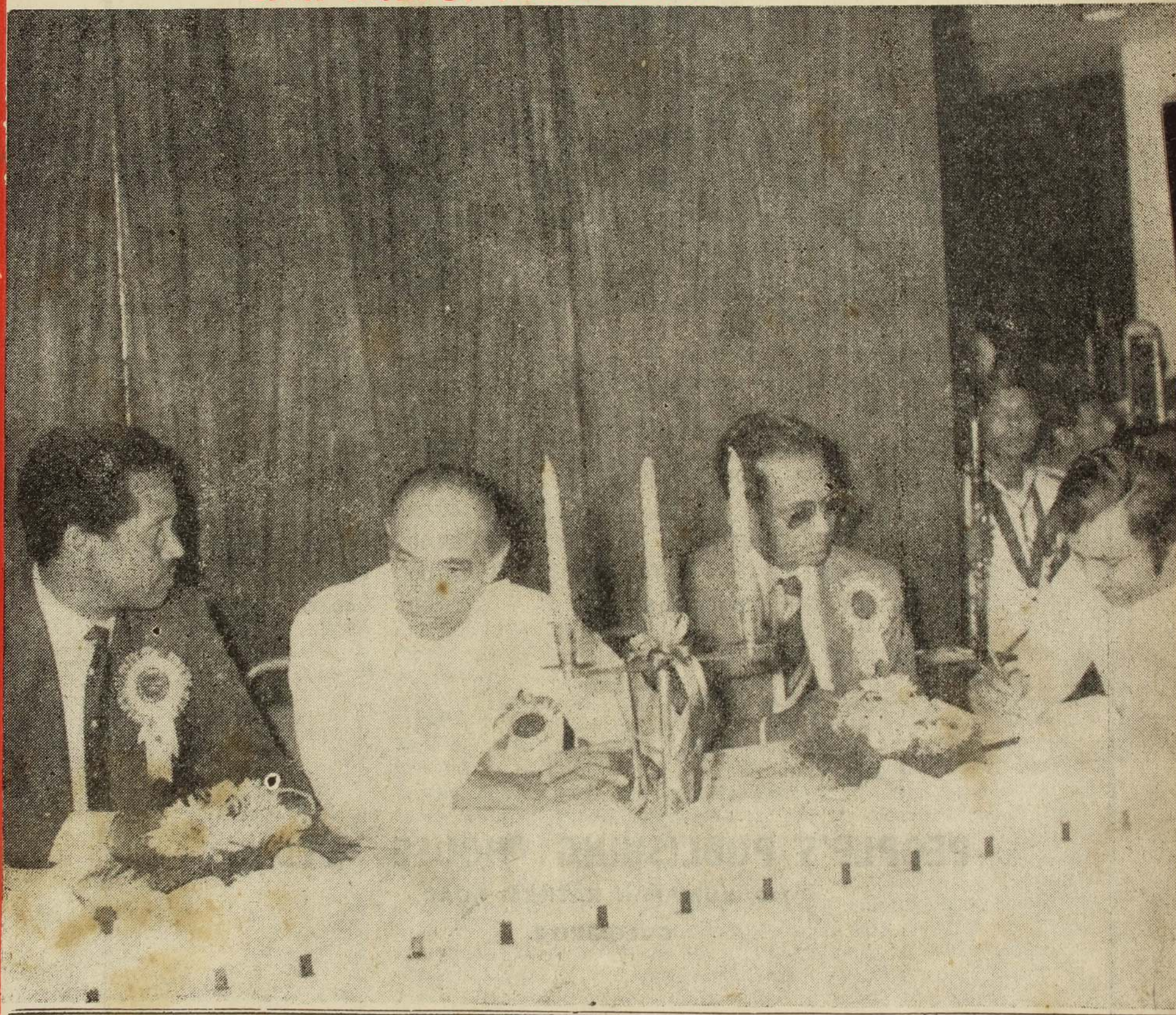


# TRIBUNE



27TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE CRICKET  
FOUNDATION OF SRI LANKA



# PERIODICALS FROM THE USSR

A Gift of a Three Year  
Wall Calendar to Each Subscriber.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES 1982 — 1983 — 1984

	<i>1 Year</i> <i>Rs. Cts.</i>	<i>2 years</i> <i>Rs. Cts.</i>	<i>3 Years</i> <i>Rs. Cts.</i>
SOVIET UNION	25.00	40.00	50.00
SOVIET WOMAN	22.00	35.00	45.00
SOVIET FILM	25.00	40.00	50.00
SOVIET LITERATURE	38.00	60.00	76.00
SPUTNIK	65.00	100.00	130.00
SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW	25.00	40.00	50.00
SPORT IN THE USSR	25.00	40.00	50.00
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	30.00	50.00	60.00
FOREIGN TRADE	165.00	250.00	330.00
NEW TIMES	30.00	50.00	60.00
MOSCOW NEWS	30.00	50.00	60.00
MOSCOW INFORMATION	30.00	50.00	60.00
SOCIAL SCIENCES	40.00	65.00	80.00
SCIENCE IN THE USSR	50.00	80.00	100.00
CULTURE AND LIFE	25.00	40.00	50.00
MUSLIMS OF THE SOVIET EAST	25.00	40.00	50.00

**PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE LTD.,**

**124, KUMARAN RATNAM ROAD,**

**COLOMBO 2.**

Phone : 36111



# TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review

A Journal of Ceylon and  
World Affairs

Founded in 1954  
Every Saturday

Editor: S. P. Amarasingam

Vol. 26 -- No. 21

February 6, 1982  
43, Dawson Street,  
Colombo 2.  
Tel: 33172

## CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	
—Sports	1
EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK	
—White Paper	2
BEHIND THE NEWS	
—Sherlock Holmes	5
MEDIA	
—TV	6
FILM FOCUS	
—Video Menace	7
SRI LANKA CHRONICLE	
—Jan. 18 — 24.	9
WORLD NEWS	
—Jan. 16 - 22	12
MAHAWELI	
—Draught Animals	13
SRI LANKA	
—In Foreign Press	14
NGUVU	
—Random Notes	16
FROM READERS	
—Letters. Poems	17
SOVIET UNION	
—Agriculture	18
LONDON	
—Takes A Beating	19
SOVIET VIEW	
—Arms for Taiwan	20
GUTHRIES	
—London Beaten, Malaysia	21
SPORTSCOPE	
—Spotlight, Chronicle	24
CONFIDENTIALLY	
—Dream Castles	28

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE PICTURE ON THE COVER this week and the caption—which itself is something new for us—is a signal that *Tribune* will henceforth pay attention to a field of human activity which it has so far tended to overlook. This is no doubt intended to attract a new class and a new genre of readers to *Tribune* that has so far confined itself mainly to socio-economic, political and allied matters. It is true that Sports does not have direct bearing on politics but it has more than a direct impact on human beings. *Mens sano in corpore sano* is an old Latin tag but its equivalent is found in all languages in all climes. Sports is not merely a way of building a healthy and beautiful body but, if properly organized and conducted, it will definitely help to create an attitude of mind to men and matters which will usher in a brave new world of greater human understanding among peoples in each country as well as among the nations of the world. Much has been written about sports from the beginning of recorded history and so much more is being pumped into the sights and sounds of men today through the print and electronic media that it may seem superfluous for *Tribune* to join in what to some of the intellectual elite in this country may appear to be another rat race in contemporary human affairs. *Tribune* has never succumbed to the blandishments of Sri Lankan intellectualism that has inhibited growth and genuine creative activity in this country. This intellectualism—its main proponents are invariably infected with an effete and obtrusively sissy behaviourism—has been the bane of Sri Lanka. Our politics, especially leftwing and radical, has become the castrated and splintered phenomenon it is because of the intellectualist argumentation on definitions and the terminological hair-splitting of those who insist that they alone know the magic gospel of the revolution and change. It is significant that these persons regard themselves as superior mainly because they have had opportunities of spending of a few years in the lands of the former colonial masters of territory now euphemistically known as the Third World. Imperialism has no doubt used culture to sustain itself, but in our view the intellectual elite who shout against everything “foreign” is only part of the imperialist strategy to prevent growth that will bring true emancipation. Intellectualism—the kind prevalent in Sri Lanka since the thirties—is only one of the many by-products of cultural imperialism. Their psychopathic slogans against everything “foreign” only helps to perpetuate imperialism and neo-colonialism to flourish because these scourges cannot be defeated by the traditional culture and strategies which these intellectuals regard as panaceas for all our ills. It is also a fact that sports, especially “foreign” sports, has now begun to spread to our rural area. One has only to go into the new civilisation growing up in our river valley and tank colonisation schemes to realise the change that has come over the rural ethos. Rupavahini “test” transmissions of Cricket matches were being eagerly watched in many many places far away from Colombo. A *Tribune* reader who travelled in some of these areas last week says that he was surprised to see young mechanic on Track 7 or 8 (that is how new centres along water channels are identified) was repairing a water pump whilst watching Warnapura’s team batting at the Oval and that he was also able to talk about the Test matches in Australia. And he saw this in many other places. And this generation in our rural areas has no inhibitions against the English language which our intellectual elites had stampeded the ruling hierarchies and coalitions into banning for over thirty years by raising slogans that purported to advance the cause of nationalism and something they called traditional indigenous culture. We make no apologies for entering the area of Sports. Though all daily papers devote a great deal of space to Sports, we think we will have something to contribute to the development of Sports in this country.



## The White Paper

A great deal of powder and shot has been expended in many quarters on the merits and demerits and the pros and cons of the White Paper on Education. There was a prolonged, and sometimes heated, debate in the Parliament on January 21 and 22 and everyone including the Government MPs were given an opportunity to express their views freely. No vote was taken at the end of the debate. The Minister undertook to examine all the comments and criticism made and introduce changes that were consistent with government policy.

WHAT MADE THE DEBATE a little acrimonious was that outside Parliament certain political parties had sought to mobilise undergraduates and even high school students to stage demonstrations, marches and processions against the White Paper. The Government has identified two parties as being mainly responsible for the street demonstrations, strikes in the Universities, boycott of school classes and even stone-throwing at Police officers, namely the Communist Party and the JVP. Both parties have denounced the White Paper stating that it contemplated the introduction of retrograde measures that will undermine "the free education system". The SLFP—both splinters—and the LSSP are obviously opposed to the White Paper for different reasons but are unwilling to join the extra-parliamentary protests organised by the CP and the JVP.

It will be recalled that the CP had spearheaded the abortive General Strike of July 1980 in a bid to create an issue out of the inflation and the high cost of living to lead a mass campaign against the UNP. The JVP had refused to join the strike, and whilst the LSSP had supported it wholeheartedly, the SLFP (then in one piece) had extended only lukewarm support. And now on the White Paper issue there appears to be a great deal of rivalry between the CP and the JVP. Each party wants to get the best mileage out of this agitation with an eye on the next election.

After the failure of the so-called General Strike, the Left Parties had gone into a strategic hibernation. And now, with the General Elections round the corner in 1983, (even with the "permanent" split in the SLFP and the disarray in the Left groups which want to have an anti-UNP Front), some opposition groups seem to think a campaign against the White Paper could be made a rallying point for the emergence of a United (Left) Front. It is ironic that the LSSP, which had broken up the United Left Front (ULF) that had been launched with fanfare on May Day in 1963 by joining Mrs. Bandaranaike in a coalition

in 1964, should endeavour to form a new ULF twenty years after. At that time Philip Goonewardene's MEP and the Moscow-wing CP had been left in the lurch. Philip had thereafter turned to the UNP. The CP had meekly tailed behind the SLFP and LSSP until it was admitted into the coalition, but only after it agreed to shelve or discard its policies on language and national minorities.

Five years of the Jayewardene era will soon be over, but the SLFP, LSSP, CP, JVP and the other Left Parties have failed to make a campaign issue of the economic situation in spite of the high prices, inflated costs of living and the like. Many feel that this is because these parties still believe that the agitational slogans of the forties and the fifties, that had evoked mass response then, still had the same political validity. They fail to realize that times have changed. The Left Parties which should be sensitive to socio-political changes and the sensibilities of the common people seem to be shut up in ivory towers far removed from the realities of the day. They do not seem able to find the correct wavelength to communicate even with people who had once listened to them with rapt attention. Petty personal attacks and old time slogans about the IMF, World Bank, Imperialism etc., etc., no longer seem to have the same appeal. Only the old faithfuls appear to understand the language and the slogans the Left still insists on using. Apart from the old faithfuls, the frustrated and discontented are perplexed unable to understand the jargon and clichés of the now anachronistic Left.

AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF SWABASHA education, ordinary people, especially the younger generation, no longer seem able to understand the intricacies of international politics. Nor do they seem to be interested in world affairs. They have not been able to read about the current trends in imperialism, neo-colonialism, the IMF etc. Language has created a gulf in the frontiers of political knowledge and which the amateurish propagandistic outpourings of a leftwing elite (educated or trained abroad) is not able to bridge.

After the failure of the General Strike of July 1980, none of the Opposition parties has talked about another general strike of working people as a launching pad for a mass campaign against the UNP. These parties have now turned to the students. The White Paper is regarded as a suitable political issue for a mighty campaign against the UNP. The CP and JVP have raised slogans which they think will draw university students and secondary school children into mass protests and demonstrations. The CP, judging from the speech of Sarath Muttetuwegama in Parliament, appears to have provided the political argumentation and even the emotional rhetoric which the JVP (with its hangover of the 1971 charisma over the youth) has attempted to trigger into a mass campaign to rouse a population



that is lost in frustration because of the many acts of commission and omission of the Government. This anti-White Paper campaign appears to have received partial support from the more vociferous university students and the more volatile among the high school children. There were processions, strikes, boycotts and demonstrations in Colombo and some of the provincial and district centres. But they did not last long, and the Government has been able to contain all of them without much difficulty. But the student agitation has not sparked off any serious demonstrations among other sectors of the community or among the mass of ordinary people. The White Paper has turned out to be nothing more than a talking point. It does not look as if it is going to be a major national issue even in the rural areas where it is being made out that the already under-privileged will be discriminated still further in the matter of education. What it means is that the campaign against the White Paper does not appear to have had the response the sponsors had expected.

GOVERNMENT PARLIAMENTARIANS were worried whether the slogan that the White Paper was a "betrayal of Free Education" would raise a revolt among common people: they were concerned whether the rhetoric about a new English-speaking elite would undermine UNP's populist image and whether the infusion of more private schools into the system and also private sector vocational training would be misconstrued as a sell-out to big capital and the World Bank.

The Government has launched a propaganda counter-offensive. The President has made a point by refutation of the criticisms made by critics and also those who have neither not read the White Paper nor understood it. He has stressed that the "Free Education" system was not being discarded: that English was not for a small elite but was also for the humblest rural child: and that the private sector had been brought in not to dominate the education system but to supplement it only because the government did not have the money to meet all educational requirements.

Whilst the polemics go on, only a few realize that what is really at stake is ideological. Free education was started by the UNP and unfortunately the narrow without-English language policy on which it was based from its inception had made Bandaranaike's Sinhala Only upheaval a reality by 1956. And this led to the Bandaranaike Revolution and the anti-UNP electoral landslide. Thereafter the SLFP, with its Left allies, had virtually dominated the scene until 1977 (and even the 1965-1979 Dudley Senanayake interregnum could not make the river of Sinhala Only flow backwards).

But in July 1977, J. R. Jayewardene with the new -image UNP defeated the SLFP and the Left in an

electoral landslide more devastating than the one in 1956. And Jayewardene has made the river not flow backwards but forwards in a totally different direction. Since 1977 there has been a total diversion of the mainstream of Sri Lankan life. Whether one likes it or not, there is no denying that fundamental changes have been wrought in the political fabric, in a new Constitution and in the economic structure. And neither the SLFP nor the Left has been able to mobilise people against the UNP. When the Constitution was changed, the Opposition parties could do nothing. With UNP's steam-roller parliamentary majority very little could be done. The July 1980 general strike was obviously an attempt to halt the consolidation of a liberalised economic system based on free enterprise but it failed miserably. The present agitation against the White Paper is a last straw battle (before the next elections) to prevent the creation of an educational system that would perpetuate the free enterprise structure. The SLFP and the Left from 1956, and more especially between 1970-77, had endeavoured, through many changes and structural alterations, to create an educational system that would produce youth and a people who would demand a full socialist political and economic system.

THE EDUCATIONAL CHANGES brought in by the SLFP and the Left constituted an attempt to upgrade the under-privileged by downgrading the privileged through standardisation and through a system of confining education and examinations in secondary schools to only "ticking off" answers and not writing answer scripts. Thereafter standardisation was used to bring new "classes" (and castes) into the university. The leaders of this educational revolution however sent their own children to be educated in India, UK, USA, Australia, USSR, GDR or even Singapore. That was because they realized that this no-English and mere "ticking off" NHCE system was incapable of producing young people who could write even a single sentence of intelligent prose in any language. They were only "tickers off" unable to communicate in any language. The White Paper, among other things, seeks to consolidate changes that have already been introduced since 1977 to correct and remedy the "ticking off" educational system which the SLFP and the Left had introduced. Most parents, when they discover what is what, welcome the White Paper.

The youth who were the victims of NCHE system turned against it in 1977. The fact that the SLFP-Left NCHE educational proposals of the 70s failed was evidenced by the results of the general election of 1977. The why and the wherefore of how this happened must be examined separately. Perhaps it is not of much relevance now because the NCHE "ticking off" system has already been changed after 1977.



**The White Paper really envisages an extension of the so called free education system with heavy private sector participation so that the Jayewardene free enterprise economic system takes root especially among the school-going youth. All left-inclined parties have good reason to see danger in the White Paper. It will no doubt create a system where the Left would be permanently placed at a disadvantage on the socio-economic and political plane.**

The originators of the 1970 NCHE system wanted through standardisation and a curricula based on "ticking off" to devise an educational system to bring about social upliftment of the underprivileged groups and castes. But they had only themselves to blame for what has happened. To fit misconceived theories about the way a socialist transformation could be effected, these romantic idealists attempted to create a nation of "literate" without realising that persons capable of only "ticking off" answers, without being able to read anything intelligently and especially to communicate their thoughts in any language were of little use to themselves or society.

**If the Left is today isolated, they have only themselves to blame. Thirty five years of Swabasha and twenty five years of Sinhala Only, without any English or a world language, has brought into existence several generations of young and middle aged people unable to understand the dialectics of marxian socialism. In India, English was never officially discarded even after Independence and the Left movement has been able to take deep roots. Radicalism, Socialism and Marxism can grow in developing countries only through a world which has access to world-wide political knowledge for even in large countries like India it is difficult to keep pace through translations in the indigenous languages with fast-changing developments taking place almost daily in the world. Even the most fanatical chauvinists now admit that scientific information can be kept up to date only through a world language. The situation is no different in politics, economics and the social sciences.**

THOUGH OUR LEFT-WING ENTHUSIASTS will be reluctant to admit it, it is time they realized that only after several new generations with a working knowledge of English come into existence will the Left movement begin to find its feet again in this Island. Even the populist rhetoric of the SLFP about Sinhala Only could not flourish for very long in conditions of economic stagnation. This has also been the sad experience of Burma, which like Sri Lanka had sought to sustain itself on Burmese Only with an over-dose of inward-looking public sector economic

policies. Before a change of Government was forced on Ne Win, he has revised his Government's policies placing high priority for English once again with a fresh lease of life for private enterprise, local as well as foreign.

It is unfortunate that the rabid nationalist emotionalism of many Left wing enthusiasts had prevented them from realising that only "an elite". (there need be no stigma attached to the word "elite" which is inevitable in any society—only its powers and status should be regulated by rules and laws appropriate to the times,) fully educated in the mother tongue as well as in one or more world languages will be able to implement a truly socialist policy and programme. Ignorance fed on a "ticking off" educational system will not be attracted to socialism. As 1977 showed they will instinctively yearn for a private enterprise system with an even greater yearning for a world language like English. We have on several occasions drawn attention to the fact that one of the first demands of the JVP, when the Party was permitted to come out of the underground, was that English should be made an "official" language together with Sinhala and Tamil.

THE WHITE PAPER on Education is not a perfect proposal. Our education system which is in such a mess—starting with the suicidal three streams (language) system introduced in 1948 in the mistaken belief that it would make the Free Education Scheme more meaningful and ending with the SLFP's NCHE *achcharu* of the 70s—cannot be reformed and changed in one White Paper. Many White Papers may be needed. Changes, spread over several school and university generations may be necessary before an acceptable system can come into being.

Understandably, the White Paper is fashioned in the image of the Jayewardene Government and its policies in the same way the NCHE system of hotchpotch educational experiments of the last government was a reflection of the SLFP-LSSP-CP mixup coalition. Can the CP, LSSP, JVP or the SLFP expect this government to produce a White Paper to conform to the ideological imperatives of any one or more of the parties that call themselves anti-UNP? There are also the products of the old Christian missionary schools who in newspaper articles look at the White Paper in the nostalgic backdrop of what it was in the old days in terms of denominational school ideology. Sarath Muttetuwegama declared in Parliament that party considerations should be set aside and a national policy on education be drawn up. UNPers will naturally ask whether the SLFP-LSSP-CP coalition with its steamroller majority from 1970 had not thought of a "national system" then.

Ordinary people want an education system that gives their children a chance of acquiring knowledge

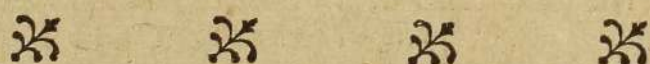


and a training to help them get employment. In their way of thinking English is an indispensable link in this chain. Sinhala Only had only helped a small number and that was by displacing non-Sinhalese in employment. Now, the horizons have widened and they do not mind if an elite is created. The NCHE system based on Sinhala Only had an elite of its own. Now ordinary people want English to obtain remunerative employment especially abroad.

People are thankful for small mercies and the White Paper promises to give them that. English will give them opportunities of employment abroad. A new elite—totally different and separate from class-structured elite of the past spawned by private denominational schools of the colonial era has already come into being. The White Paper is partly geared to meet the demand for the export of manpower. At the end of last century and the first two decades of this, Jaffna and the Christian missionaries had supplied manpower with a "little knowledge of English" to man the British administration in countries like Malaya, Burma and elsewhere. Today the whole country is seeking employment abroad. There is demand for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manpower from the oil-rich countries of West Asia and also elsewhere.

To this extent, the White Paper meets the needs of our times. If the Government is able to get this message across to the people, the opponents of the White Paper will find it more difficult to make it a focal point for an anti-government political campaign.

The White Paper is politics. It is the first harbinger of the polemical exchanges of the next election. The country does not have the money nor the teachers to fashion a "perfect" system of education. The White Paper is only one faltering step to end the mess that education has been for decades.



## Behind The News

### OF THIS & THAT

By Sherlock Holmes

**DANGEROUS ADDITIVES:** The *Daily News* (Edward Arambawela reporting) had an excellent item of investigative reporting. It read: "Some of the imported food-additives and seasonings now available in the market may provoke heart attack symptoms in some people. They would not be really ill—but merely suffer symptoms of a heart attack. Hospital sources said yesterday that it had turned out that several patients who had been rushed for treatment for suspected heart attacks had eaten food that included these additives and seasonings."

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982

"According to these sources, some food additives and seasonings have a monosodium glutamate (MSG) base (a kind of salt) which causes certain reactions in some people which look like cardiac symptoms. Besides the cardiac symptoms, the MSG could also cause a tightening sensation around the face and neck, headache, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. The exact mechanism of action of MSG in causing those side-effects has not been clearly established yet. The most plausible explanation is converted into acetylcholine, and that the symptoms are due to this excess acetylcholine in the body. MSG could not be classified as dangerous as it causes temporary though dramatic illeffects. No study had yet been made of its long-term effects. Health Department sources said that at a recent medical conference in Singapore, WHO expert who had dinner with the Sri Lanka representative a Deputy Director of the Health Department, developed reactions of a heart attack after eating a meal which included these additives."

**Excellent! But why was the name of the "additive" in question withheld from the readers of the "Daily News" and the public? Was it because the importers were big time advertisers in the print media? In fairness to its readers, the "Daily News" should publish the brand names of these additives? That is the least that one can expect of a paper of the standing of the Daily News.**

**CANNED FISH:** Consumers complain that the canned fish now available is a swindle. The CWE is the sole importer and the contents of the tins it now imports (sold under different brand names and labels) all seem to be the same. A 15-ounce tin at Rs. 12.50, which has a label depicting a big chunk of tuna-like fish, produced no more than 4 ounces of tiny fish with the rest of the tin filled with a thick liquid. Somebody has cheated the CWE. And was somebody in the CWE colluding with the agents of this kind of canned fish that comes under different labels?

There appears to be a well-organised racket in the country operated by unscrupulous importers and indenting agents who are able to pass off poor quality substandard products from Taiwan, Hongkong, Thailand, South Korea or Singapore on organisations like the CWE. Attractive labels may be one reason for the successful cheating, but discerning members of the public attribute other reasons as well.

**It is time that the Minister of Trade and Shipping looks into this matter and takes appropriate action against those responsible for crime against the consumer.**

**PANADURA MP:** Gampolage Padmin Fonseka a 37-year old Attorney-at-Law was yesterday named



by the United National Party as its MP for Panadura to succeed Dr. Neville Fernando. According to press reports Mr. Fonseka's nomination by the UNP was yesterday conveyed to the Elections Commissioners M. A. Piyasekera, by its General Secretary, Harsha Abeywardena. Mr. Fonseka is an old boy of St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. He later entered Law College and passed out in 1968 starting work as a lawyer one year later at the Panadura Courts. He is also a Justice of the Peace. Till last year, he was a Director of the Sri Lanka Tobacco Corporation, and the Self-Employment Scheme. He is the son of Dr. G. A. E. Fonseka of Panadura. He entered politics in 1971." Apart from this, and also the fact that he is still a bachelor, he seems to be a "dark horse". There is a great deal of speculation as to how he was thrust into the centre of the Panadura stage. **Questions are being asked about the groups and forces inside the UNP that had successfully promoted his cause. Dissatisfaction about this selection is bound to cause disappointment in some UNP circles and one resignation has been reported.**

**Former Panadura MP, Neville Fernando has now started a new political party. The main publicity for this Party comes in Upali's papers. Why?**

**PEOPLE'S BANK:** The J. S. S. (UNP's trade union wing) recently called a strike at the Head Office of the People's Bank (and this was followed by strikes in a large number of branches in and out of Colombo) This was no doubt to protest against the alleged discrimination in the appointment to certain grades—it was said that most of those selected were from Devinuwara electorate (Ronnie de Mel's) and were outside the JSS. A few days before the strike, *The Island* had made a front-page song and dance about these appointments. The President had intervened in the matter and was told that the areas of dispute were salary scales of security guards, housing loans, promotions to Grade II of the Bank's service and removal of powers of the AGM's staff. The President directed that prior to any negotiation on these matters, the employees should resume duties and that all posters, placards, banners etc., should be removed forthwith. Bank clearing should also be resumed immediately. He also directed two senior officers of his secretariat to visit the bank and report back to him that normalcy was restored.

According to the *Sun*: "...Discipline and decency must come before any negotiations get under way. President J. R. Jayewardene told Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya representatives yesterday over the strike at the People's Bank. *Sun* learns that the UNP-controlled JSS representatives were told in no uncertain terms by President Jayewardene that their member should first remove all the posters and placards and stop all hooliganism and jeering, if any matters in dispute were to be discussed...."

**This tough stand of the President had immediate effect. The strikers resumed work and further negotiations were started. But the question raised in political circles (UNP and otherwise) is how "The Island" published the story that anticipated this strike. Was it a journalistic scoop or was it collusive effort between Upali and Mathew to embarrass, Ronnie? Astute observers say that Mathew is too shrewd a customer and too seasoned a politician to jump on the waggon of a shooting star that was fast falling into the murky depths of space.!**



THE MEDIA

## T. V. Cricket, News

**CRICKET ON TV:** Last week I referred to a Rupavahini test live transmission on Sunday 24th January of the Sara Trophy match between the SSC and Bloomfields. I had mentioned that Palitha Perera was excellent as a good commentator in Sinhalese. But apart from the commentators Palitha Perera, Elilvendan and Aubrey Ebert, the production was an anonymous with no credit lines. Perhaps it was a last minute decision to have a live broadcast—almost off the cuff.

But the live transmissions from Tuesday, January 26, from the Oval to cover the five-day Test Trials showed improvement day by day and had credit lines at the end. Sanath Liyanage, the Director/Producer, had with him as chief cameraman Wimal Perera. For the Government Film Unit they have for years produced excellent documentaries and news reels. No doubt two of the best cameramen we have, they have now emerged competent and proficient in TV production. Moreover, it is Sanath Liyanage who provides the excellent photographic backup for Palitha Perera's *Neth Sara*. The camera work on the last day of the trials (31.1.82) was world class by any yardstick. The close ups and the replays were excellent. Even if the Cricket was slow, the Trials, I think, enabled the TV team to acquire the necessary skill and perfection.

I was also impressed by the English commentary by Michael de Soysa. It is a good thing to have new voices and new faces, especially from the younger generation. We need more young commentators like Michael de Soysa. I am looking forward to the live transmission of the matches with the English team. I may not be able to sit through them all the time (with my own professional and other commitments) but I hope to see enough to see how they are being done.

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982



**TV NEWS:** Whether it is stupidity, laziness or ignorance is immaterial, but the ITN News flounders when it comes to foreign affairs. For two days, 28.1.82 and 29.1.82 ITN viewers of the programmes were happy that the news was mainly confined to local items but on the second day it had a telecast about guerillas (to ITN they are "freedom fighters") in Afghanistan. It was a "repeat". It was a scene on an anonymous hillside and viewers were asked to believe that it was in Afghanistan. But what was even stranger was that the ITN's TV announcer's "copy" was based on formulae that had become outdated. One limb of the formula is that the rebels held towns and areas in the night and that government troops took over in the morning. The other limb was about the millions who had crossed into Pakistan as refugees. These comments had nothing to do with what was shown in the film but on this occasion, though both limbs of the formula were repeated with the same self-assurance, without realising that the script contained a bloomer of the first magnitude. It was asserted that at least 10,000 refugees were still crossing over every month into Pakistan. Unfortunately for ITN, Islamabad has several times recently declared publicly that for some months now the rate of Afghan refugee inflow had slowed down significantly and the number was less than a couple of hundreds a month now. Whoever is responsible for the copy was not aware of these statements made by Islamabad—even in a letter to the new UN Secretary-General asking him to reopen negotiations with Kabul to end the impasse.

The ITN "foreign" news on the next day consisted an interview with Reagan on Poland and tiresome reports about unimportant happenings in the USA and the Americas. The Los Angeles area seems to be the only place in the world for ITN news. For some time we have been shown all the disasters there, and the latest was a story about the shooting of an obscure Turkish diplomat. Viewers also had an overdose about the hijacking of a Columbian plane for several days running. Poland is never left out. One of the latest was about the increase of food prices—the pictures showed the shelves full of food at the new prices and Polish people buying them eagerly but the ITN bemoaned the high prices and predicted trouble and doom for the government as in the past—without realising the Poland is doing only what the J. R. Jayewardene government had done in removing food subsidies which had also sent up prices of essential foodstuffs in Sri Lanka 200 to 300 percent in some cases. Those who predicted trouble for the J. R. Government as a result of the removal of food subsidies were proved wrong. It is not thickly to be different in Poland, and ITN will gradually lose whatever little is left of its credibility. In an attempt to "diversify" news ITN brought in black and white items from Indian documentaries. In the last ten days, we had a few minutes of a Conference of Religions held in Delhi in the first week of November,

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982

shots from Kerala "Onam" festival (several months old) and also from the even older Dassara procession. Who is ITN trying to cheat? Or who is bluffing whom? If ITN is unable to get "international" news of interest to Sri Lankan viewers—nobody is interested in a gas chamber that exploded and burst into flames in Minnesota and Minneapolis—it would be better to have only local items. It would be better for ITN to scrap foreign news altogether or have it twice or three times a week. And there are whispers going round in some circles that the quality of ITN newscasts might improve if programmes and rosters are not finalised in places like the Little Hut.

It is only to be hoped that Rupavahini News does not follow ITN especially in its international coverage and that its commentators will be able to project a Sri Lankan image as a South-Asian non-aligned country. I also think that it will be good if Rupavahini, ITN and SLBC news broadcasts cite the source of its foreign news. A great deal of the present criticism arise because SLBC and ITN adopt all agency news as their own and the tendentious and slanted news they pick up so often creates a bad image. This may be because the selection seems to be done by persons who do not seem to be aware of the finer nuances of the current trends in international affairs.

**LAKE HOUSE:** The three English papers of Lake House group have shown really remarkable improvement in recent weeks. The *Sunday Observer* has out-distanced the *Sunday Island* by many furlongs (to use horsy jargon). The former now has many more readable articles than before. The layout has improved, and so has the printing. The daily *Observer* (ordinarily published five times a week if no holiday intervenes) has also shown solid improvement. But the printing is still not up to scratch. But the greatest improvement has come in the *Ceylon Daily News*. The paper is now better printed and its contents have improved qualitywise. The news is better arranged—especially the foreign news. Whether the improvement in the English-language papers of Lake house is due to "competition" from *The Island* is not improtant. The fact is that improvement has taken place and it is welcome.

Valmiki



## FILM FOCUS

# Video Menace

The birth of Television has also brought with it what is referred to as the video menace. Just as sound is recorded on a tape and played back, a feature



film can also be transferred to a Video tape, encased in a cassette and projected on a TV set any number of times by means of a special gadget called the "deck" attached to it. Such video cassette screenings have been very commonplace locally and has become a menacing business hazard to theatre owners. In the North for example, where the ITN programmes have not penetrated yet, there is no shortage of large TV sets which are mainly used to televise popular South Indian films, that have been clandestinely videotaped and smuggled across the Palk Straits. A flat ticket rate is charged for some of these screenings, although a few years back when Mr. Kingsley Wickremasuriya was S. P. Jaffna, frequent police raids were carried out on these private shows at the request of the State Film Corporation. As these illegal commercial screenings are done on the sly, the legitimate distributor of the film concerned is deprived of his earnings and a corresponding erosion affects the taking of the Producer who would have spent millions on the venture.

This menace has hit the Metropolis too for many costly American films have been shown to small audiences by video. In fact the mysterious droppings on the returns for the Oscar winning film *The Godfather* was attributed to this piracy and several other instances have come to light. Today advertisements in the press media advertise the availability of such video tapes at a price or for hire. And this column wonders where all this leaves the producers who have to bear the burden of relevant losses with no respite up to now. This column therefore welcomes the legislation that is being mooted by the Government to safeguard the Film Industry from this danger that is looming large on the horizon. In the USA for example, it is obligatory, that only films that are at least ten years old should be on TV and that too with the rights of the Producer being safeguarded from a financial point of view. Similar limitations must be introduced into the proposed Act before the local film industry is severed of its roots and swept away by the video fide. The advent of the island wide Rupavahini, transmissiln could by its quality, contribute much to this illicit fapping that is going on regardless of any state or NFC intervention at the moment.

*THE SPY WHO LOVED ME* (English): This United Artists Production which is the tenth in the series of Ian Flemmings characterisation of the British Secret Agent 007 and directed by Lewis Gilbert amply justifies the claim that it is the biggest and lavish James Bond film made to date. Now well established in the role of Bond, the tall and debonair Roger Moore teams up with Barbara Bach as a KGB (Russian) spy in tracking down a demented villain Carl Stromberg (Curt Jergens), who seeing beauty in ugliness and death from his formidable and spidery undersea fortress in the middle of the ocean, entertains ambitions of ruling the Universe and establishing a New Order. The first step, in his evil plan is to get

all the Big Powers at sea by busting their nuclear submarine tracking system, which brings them together on a temporary truce. Some of the highlights of the film include a supertanker which swallows three nuclear submarines, a car which transforms instantly into a midget submarine and a motor cycle which speeds on water. Stronberg matches all these with several instruments of Armageddon and Bond carefully rations his time to face them with very little of it left for his attractive co-spy. As the pace hots up, the audieace is sucked in powerfully by the whirlwind action and the gimmicks that mesmerise with a searing intensity. The mastermind of the Bond films has been Albert Broccoli, with his unerring interest for the vital ingredients that go into the making of such rousing actions, that saturates this film. With the 7 foot Richard "Jows" Kiel giving the creeps at the command of Stramberg and emerging indestructible with his gold fangs bared menacingly, several shocks needle the film, through him. For action bound and Bond fans a must.

*NEELA MALARGAL* (Tamil): Directed by Krishnan Panju, with South Indian film idol Kamalahasan in a sober role as a young doctor who is rather phobic to women patients till he meets a blind and needy girl (Sri Devi) next door, who wins his sympathy, with love blooming off it. Running parallel to this encounter is the story of a Millionaire (Sundararajan) and his little fatherless grandson—the apple of h.s eye—who falls a victim to leukaemia as in the current Sinhalese hit *Aradhana*. This tragedy and an eye transplant evens out matters sentimentally. Actress K. R. Vijaya gives a touch of class in a secondary role, with Soundararajan convincing as always. Tearjerkers such as this film are normally a big draw with our women folk, and I am told that they outnumber the males at every show—a more manly Kamalahasan as in *Guru*, being the dish for the stronger sex. Recommended as a fair family film, if the fathers too could be coaxed to tag along.

*FIVE ANGRY WOMEN* (English): A film farce if ever there was one, that has survived a few weeks run, by the blurb that the show would start no sooner the Cinema is full, and the adults only tag. There was not much to the story, which involved jailbreak by five flimsily clad women, getting away to be tracked down, leaving only one of them to breathe freedom. The dialogues was inaudible and the plot amateurish. There were more angry men who walked out of this show—for the trash they were served for their hard cash i

JAMES N. BENEDICT.





## January 18 - 24

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

**MONDAY, JANUARY 18:** The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has finalised its oil deal with the People's Republic of China which will help keep alive the long tradition of Sino-Lanka trade established with the rubber-rice pact. A delegation comprising the Ven. Madihe Pannasiha, Ven. Madoluwawe Sobhitha and Mr. Siri Perera Q. C. met President J. R. Jayewardene at the President's House last Friday to discuss their views on a variety of subjects which they felt affected the rights of the Sinhala people. The foreign exchange earnings of Consolexpo—Sri Lanka State Trading (Consolidated) Exports Corporation—for last year amounted to about Rs. 795 million, official sources said—CDN. Personnel of the Army, Navy and Air Force have been conferred with Police powers with effect from Saturday; a proclamation to this effect enforcing Part Three of the Public Security Act has been issued by the President. The control of prices by ensuring adequate supplies of essential consumer items is the main basis on which the Cabinet sub-committee on cost of living will tackle the question of soaring prices. The Indo-Sri Lanka wide-band microwave link, will be officially inaugurated today, when the Post and Telecommunications Minister places the first telephone call to his counterpart in India. TULF leaders will have a further round of talks with their United National Party counterparts tomorrow. The private sector is to participate in a big way in the government's reafforestation programme; their first advent into a multi-million rupee project will be in the dry zone covering an extent of two million acres—SU. Radical TULF MPs will press the party leadership to adopt a harder line in negotiation with the Government over issues affecting the minority communities; these MPs will articulate their views at today's Parliamentary group meeting of the TULF; the group meeting is a prelude to tomorrow's high level committee talks between the Government and the TULF—IS.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19:** The Public Accounts Committee has focussed parliamentary attention to  
TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982

several state agencies exceeding voted financial provisions in the implementation of their projects; the PAC has said that some of these excesses are the result of a lack of planning, supervision and controls and the failure of relevant accounting officers to take the necessary follow up action. Large scale piracy small-scale theiving of power, and wastage of power due to many reasons are among the problems that faced the CEB today; Deputy Minister of Power and Energy Mr. P. Dayaratne and Chairman of the CEB Prof. K. K. Y. W. Perera who brought this to the notice of the big power consumers of the country at the BMICH yesterday, said that only a massive co-operative effort among all power consumers and the Board could help solve the problem. The University Grants Commission will reconsider the new university admission scheme following representations made against the scrapping of the 15 percent allocation of places to under-privileged districts—CDN. A four-member committee of officials has recommended that the subsidy on bus and train travel for students inclusive of University and Technical College students should continue to be borne by the State. The Customs has bared a well-organised racket at the Duty Free shops at Colpetty; the racket involves the inflation of the value of goods that could be bought by Sri Lankans who had returned from abroad. Twenty two lakhs of rupees as rewards are being offered by the Police for information regarding the whereabouts of 16 hardcore terrorists in the North; according to reliable police sources, it is understood police intelligence had finally drawn up a list of the most wanted men in the terrorist activities in the North; a complete list with photographs and bio-data will be published by the police shortly—CDM. Sri Lanka's new ultra modern parliamentary complex at Jaywardenapura is now almost ready; finishing touches are being put to this building which sits majestically beside the romantic Diyawanna Oya. The Employees' Trust Fund will invest more than 100 million rupees in private and public sector promoted companies in 1982; its first investment will be Rs. 30 million in the Lanka Cement Company a subsidiary of the Ceylon Cement Corporation—SU. Over two thousand employees of the People's Bank head office at Chittampalam Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo downed tools and demonstrated opposite the bank from 8 to 10.30 last morning; this is expected to be continued today as well. "I will sack every one of the demonstrating students whoever they may be", said Mr. K. S. Palihakkara, the Regional Director of Education, Colombo South; he was referring to demonstrations by about 2,000 students of the D. S. Senanayake Maha Vidyalay yesterday; the students are demanding that their former principal, Mr. Alles, should be brought back. Sri Lanka is on its way to becoming the television broadcasting centre for Asia, a project which is estimated to cost Rs. 500 million; this amount is to be deployed over a five-year period; this project,



coming under UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation) is to be named Arthur C. Clarke World Communication Centre—/S. The first Question Bank to be set up by the Examinations Department has begun operations; Department sources said that questions had already been "fed" into the bank after the completion of the marking of the answer scripts of the AL Exam held in August last year—CO. The TULF will press for certain demands from the Government at today's discussion with the State; it would also ask for time limit for the implementation of those demands; at the same time the Front will demand for the immediate implementation of the promises made earlier by the Government—EN.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20:** Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said he hoped to grant a thousand university scholarships in 1983 from the Mahapola lottery fund. The British State Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr. Douglas Richard Hurd, MP who left Sri Lanka yesterday after a four day visit expressed satisfaction on the progress made at the Victoria Reservoir Project; he said that the British Government's commitment to the project was 100 million pounds sterling. Police have been asked to take stern action against outsiders who enter school premises to incite students to keep away from school on Thursday and Friday, the days on which parliament is to discuss the White Paper on Education—CDN. Sri Lanka and the west coast of India have been placed as "high risk zones" threatened by oil spills due to the very high degree of tanker traffic in the area; the warning that oil pollution will have disastrous effects on the fishing and tourism industries both in Sri Lanka and India came at the end of the meeting held in Colombo which was sponsored by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation of the United Nations. A countrywide transport network utilising the three available services of the Sri Lanka Central Transport Board, the Railway and the private omnibus service is to be established shortly; under this transport network, all services will be co-ordinated into a single new and more effective transport service where overlapping of services will be eliminated. The first gem auction for 1982 had a record turnover of 23 million rupees—SU. While twenty six more branches of the People's Bank in the City were preparing to come out in protest against discriminatory practices in the Bank, President J. R. Jayewardene has asked the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya President Mr. Cyril Mathew (Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs), the General Secretary of the JSS and the officials of the JSS Branch of People's Bank to meet him at the President's Office this morning; it is expected that the discussions with the President will lead to a settlement of the dispute which has disrupted work in the People's Bank Headquarters during the last two days. LSSP

Leader Dr. Colvin R. de Silva said yesterday that the rift within the SLFP seemed to be permanent; addressing a press conference summoned to explain the outcome of the delegate's conference of the LSSP last week the LSSP said that however the party will not give up its attempt to bring the two SLFP factions together on a common platform; "we are not interested so much in seeing the SLFP united again as in bringing them together on common issues," he said—/S. University Grants Commission, in an attempt to bring English within the reach of all those undergrads now struggling to cope with a language they had not studied in school has decided to completely reorganize English teaching techniques in the universities and introduce a more practical and realistic approach to teaching English as a second language—CO. The problems of the Sri Lankan Tamils are deep-rooted and should be considered sympathetically; however Britain did not support the attempt by certain Tamils in Britain to make a Unilateral Declaration of Independence for a separate state; so said Mr. Douglas Richard Hurd, Minister of State of the U. K.—DP.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21:** The Minister of Labour informed Cabinet that the Employees Trust Fund Board had collected Rs. 80 million from contributions and that the board's revenue by the end of 1981 was likely to reach Rs. 90 million; the collection for 1982 was expected to be about Rs. 140 million. Attempts by groups of young people whom police described as "pre-Communist and pro-JVP" to launch a protest campaign against the White Paper on Education at Colombo schools and the Colombo University attracted very little support. The UNP yesterday nominated Mr. Gampolage Pathmin Fonseka, 37, an attorney-at-law, to be the new MP for Panadura, Mr. Harsha Abeywardena, the UNP's General Secretary said—CDN. On the recommendation of the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, the Cabinet yesterday decided to enhance the punishment for offence relating to obscene publications including video-cassettes. The total value of gems and precious stones exported through the state Gem Corporation last year amounted to Rs. 633 million; Mr. Leonard Gunawardena, Chairman State Gem Corporation, who revealed this said this year the total exports was expected to top the Rs. 700 million mark—CDM. The February 19 ceremonies connected with the official handing over of the Kotte Parliamentary complex have been put off following a Cabinet decision yesterday. Government was yesterday attempting to determine whether the current student unrest has been orchestrated by militant political organisations to embarrass the Government; the Defence Ministry was yesterday directed to ascertain whether these groups were attempting to infiltrate schools and other educational institutions to incite violent demonstrations—SU. There is much speculation in political



circles and in the country about Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa not having returned as yet from San Francisco where he went for medical treatment; the only positive indication of the Prime Minister's health was a statement issued by the Government that Mr. Premadasa had undergone a successful surgical operation for the removal of a stone from the gall bladder. The TULF will not fix deadlines for the implementation of decisions reached at the high-level committee meeting with the Government according to authoritative TULF sources—/S. The Cabinet decided yesterday to amend the law covering the grant of lands to remove the difficulties suffered by Tamils and Muslims who are citizens of Sri Lanka on obtaining land—VK.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22:** President J. R. Jayewardene told a special meeting of the Government Parliamentary Group yesterday that they should not be misled by campaigns carried out by certain sections to create trouble in the country by making the White Paper on Education an excuse. India's President Sanjiva Reddy will make a visit to Jaffna during six-day stay in Sri Lanka early next month; the Jaffna visit was not on his original schedule but President Jayewardene has readily agreed to the suggestion of Opposition Leader A. Amirthalingam and Nallur MP M. Sivasithamparam that he be given an opportunity to travel north. The Defence Ministry yesterday gave the police orders to provide maximum security to all schools and crack down on inciters whipping up students to acts of violence on the pretext of opposing the White Paper on Education. Organisers of protests against the White Paper on Education have had very little success in the provinces according to reports reaching Colombo—CDN. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has appointed an Arbitrator to adjudicate on some of the demands made by the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya with regard to the dispute at the People's Bank; Mr. Nihal Weeratunga will hear submission by JSS and the People's Bank on the demands relating to the salary scales of Security Staff and promotions to Grade II of the service—CDM. Mounted Police backed by riot squads and units of the fire brigade moved into push back around 1,000 students demonstrating opposite Parliament yesterday afternoon; police claimed the demonstrators, carrying placards and posters, had moved into the area in small groups which suddenly joined together and entered the premises as Parliament adjourned for lunch—SU. About 3,000 students and student Bhikkus performed demonstrations in Kandy yesterday opposing the White Paper on Education; these students belonged to the Peradeniya University and the Dumbara Campus—VK.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23:** The Speaker, Mr. M. A. Bakeer Marker, yesterday appointed a committee, headed by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali Minister of Trade and Shipping, to inquire into it and report on the circumstances under which four members of Parliament were alleged to have been

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982

expelled from the SLFP. Prime Minister R. Premadasa has recovered completely from surgery for removal of gall stones and had left hospital in San Francisco on January 20 his office announced in Colombo yesterday; a spokesman said Mr. Premadasa had been advised rest before resuming duties; he will therefore spend some time convalescing before his return home; Mr. Premadasa is now in Hawaii. The Minister of Education Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe told Parliament yesterday that the White Paper on Education, would be reconsidered; he assured the House that no racial or religious group would be affected by the reforms. Investment projects with foreign collaboration now operating outside the Investment Promotion Zone have given direct employment to over 12,300 persons, according to a survey by the International Economic Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Finance and Planning—CDN. The government had to subsidize the Railways in 1979 to the tune of Rs. 89,102,168 because of the increase in fares; while the estimated revenue was Rs. 223,000,000 the actual expenditure was Rs. 312,102,168. Fatal accidents on roads during 1981 have claimed 1005 lives and of this number, 472 innocent pedestrians have been the victims; this was revealed at a press conference at the Information Department yesterday by Mr. M. Ramalingsam, Asst. Secretary, Ministry of Transport—CDM. A Parliamentary select committee was yesterday appointed to inquire and report on the alleged expulsion of four MPs from the SLFP; the committee comprises Minister Lalith Athulathmudali (Chairman), Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi, Harin Corea and Chandra Ranatunga of the UNP and P. Soosaidasan of the TULF. Five new export villages, mainly for the production of high quality vegetables for export, will be established in the Kurunegala district; companies are to be formed with the villages as shareholders, one umbrella company will be formed as a coordinating body, a Trade and Shipping Ministry official said yesterday. Demonstrations against the White Paper on education, led by the JVP-backed Inter-University Students Front, ran into the third day yesterday with students of all universities continuing to boycott lectures—SU. All students from the eight university campuses, piri-venas, technical colleges and some schools were boycotting classes. President of the Inter-University Student's Federation Mr. D. M. Ananda said yesterday; District seminars on the White Paper on Education had been organised at Colombo, Anuradhapura, Kegalle, Kandy, Puttalam, Ratnapura and Kalutara he said; he also claimed that 20 students had been taken into police custody in connection with demonstrations against the White Paper—/S.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24:** Police investigations have identified the Communist Party and the Jatika Vimukthi Peramuna as those responsible for inciting university and school students; it has also been revealed that the student boycott of lectures was



not spontaneous and that certain politicians were fanning unrest in the Universities and some schools. Property crimes in the North doubled during the past two years; Police investigators on the trail of terrorists have discovered a second and third breed of criminal cashing in on the situation created by the first breed the hardcore terrorists. Mr. Jinadasa Niyathapala, secretary of the newly formed Jathika Peramuna, the president of which is the former MP for Panadura, Dr. Neville Fernando, will seek recognition for his party from the Commissioner of Elections—SO. The first-ever English weekly newspaper to be published outside Colombo makes its debut next weekend, this paper *Saturday Review* published by Kalai Nilayam Ltd., of Jaffna, will be printed in Jaffna—ST. Government may shortly establish a new ministry to oversee women's affairs; the new ministry is among a series of moves government is to initiate to give women their rightful place in society. The Cabinet has asked a three member ministerial team to examine in detail proposals by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to revise the price of petrol, diesel, kerosene and other oil products; the team comprises Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, Foreign Minister A. C. S. Hameed and Public Administration Minister Montague Jayawickrema—WK. The Municipal Council of Jaffna, the TULF and other institutions are engaged in preparing for a red-carpet reception in Jaffna to the Indian President Sanjiva Reddy; one such arrangement will be to escort the President walking up to the Reception Hall—VK.



## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

# January 16 - 22

## ASIA

**INDIA:** The President of the World Bank A. W. Claussen said that the IDA aid to India was reduced because of a shortfall in funding. A twenty-four hour strike organised by eight trade unions and supported by the Opposition Parties mainly against the strike legislation seems to have had little impact on the country as a whole. However in West Bengal the strike did disrupt normal life. A new Chief Minister, Mr. Bhosale took over the Maharashtra State after the resignation of Mr. Antulay who was found guilty of corrupt practices by a Bombay court. The Indian Supreme Court lifted a temporary ban on executions and ordered that two men sentenced to death for killing two teenagers be hanged. **BANGALADESH**—President Sattar said that the formation of the National Security Council including the chiefs of the three armed forces did not mean that it would act as a Super Cabinet; they will function

only in an advisory capacity. **PAKISTAN**—News reports from Islamabad indicate that the exodus of Afghan refugees into Pakistan has dropped sharply for the last few months and now there are sporadic arrivals only. World Bank President A. W. Claussen said that Pakistan will not seek the Bank's aid to carry out its nuclear power programme. Pakistan has a plan to set up eight nuclear stations. President Zia has asked all "bachelor diplomats" to get married before they were posted to foreign lands and conduct themselves according to the tenets of Islam. President Zia will seek Yugoslavia's diplomatic support for a no-war pact with India. **MALAYSIA:** ASEAN has not achieved the anticipated economic cooperation. The main weakness of the movement to implement its wishes appears to be the lack of political will. This was disclosed at a conference of ASEAN ministers. **THAILAND:** It is reported that 3,000 Kampuchians have crossed into Thailand to escape the fighting between Vietnamese soldiers and Khmer Rouge guerillas. **CHINA:** China blamed the United States for helping the Soviet Union to spread its influence in West Asia. US reluctance to tackle the Palestinian question directly and its support to Israel were the main causes of increasing Soviet influence in the area. China has urged for a South-South economic cooperation before they discuss a North-South cooperation. At the New Delhi conference scheduled to be held next month, the economic strategies of the developing countries should take precedent over others. **AUSTRALIA:** Australian government has deferred a request for a 110 million Polish trade credit and warned that unless there was credible signs of improvement in the situation the existing credit facilities too may be cancelled. **SYRIA:** The recent visit of Syrian Foreign Minister to the Soviet Union helped to strengthen the ties between the two countries and Soviet commitment to help the former diplomatically and militarily in their conflict with Israel. However Western diplomats feel that there had been no overt Soviet strategic commitment to Syria. **LEBANON:** According to the Secretary General of the Arab league the Arabian states will take realistic measures if the US vetoes an Arab resolution on embargo against Israel as a protest against the annexation of Golan Heights. He also indicated that Egypt would not be invited to the Arab League Conference so long as an Israeli flag flies in Cairo. American secret army organisation has threatened to strike at French interests in all parts of the World in retaliation to the detention of four of its guerillas in Paris.

## AFRICA

**EGYPT:** The Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon and the Egyptian counterpart Kamalhassan Ali had discussions over the handing over of Sinai on April 25. Egypt and Canada signed an agreement to cooperate in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This would provide Egypt with nuclear reactors, fuel and



technology from Canada. Egypt and Israel have signed a comprehensive agreement including the dismantling of Israeli settlements and compensation for various installations in the Sinai.

## EUROPE

**FRANCE:** A senior military attache of the US Embassy in Paris was shot dead. The attempt of the French Government to nationalise 36 banks, 5 major industrial groups and 2 giant financial holdings were ruled as unconstitutional. In another apparent setback for the Socialist Government four rightists were elected in by-elections. **UNITED KINGDOM:** Britain facing chronic railway strikes may close down the railway system indefinitely. The number of unemployed has crossed the all time record of three million which is 12.7% of the work force. **BELGIUM:** The European Economic Community the world's largest trade bloc has at least 30 million poor and 10 million unemployed persons. **POLAND:** The Polish Communist Party may purge all ideological waverers in an attempt to strengthen the party against the current tense situation. Polish deputy Minister of trade said that Poland intends to downgrade its economic dependence on the West and expand its trading activities with other Communist countries and third world countries. **SOVIET UNION:** Soviet Union was not deterred by US sanctions against the Siberian gas pipeline to Western Europe. USSR could use its own technology to overcome the US obstacles. Soviet Tass said that President Reagan's first year in office was catastrophic for the American people; it was a year of growing unemployment, rising inflation, increasing poverty and disillusionment. **ROMANIA:** In dinner speech held in honour of visiting Pakistani President Zia, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausecu, called on the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. The Romanian President had wanted a political solution to the Afghan crisis.

## AMERICA

**UNITED STATES:** President Reagan confessed that the grain embargo imposed against Soviet Union by former President Carter hurt the American farmer more than Soviet Union. He also said that it would strengthen US embargo against Cuba to compel her to realise that Cuba would be better off in the American community of nations. Former US National Security Council Adviser Brzezinski said that West German's response to Polish situation showed a shift towards Soviet Union and this may cause trouble. The Secretary General of the NATO General Joseph Luns said that Moscow was behind the West European Peace Movement anti-atomic bomb groups. US has successfully fired a Trident missile to hit a target 4,000 miles away from its nuclear armed submarine a Ohio. In a belated attempt to save face President Reagan requested the Congress

to pass a legislation denying tax exemptions to private schools which discriminated against blacks and minorities. President Reagan warned Warsaw and Moscow that US would take further economic embargoes if the situation in Poland does not improve. But Moscow radio described Reagan's comments as crude and groundless. In an interview with *Los Angeles Times* President Reagan justified his military spending to meet the "Red menace". US Secretary of State Alexander Haig will give priority to the situation in Poland instead of nuclear arms discussion when he meets his Soviet counterpart in Geneva next week. US space ship Columbia is ready for another space mission scheduled to take place in March. A retired US Navy Admiral, Head of private research centre for Defence Administration, said that the nuclear arsenals in the hands of US was sufficient enough to deter and defeat Soviet Union. **MEXICO:** A UNESCO Commission on Communications rejected a US proposal to defer the setting up of Asia-Pacific news network. US argued that regional network would confer exclusively national news agencies to the detriment of international news agencies. But Malaysia argued that its purpose was not to dislodge international news agencies but to supplement their services. **UNITED NATIONS:** US vetoed a Security Council resolution invoking sanctions against Israel for applying its laws to captured Golan Heights. Arab and nonaligned countries will now call for an emergency session of the UN assembly to adopt the same resolution. UN Secretary General Perez de Cueller said that there was no evidence of foreign interference in Poland that calls for UN discussions.



A COMMENT AND A SUGGESTION

## Mahaweli Draught Animal Programme

By R. Kahawita

We read with interest Minister Dissanayake's outline of an Animal Production Programme. It is a welcome sign to have a programme where work was started with "no plans no programmes". It is good, practical and laudable if the time schedule to produce a harnessable animal could be accelerated. This is not possible, because Nature has her own time schedule, whether artificially done or in the natural way. From the beginning to the time the animal is ready to be put to plough, it will be four to five years—if everything went well according to the nature's own plans. This was the insurmountable obstacle experienced at Minneriya, Polannaruwa, Gal Oya and Elahera on similar schemes conceived and implemented by D. S.—that man of great vision. If we had continued



with what he started in 1935 and pressed on up to 1952 while adjusting the schemes to suit out requirements as we gained experience, there would not have been the need for a Draught Animal Programme in 1982. With his death, those who followed him did not have that vision, nor his wisdom, nor the initiative nor the drive to build a stable and credit-worthy peasantry. There may be millions of rupees worth of equipment required for animal breeding programmes at Amparai, Uda Walawe, and several other centres now closed down. Having destroyed what we had with one hand, we are trying to recreate what we destroyed with the other hand. This is a national character which we cannot change. We have to go through out political life with it.

We agree with the Minister that two-wheelers or four wheelers or for that matter, any kind of mechanisation to operate a two to 2½ acre family farm may not be necessary. It is just three days work for a pair of draught animals, and within ten days from the first ploughing the land is ready for sowing or transplanting work with a two wheeler is not faster than with a pair of bullocks, four wheeler is too heavy and expensive. Animal ploughing produces a better tilth than with a tractor. We also have abandoned four-wheel tractors and now maintain ten pairs of draught animals. It is sure, no breakdowns and the village technology can repair and maintain the equipment—even if we grant the use of a tractor for the first ploughing the final preparation has to be done by a pair of bullocks for wet sowing or transplanting. The animal is a necessary companion to a farmer like his spouse. This dictum of D. S. is much deeper than what meets the eye. The animal gives all the organic manure the farmer needs for his highland cultivation. This was the principle behind the idea that a farmer must have a pair of bullocks.

For wet land cultivation a buffalo cannot be replaced. Both the male and female can be used for an extra mouth, before the female is to be stalled for calving. This too, strangely enough, fits into the cultivation season. The growth of a buffalo calf is slow, therefore takes a longer period before a buffalo could be put to the plough. Neat cattle are suitable for dry land ploughing, difficult for wet land because of its physical suitability. Whatever the type of draught animal "maintenance" is the problem of the 2½ acre farmer, when his tract is under cultivation. In the early development plans of Minneriya, P.S.S. Gal Oya, Uda Walawe etc.—there were community grazing areas provided in each tract, to be managed and maintained by the community. They never worked because our farmers are individualists. This is also something we cannot change. However it worked in the North—then they are not Sinhala. To overcome this, some time in 1967 we set up "a draught Animal Pool", where a farmer could hire a ploughman, plough, and a pair of buffaloes, on the

payment of a hire per acre basis. This was an extension of the "Tractor Pool" which never worked satisfactorily. The buffalo pool started well. But then we were thrown out in 1970 and the operations formed the subject of a Parliamentary inquiry. There were 500 acres set apart for this pool, planted with fodder and grazing grasses. We are not aware what happened to this project, but we know that the officer who organized it was harassed so much that he died of a heart ailment.

**Minister Dissanayake's plan is sound if it could be continued and maintained without interruption for several years. But will it be possible with an anti-UNP movement in the offing? It may be another venture with R.I.P. inscribed before it took off. We are a peculiar breed of animals—we cut our noses to spite our faces. So we have been eternally in the grip of the white man.**

We have to realize that it will be four years before we can breed and sell a pair of bullocks to a farmer. At the moment there are 22,000 farmers awaiting a pair says Minister Dissanayake. At the end of another four years that is, when the new pair of buffaloes is ready to be driven out of the stockade there may be another 100,000 farmers waiting for the draught animals. Can we meet this demand?

Why not develop the Buffalo Pool idea which has been tried at Uda Walawe—there will not be falling by the wayside" due to neglect of the animals for lack of space to the farmers. The farmer who wants his 2½ acres ploughed will come to the pool—it may cost him at today's cost of things Rs. 35/- per acre including overheads and maintenance charges. That is what it has cost us during the last Maha. The pool has other income—Milk from the Pool animals, sufficient to maintain the Pool. We commend this idea to our youthful and energetic Minister—it is more satisfying than an innings at the wickets. It is building a viable peasantry; can never score a duck egg unlike at the wickets.



FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS

## Sri Lanka

By Gamni Navaratne

SRI LANKA'S OPPOSITION PARTIES appear convinced, despite Washington's denials that the US has a secret understanding with President Jayewardene's government for the use of the island's ports by the Seventh Fleet, much like its reported agreement for base facilities with Egypt and Saudi Arabia. This is the price, they believe, that the US

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982



has exacted for the massive economic assistance granted to Sri Lanka since 1977 when the right-wing United National Party came to power. Independent observers concede that Colombo's relations with Washington have never been so close and cordial as now. For the same reason, its opponents say that the government has become pro-American, notwithstanding protestations that the UNP regime continues to follow the foreign policy of non-alignment. The opposition has reasons to suspect the *bona fides* of the government. One of these is an alleged statement in a Pentagon project report for 1980-81 that the strategic naval base at Trincomalee needs to be developed into an Indian Ocean base for America. There have been suggestions in the American press too, including *The Washington Post* that Sri Lanka would make an ideal stopping place for US ships as "the government of Mr. Jayewardene is generally pro-American". The opposition has protested against a proposal to grant a US company, Coastal Corporation, the right to establish an oil terminal at Trincomalee to service American ships, including warships, if necessary. Among the other reasons are the guarantees against nationalisation of multinationals, soft-pedalling of Sri Lanka's own proposal to declare the Indian Ocean a "peace zone", the attempt to join the pro-American ASEAN, the omission of any reference in foreign policy statement to Diego Garcia, support of the US position on Afghanistan and Kampuchea and the frequent visits of US warships to the island's ports. To cap it all came statements by President Reagan and the US permanent representative to the UN Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, that US-Sri Lanka relations were now "flourishing."

The US has been interested in Sri Lanka from World War II days. At first, it was lukewarm because British influence was all-pervasive in the political economic and military spheres and served American purposes equally well. After independence, Washington began to take a new look at the strategic island. It appeared keen to draw it into a military alliance as part of its overall objective of preventing the spread of communism in Asia. Post-independence governments, dominated by the UNP, were decidedly pro-West. They did not object to the island's military bases—then under effective British control—being used by the British in the fight against Malaysian communists and by the Dutch and the French to suppress the independence struggles in Indonesia and Vietnam. In 1950, Sri Lanka recognized China, following Britain's lead. But the successor government refused to allow China or the Soviet Union to establish diplomatic missions in Colombo or to trade with them. However, owing to the pressure of public opinion, the UNP declined to get involved in a military pact.

DESPITE ITS ANTI-COMMUNISM, the UNP in 1952 surprised observers by entering into an agreement with China to barter rubber for rice. Sri Lanka  
TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982

was unable at the time to find markets in the West for its rubber and so was deprived of foreign currency to buy rice. "It was a matter of life and death for us," the Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake, had said. The US had made an abortive attempt to prevent the barter deal. Later, it has endeavoured to get it abrogated, again without success. It had withheld aid, cut off sulphur supplies (required to fight a rubber leaf disease) and had even threatened to bomb ships carrying rubber. At home, the anti-China lobby led by Mr. Jayewardene, had campaigned against the agreement and earned the derisive nickname, "Yankie dickie." In 1956, the West, led by the US, suffered another major setback in Sri Lanka with the emergence of the first socialist government, led by Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, founder of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). He promptly put Sri Lanka on the path of non-alignment, established relations with the Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries and induced the British to evacuate the air base at Katunayake and the Trincomalee naval base.

Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who became the world's first woman prime minister in 1960 (after the assassination of her husband, allegedly in a CIA plot) sought to consolidate the socialist base of the economy by nationalising key sectors controlled by local and foreign companies. Restrictions were also placed on the operation of foreign insurance companies and banks while the state's share in agriculture, industry and the import-export trade was expanded. A diversion of markets was attempted through increased trade with the socialist countries. These policies angered the West. The US retaliated by cutting off aid. As a consequence, Sri Lanka came to depend more for aid and trade on socialist countries, particularly China. The government, was described as being "pro-China" while Mr. Jayewardene accused Mrs. Bandaranaike of planning to lease Trincomalee to the Chinese in return for aid. The situation changed dramatically in favour of the west with the return to power of the UNP in 1965 under Mr. Senanayake. Though the new government remained broadly committed to non-alignment, there was a visible veering towards the West. But between 1970 and 1977, when Mrs. Bandaranaike returned to office there was a throwback to the pre-1965 era where relations with America and other western countries were concerned. In 1977, the UNP, led for the first time by Mr. Jayewardene, wrested power on a strong- anti-socialist platform. The government promptly opted for US-style development by switching to a free enterprise system on the promise of aid from Western sources, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

However, four years later the strategy has not succeeded in easing to any appreciable degree Sri Lanka's economic problems, chief among which are low living standards and acute unemployment.



Both external and internal factors have served to stamp it out. Mr. Jayewardene has assumed wide powers which opponents allege have made him a dictator in all but name. They have expressed the fear that he might follow the example of several other US-backed developing countries and do away with elections (due in 1983). To get out of the economic morass, the government has been forced to seek more foreign aid, especially from the US. America has expressed its willingness to continue to assist Sri Lanka, but observers believe the price will be heavy. In diplomatic circles here, there is already talk of the likelihood of granting base facilities. Mrs. Bandaranaike heads the list of non-believers in the government's reaffirmation of commitment to "strict non-alignment".

—*Times of India*, 5.1.82



NGUVU

## Random Notes

By Bwana Rafiki

The last *Nguvu* article I wrote touched not at all the events of the final day that week, starting with the arrival of a seventeen-year-old nephew from abroad just before midnight, taking him to what was virtually our immediate ancestral home where his mother had lived much of her childhood, and then an aunt's, and in the afternoon the cemetery to visit the grave of the grandmother whom he had been coming to see but who in God's plan could not wait, and then a great-aunt's who had predeceased her, her sister, by only eighteen days, and the graves of two other great-aunts in other parts of the cemetery. Foregoing Sunday as my wont, and the momentous events then, on Monday he was present at a funeral himself, when close friends would not go home but stayed on to chat in groups around the grave.

When we got back from the cemetery, my nephew and I rushed through our plan to go to the estate. Our luck was in for we caught the last bus that evening and we had to stand pretty well all the thirty-one miles. We had hardly got there when my nephew went to bed and off to sleep. He was up betimes unlike as in Colombo and as soon as we were free to do so we did a round of the estate. I encouraged him to paddle in the river and he did so. With him here I had the incentive to get to Colombo without the usual interminable delays and we were able to get on to the road to await the bus only an hour later than we had planned. In Colombo I found I was down to sing a solo of a song I had not practised as I had been under the impression that it would not

be required. So I got cracking practising so that the song I sang would bear a strong semblance to what I was supposed to sing. The second half became a sort of improvised Plain Chant, improvised I know, Plain Chant I was told.

Sure am I that it was with the support of the person for whose soul this whole exercise was being carried out that I did not break down or stop in the middle and that I finished as strongly as I began even if not, as I thought when I heard a play-back of my performance on a tape later, with the crystal clear articulation that I began. The acoustics in that church were superb, I could feel it and hear it as soon as I opened my mouth. There was no drowning echo. The choir was in the best of all places I felt. With that I had better stop this eulogy. My two grown-up nephews went off together that evening to stay at one of their homes. Although I was happy they were together. I felt a little sad. It wrecked subsequently what plans we had for the following day. But, perhaps, as it turned out, it was best that way. I did very little of what I intended to do, I brought tickets for some plays, that I remembered as soon as I had brought them I could not attend. So I handed the lot over to my sister. For the finals of the school's Shakespeare competition they were. I made my way back to the estate that night.

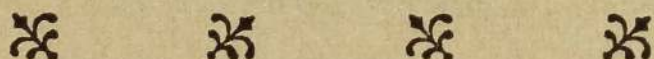
My cook forewarned by a watcher had prepared dinner so that after an hour-and-a-half-wait on the road for a bus to pick me up, and I worn out with standing in one place had returned to the bungalow, I was able to have some, but I have jumped a day by starting at the tail end of it. I was able to sell bamboos which have still not been removed. I understood today that the delay is over a permit to remove them. A man also came to buy teak trees and told me that unless he bribed the local government official on whose approval only will the permit to remove them be issued by a higher authority, the business of obtaining the permit would take days. He said that money for a bribe was a regular part of the expenses in the lawful business of buying teak trees. I expressed surprise and I still am horrified. It is the 27th and I have still not got ready the EPF for last month. This is by way of an interjection for bamboos were cut and stolen today, which will mean a visit to a police station, and there is a welcome summons to a police station elsewhere, and I have got to get to Kandy tonight, and keep in mind, too, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart. I write this after getting up at 2 a.m.

What I called a welcome visit to a police station was rather disappointing but through no fault of the police. I write this in Kandy after not having gone to bed all night, by design this time and not bad management. The day I must write about was commonplace enough, a visit to the bank, or rather two visits because of a cheque wrongly dated, a morning



commonplace as regards events, uncommon in that I was uncommonly tired. I had travelled down to Colombo and I had got up at 4 a.m. to do so. I hope the four tickets to the Shakespeare finals stood my sister in good stead, for I got the venue of the finals wrong and forgot to tell my sister so after I learnt about the mistake. The finals are always held in a different place. Anyway, the two places are close enough to each other and the correct venue passed on the way to the other, neither far away from our Colombo home, and I think the tickets would have carried the correct legend. I write this in a church hall, the Blessed Sacrament removed, friends sleeping on benches around me, the time nearly ten o'clock in the morning. I have not shaved yet and a talk I would like to go to starts in five minutes some miles away. I have just had a snooze.

Now I write about Saturday. I was able to keep that Appointment about the Immaculate Heart and then ran for a bus to get me home again. I visited the place where the bamboos had been stolen. and then I was called to the bungalow because a man who attends to cattle wanted leave for his mother was ill. I made out the EPF for May. On my estate it comes out close on Rs. 1,000/-, a scandalous amount for a small estate of fifty acres. No wonder we can never develop, get on. I went along to see how the bamboos that I had sold had been cut. I was horrified to find that they had been cut all over the place, along the whole extent of the river instead of systematically starting at one end as I had asked them to do. This leaves the place wide open for thieving. So I asked the watcher to collect into heaps the off-scourings of the trees that had been cut, to lessen the chance of more bamboos being stolen by making detection easy. A young agent I have in my employment on trial to stop thefts gave me notice because I asked him to lend the watcher a hand.



#### LETTERS

### S.L.B.C.

Sir,

The S.L.B.C. which has gone on its way indifferent to what members of the public write to it by way of helpful criticism, hit a new "low" this morning in its English news broadcast. We were told, not once but three times, that the President has warned people about the "machinasations" of those who are criticising the new educational proposals ignorantly.

It is clear that neither the news writer nor the news reader knows enough English to distinguish between "machination" and "mechanisation". I wrote some time ago to the Director of Broadcasting on the necessity of seeing that the news broadcasts are written by somebody who really knows English but I did not even get a reply.

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982

Unless this superior attitude towards public criticism ends, the listener research that is going on now will be a waste of time and money.

136, Kachcheri-Nallur Road,  
Jaffna.

22.1.82.

R. E. J. A. SETUKAVALAR

## Official Language

Sir,

The Government must give serious consideration to the proposal by the Catholic Bishops that Sinhalese and Tamil be recognised as the official languages of the country with English as a link language in order to foster racial harmony and national unity. Christ said that a house built on a rock will stand but one built on sand will fall. United Sri Lanka will stand but a disunited one will collapse. There will be no problems to any person becoming proficient in these languages, for in the past European Catholic Priests who came to Sri Lanka to preach the word of God, were proficient in these languages in about six months' time to preach in these languages.

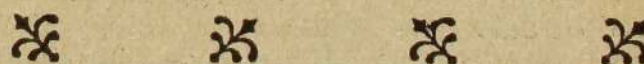
The only person and the only Party that could implement this proposal are the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene and the UNP respectively. There is no doubt that the UNP will be in power in Sri Lanka for the next fifteen years or more. The proposal if accepted cannot be implemented overnight, but for a complete implementation at least a period of 25 yaers must be set apart. The Sinhalese and the Tamil leaders and if agreed any others must at a round table conference decide ways and means of implementing this proposal.

I have no doubt that our great leader Mr. J. R. Jayewardena will give serious consideration to this proposal and will go all out to implement it so that Sri Lanka will stand united and be a "pearl" in the Indian Ocean in the years to come.

18, Ridgewood Street,  
Underwood, Qld., 4119  
Australia.

20.1.82.

J. VAN SANDEN



#### POEM

## The Journey

They are still here,  
The treasured patterns  
Of my childhood days—  
The trellised woodwork  
Of that rambling home—  
The gleam of polish  
On that old Dutch chest.  
The black cat stretched



Within the patch of sun  
That makes a golden splash  
Upon the cool red floor,  
They welcome me again.

Here is the niche,  
Within the wall of mellow stone,  
Where oft I hid  
My childhood souvenirs—  
A wooden bead of blue,  
A mottled stone,  
A clear red piece of glass  
A ruby—in my childhood realm.  
And this, the stairway  
To that small square room  
That nestles 'neath the eaves;  
Whose windows frame  
A wooded avenue  
Of Araliya blooms.

Oh no, it has not changed,  
My home of old.  
But I have changed.  
My life attuned,  
To city scenes.  
It's only when I make  
This pilgrimage  
Down memory lane  
That once again  
The hunger burns—  
The yearning for  
Those old familiar things.  
The vibrant need  
To let my old home shelter me, again.

LORRAINE

DAMBALA

## versus Sambola

- (1) Andrew Scot gave us all a shock when she wrote  
At length on the poor man's lot,  
She speaks of meat from Dambala made cheap, when  
I cannot afford a sambola-treat.
- (2) For the rich it is meat, fish, and eggs, the poor are  
left with only the dregs.  
Dambala is nutritious, Dambala is good, but can  
You digest it, without a peg.
- (3) Poverty and hunger go hand in hand, while  
the elites  
Non-stop round pork must "land",  
Sixteen pounds of cereals makes one pound of pork.  
So to feed the world's hungry, there can be no hope.
- (4) Come lets get our proteins from milk, fish, and eggs  
Those sources we know from time immemorial,  
Winged beans have proteins in root, leaf and stem,  
But its value to all classes is just ceremonial.

- (5) The People are hungry, the people are angry, but you  
Offer them Dambala when they cry out for just  
Sambola,  
A bold truthful scientist has got into a bad spot.  
So don't put me in a mess, dear Andrew Scot.

Colombo  
21.1.82.

*A Thousand Apologies.*



SOVIET UNION

## Agriculture In 1981

*Moscow, January 10, 1982:* Though the USSR Central Statistical Board has not published the final data yet it is already clear that the outgoing agricultural year cannot be called successful. There is no need to over-dramatize the situation—if judged by the calory volume in the diet of its population, the USSR figures among the best provided countries of the world. But it is the structure of the daily diet that leaves something to be desired: the consumption of the essential foods, particularly meat, milk, fresh vegetables and fruits, is below the optimum level. the level has not lowered during the year, but neither has it gone up, and this is the essence of the matter. The agricultural production of the USSR is growing—this is an indisputable fact. Its average annual gross output has grown from 100,000 million roubles in 1966-1970 to 123,700 million roubles in 1976—1980 in comparable prices. However, the Soviet people have the right to expect a larger growth. Last November's Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee stressed that adverse weather conditions were not the only reason for the incomplete fulfilment of the agricultural production development plans. The year's results confirm this.

In a number of collective and state farms (even in the Non-Black-Earth Zone of the RSFSR, in Siberia, in the Baltic Republics, i.e., in areas with unfavourable climatic and soil conditions) good crops of cereals were grown despite the drought: 4 tons and more per hectare (cereals are the most important crops in the USSR). If every one of the 46,000 Soviet collective and state farms had grown a crop only half that size, the country, according to a simple calculation, would have at least 250 million tons of grain. That would adequately meet the food, technical and fodder requirements. The average annual harvest in 1976-1980 was 205 million tons while the plan for 1981-1985 has set a target of 239 million tons. The experience of the advanced farms shows that this volume is quite attainable. What should be done to spread this experience everywhere? It is a task for specialists, both researchers and practical workers. Their analysis of the past year's lessons points to what is needed:

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982



**HIGHER OVERALL FARMING STANDARDS.** An educated and better trained farmer will achieve better results, even with an imperfect labour organisation and system of material incentives, than a technically illiterate, unresourceful farmer working under conditions which are ideal as regards labour organisation and remuneration. It is not incidental that in the Soviet Baltic Republics, where the natural conditions are not very good but the level of general and technical know-how among farmers is traditionally high, crops, milk yields and animal weights are higher than in the most fertile districts of the USSR, although farming is organized on the same pattern everywhere.

**NEW FARMING TECHNIQUES.** In the USSR these are introduced at a slower rate than they should, although much depends on them. An example from last year: furrowing the land with the stubble unturned has been used widely in the arid areas of Siberia and Kazakhstan, but only several years ago was considered unthinkable and impermissible by the traditional Ukrainian farmer. Now the system is employed in three-quarter of the crop-growing areas in the Poltava Region of the Ukraine. Despite the severe drought in 1981 a high crop of winter wheats was harvested there (an average 2.93 tons per hectares over the region) due primarily to the drought-proof properties of ploughing without a mouldboard.

**WIDER USE OF MATERIAL INCENTIVES, IMPROVING MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING.** The principle of centralized planning goes without question, of course. What is needed is better organisation, utilising all the advantages of socialist economic management—which has already been done by the best collective and state farms. A combination of all these suggestions will be put on the agenda of the CPSU Central Committee Plenary Meeting to be held in 1982. According to a widely held opinion, the importance, the scope and the consequences of the impending decisions will be comparable to those of the measures adopted in March 1965, when the CPSU Central Committee Plenary Meeting elaborated the long-term principles of the Soviet agricultural policy for the present stage of its development.

—Moscow News



LONDON

## Takes A Beating

By Alan Chalkely

**CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS,** commodity price fluctuations, high interest rates—they all create opportunities for windfall profits. They are also helping to break up old trading relationships and make vast changes across the world in ownership of assets. An especially colourful case has been the takeover of Guthrie, the old British plantation company, by Permodalan Nasional, the Malaysian bumiputra

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982

mutual fund. The Malaysians conducted a "dawn raid" on the London stock exchanges and swept up a majority of the stock before the puzzled and pained British authorities knew what had hit them. The Malaysians were helped considerably by at least two market considerations—for one thing, the prices of plantation commodities have been dull all this year, and so a lot of investors were willing to sell the Guthrie shares, and sterling has weakened a great deal in recent months, and so the Malaysians could buy the money cheaply for the purchase.

In the process, the clever Malaysians and their advisors exposed the gloriously stupid rules and codes which have been introduced in London. First of all, there are "dawn raid" rules themselves (designed to prevent the very thing that Permodalan did)—if, for instance, you already hold 15% of a company's shares, you mustn't buy more than a further 5% in any seven-day period. Ah, but—if you get to 30% then you must bid for the whole lot. These rules are like a kind of arbitrary "convention" in the game of contract bridge, the card game of some complexity. In that game, if you call "two clubs" it can mean you have no clubs or you have a very strong hand, or you want to know your partner's strength or whatever. The call is of no reality, it is a mere signal. So with these 5% 7-day kind of rules, they have no reality. Each transaction on a free stock exchange is unique to itself; each seller and each buyer has his own reasons for his action. Also, the percentages are arbitrary, and so is the time limit. So the Malaysians played the stupid rules for their own benefit. They took a 5% chunk, and then when things looked good in a few hours, they "went for the top prize" and made the 30%. Then they got over 50%, and couldn't care less; they could mop up any part of the remainder as they wished. London was furious. "Ungentlemanly", "not the way the rules should have been played," etc.

**Well, gentlemen of the City, I have news for you. Economic life is not a gentlemanly pursuit. If Britain can squeeze textile imports, and the EEC can harshly clamp down on tapioca chips, then don't be surprised if other nations can play at that game. It is you who made the rules, gentlemen, and at the moment they are not polite at all.** So to return to the subject of general world economic scene. We may all agree that the currency and commodity fluctuations, and the very high interest rates, are a very bad thing. It would be better if conditions were more stable. We could plan better. There would be fewer unfair, windfall profits for the clever; prices would be more like costs of production. But those who realise how the system works in reality, and those who can generate their own funds without resort to much burrowing, can benefit. And in the process they will be breaking up old systems and bringing in a breath of fresh air. *Modern Asia*, November 1981.



## Arms For Taiwan

By Boris Barakhta

*Moscow, January 20:* The U.S. Administration has announced its decision not to sell new F-16 and F-5G fighters to the Taiwan regime. Alan Ramberg, a spokesman for the State Department, said that the U.S. Administration also decided to postpone modernization of Taiwan's American fighters F-5E and the shipment to the island of sea-to-sea missiles Harpoon. At the same time, the United States has given permission to Taiwan to continue production under licence of other types of military hardware, including fighters. John Holdridge, Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State, has arrived in Peking to notify the Chinese leaders of the American decision. The American decision was preceded by extensive speculation in the Western media about the coming of "a cool period" in American-Chinese relations as a result of continued support of the Taiwan regime by the Reagan Administration. That speculation was also fuelled by Peking itself, which is anxious to camouflage its policy of arranging closer relations with Washington. Last year the Chinese press carried numerous articles accusing the United States of "torpedoing" American-Chinese relations, of "interference" in China's internal affairs and of "hegemonism." It was a bluff, however. In practice, Peking continues to observe the rules of the secret game in which China's national interests are at stake.

The kernel of the matter is, however, that undaunted by criticism the U.S. Administration, judging by the recent remarks of its representatives continued and will continue to supply arms to Taiwan, regarding it as its "unsinkable aircraft carrier" off the coast of the People's Republic of China. The *Washington Post* said that the American policy in relation to the Kuomintang regime was formulated in Washington, not Peking. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, last year the United States supplied Taiwan with more than 500 million dollars' worth of military hardware, arms and components. A short while ago the Reagan Administration notified the Congress of its decision to sell Taipei a new batch of spare parts for military hardware worth a total of 97 million dollars. The objectives of the unseemly game played by Peking and Washington are clear. "The United States must continue developing its strategic relations with China to deter the Soviet Union," the Xinhua news agency said in a commentary. The statement beats all other for frankness. To strengthen its anti-Soviet and anti-socialist alliance with imperialism and synchronise its actions with it, Peking is ready to forget about all its "grievances" against Washington for a time. *APN.*

## TENDER NOTICE

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

Tenders for construction of New Post Office and P.M's Quarters at Buttala will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 A.M. on Wednesday, 17.02.1982.

02. Tender Forms could be obtained from District Engineer Monaragala before 4.15 P.M. on 12.02.1982. by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 600,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs.250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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

**K.C. Samaraweera.**  
Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,  
P.O. BOX 504,  
COLOMBO 1.  
25.01.1982.

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982



# Scooped Up Guthrie

By Ken Laidlaw

WHEN IT COMES TO ACQUIRING CONTROL of local assets and influencing the world price of a national commodity, Third World governments should study Malaysia which raised the world price of tin to its highest level in years, and stunned observers of the London Stock Market by acquiring control of the UK-based Guthrie Corporation in a dramatic four-hour raid on market shares. Guthrie, which began operations there 150 years ago, is one of the oldest rubber plantation companies in Malaysia. As one Malay put it: "When you speak of the British Empire, you speak of Guthrie." So the acquisition of Guthrie is a major coup. For some time now the Malaysian Government has been concerned about Guthrie's diversification away from its traditional plantation activities in Southeast Asia. Last December Permodalan Nasional, a Malaysian government investment institution bought a 27.6% share in Guthrie in order to have some control over its rubber plantations.

Buying Guthrie is part of Malaysia's politically popular economic policy of gaining control of locally-based assets. In recent years the government has purchased the London Tin Group—now Malaysian Mining Co (MMC)—and acquired control of another large plantation corporation, Sime Darby. Guthrie's rising fears of Malaysia's nationalisation drive have prompted it to begin diversifying its assets out of plantations and into heavy machinery—from fire fighting equipment to aeroplanes. Only last year Guthrie announced long-term plans to maintain its plantation acreage, with 40,000 new acres in China and the Philippines—but only 5,000 acres in Malaysia. And its scale of a 73% stake in Guthrie Berhad, its trading subsidiary in Singapore and Malaysia, together with its plan to buy the US-based Page Airways, raised Malaysia's suspicions even further.

ONCE THE GOVERNMENT decided to gain control of Guthrie, it made a swift and sophisticated use of the London Stock Exchange, tactics which in the past have been considered the exclusive preserve of operators based in industrialised countries. Using the Queen's own stockbrokers Rowe and Pitman, and the advice of the Rothschild's merchant bank, Permodalan Nasional took advantage of the low share price of Guthrie and a falling pound to gain complete control in a matter of hours. At 9 a.m. on Monday, September 7 Guthrie was an independent company. By noon the "dawn raid" was over, and the Malaysians were the owners. "There is nothing to be said except a requiem mass," commented Ian Coates, Guthrie managing director, sadly. In

the past decade Guthrie has tried with increasing desperation to diversify away from its plantation interests as a way of protecting itself from the vagaries of rubber and palm oil prices. In 1970 it bought into the United Kingdom's carpets industry as well as textiles. Since then it has acquired companies in many parts of the world. These now include, for instance, a metal stamping and plastic forging business and a number of joint ventures in Canada, fire-fighting and fire protection equipment in a number of countries, and engineering and trading activities in Nigeria. The moves have not been an unqualified success. Last December Guthrie announced it was merging its carpet interests with Stoddard Holdings, the Scottish Axminster and Wilton manufacturer, after the carpets had lost money. Its profits remain predominantly dependent on plantations. In 1980 total operating profits came to £29 million with some £21.7 million being made in Southeast Asia. Plantations accounted for £20 million. **The weakness of the pound in recent months has proved a boon to the Malaysians. Had they made their bid when sterling was strong eight months ago, the £9 a share offer would have been equivalent of Malaysian \$48.60. Now it is worth Malaysian \$38.78, a discount of 19%.**

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME that the Malaysian government has taken advantage of the market. Usually its aim has been to gain control of foreign companies which have most of their assets in Malaysia. Over the past decade, control by foreign capital in Malaysia has been reduced from 66% to a little over 50%. But last year the government moved abroad, and acquired a 17% slice of the British rubber company, Dunlop. Only 25% of Dunlop's assets are inside Malaysia. Gaining control of the nation's assets is part of Malaysia's 20-year new economic policy, introduced after the race riots of 1969. The aim is to reduce racial inequalities in wealth, income and employment by 1990. And through a system of unit trusts for Bumiputras (indigenous Malays), and with Permodalan Nasional acting as a buying agent, the government hopes that 30% of the capital of public firms will be controlled by Bumiputra institutions before the end of the decade.

Racial Malays account for only 55% of the total Malaysian population. The remainder are Chinese and Tamils (from India), whose control of the national economic structure was one underlying cause of the 1969 riots. So far the New Economic Policy has fallen behind, with the Bumiputras reaching only 12.4% of control by the half way point last year. Backed by soaring oil revenues, the government intends to continue acquisitions of foreign companies through Permodalan. Its recent foray on the London Stock Exchange is unlikely to be a one-off operation. Malaysia's expertise in the Guthrie affair has also been demonstrated on the London Metal Exchange.



Most developing countries complain of their inability to control the prices of the commodities they sell, which in some cases account for as much as 90% of their foreign exchange earnings. Instead prices are determined by speculation on the London and New York commodity exchanges. Malaysia has recently demonstrated that a developing country can play the markets and bump up prices.

A member of the International Tin Pact, Malaysia was angered earlier this year at the failure of the major consuming countries to agree to a price increase. It has been over a year since the last rise and Malaysia and other tin producers argued that the low world price was not even covering the cost of production. So Malaysia took unilateral action outside the pact. The Malaysian Mining Corporation appointed London brokers Marc-Rich to buy substantial quantities of tin on the London Metal Exchange. Their action worked. Since May world tin prices have risen by over 40%, reaching an all time high of £ 8,440 per tonne at the end of August. The takeover of Guthrie and the action on tin prices are among the very few examples of a Third World government manipulating the stock exchanges to gain control of its natural

resources. Malaysia played the game and played it very well. Not many other developing countries will be able to follow this example, because few have Malaysia's rising oil revenues to provide the necessary finance. But it is possible that a group of Third world commodity producers might pool their resources to attack the markets—and win.

*Modern Asia*, November 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. 3/61/228  
03J.80 IR.106

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. 177/3 of 25. 01 1982

*Name of Village etc* : Ayuwndama village in Kudag-alboda Korale, Kurunegala D. R. O's Division, Kurunegala, District.

*Name of Land* : Werella Watta

*Plan and Lot No* : Lot No. 1 in Preliminary Plan KU. 1021

The Kachcheri,  
Kurunegala,  
15th January. 1982.

**A. GEORGE.**  
District Land Officer  
Kurunegala District

**MAKE**

**TRIBUNE**

A Weekly Habit

— For News Behind The News —

**SUBSCRIBE  
IMMEDIATELY**

Until March 31, 1982, Subscriptions will be received at the current rates, Rs. 160 for 52 issues, Rs. 90 for 26 issues and Rs. 50 for 13 issues.

*Foreign Rates on Application*

**TRIBUNE**  
43 Dawson Street  
Colombo 2  
Tel. 33172



Govt.



Notice

**Notice under section 7 of The Land Acquisition Act. (Chapter 460) as Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) No. 28 of 1964.**

Reference No. 11/7/5/36

The Government intends to acquire the land described in the schedule below, for a public purpose, for particulars, please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No 177/12 29-01-1982

**SCHEDULE**

District : Anuradhapura  
D. R. O's Division : Kekirawa  
G. S. 's Division : Tulana 47 A  
Name of Village : UDA NIDIGAMA  
Name of Land : Helambagaswewa Hena, Miladukolluhena, Koangahahena. Wanelawatta, Galwetiya-hena, Meegahawatta, Udanidigamawela, Palugangoda, Kuruwita-hena, Galwalayaya, Udanidigamakele, Ihalawewahena, Nelligasyaya,  
Plan No. : F. V. P. 1128 (Sup. No. 1)  
Lot No. : 46-135, 137-140-147, 149-155 157-168, 170-176, 178-180 183-185, 187-198, 200-203, 205-208, 210.

The Kachcheri  
Anuradhapura.  
29-12-1981

**K. D. S. Nanayakkara**  
Acquiring Officer Land.

**Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act, (Cap.460) As Amended By Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964**

Reference No. 3/2/1/7i148/14

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below, For further particulars, please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 177)8 of 27-01-1982.

**SCHEDULE**

A.G.A's Division : Negombo  
Village : Katunayake  
Situation :  
Name of Land : Bakmeegahawatta alias Indigahawatta Assmt. No.162 Negombo road.  
Lot Nos. : 04  
Plan No. P.P.Co. : Gam.87

**A.L.S. Malwenna.**  
District Land Officer of Gampaha District.

Kachcheri,  
GAMPAHA.  
Date 25-81-82

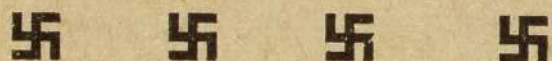


## TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

**WE ENTER SPORTS JOURNALISM**  
to view sports in Sri Lanka from a  
Tribune angle - constructively as well as  
critically.

**WE WELCOME** criticism and comments  
about Tribune Sportscope particularly  
suggestions as to how it can be made  
better and brighter.

**WE WILL BE HAPPY** to publish your  
views - if your communications are  
properly authenticated - depending on  
the exigencies of space.



### SPOTLIGHT

## Sri Lanka In Test Cricket

Cricket in Sri Lanka will break new ground with the staging of the First Official Test match between Sri Lanka and England on the picturesque P. Saravanamuttu Stadium from February 17th to 22nd.

The England team led by Keith Fletcher arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday (February 5th) to a rousing welcome with the captain promising to play bright and positive cricket.

The visitors will play their first game in Kandy, on the newly built Asgiriya Stadium which has been brought to playing condition in next to no time. Mr. Gamini Disanayake, President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka who is also the

Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development, spent many anxious days and nights in seeing that the stadium is brought to perfect playing condition before the England cricketers arrived.

The Asgiriya Stadium is now in topping condition and the Englishmen as well as the local cricketers are sure to revel on a good wicket and ideal playing conditions.

The team to represent Sri Lanka has not been picked at the time of writing, but on form most of our frontliners cricketers pick themselves. The Sri Lanka selectors comprising K. M. T. Perera (Chairman) Anura Polonowita, Dr. H. I. K. Fernando and S. E. G. Perera will have an unenviable task to perform in the picking of the Sri Lanka squad.

The five-day trial conducted by the Board only added to the headaches of the selectors. The Selectors should have requested for a "Possibles"—"Probables" match and put the squad through a strenuous training and practice session.

Trials are okay if they are conducted with a purpose. The Selectors apparently have their eleven already jotted down. If a player from nowhere in line for selection comes off with a sterling performance are the selectors going to accommodate him in the Sri Lanka team? Certainly not. So the poor cricketer who comes off in a "trial" has to cool his heels on the side-lines cursing all and sundry for conducting the trials.

Trials conducted earlier had proved this. I remember a trial where one of the captains was asked not to bowl a particular bowler. When a partnership blossomed the captain was forced to bring this bowler on and he was an instant success. Orders went out immediately to the captain to take the bowler off and with that went chances this particular bowler had of obtaining his Sri Lanka "cap". So much for trials.

In India the Englishmen failed to come to terms with spin and pace alike. In the First Test which India won the spinners played havoc and had the Englishmen well and truly beaten. The only paceman of standing in India, Kapil Dev, also shocked the Englishmen with some classic fast bowling. So it will be interesting to see on what lines our Selectors will map out their line of attack.

When the last England team played here in 1977 captained by the controversial Tony Greign, the Selectors gave Sri Lanka's captain Anura Tennekoon four spinners with which to attack the Englishmen. The four spinners were D. S. de Silva, Ajit de Silva, Lalith Kaluperuma and Ranil Abeynaike. The foursome are still in the game and it is likely that the first three will play again.



"DS", Ajit and Lalith are all experienced hands in their trade and were in the Sri Lanka squad that toured England last year. They have also had tours of India and Pakistan and are masters of their craft.

The threesome is capable of bowling to a decent line and length and if the wicket responds even slightly to spin this trio will certainly prove menacing. Leg spin, googly bowler D. S. de Silva is one of the best of his kind in world cricket today and the slow scoring Englishmen are going to have a time countering his wiles.

There is a very good chance of Sritharan Jeganathan, too, joining DS, Ajit and Lalith and forming Sri Lanka's spinning quartette. Jeganathan in addition to his tantalising bowling is also a reliable batsman and one of the top fielders in the country. League cricket in England has helped "Jega" to improve his game and now he is fit to once again sport the Sri Lanka "cap".

*Allrounder* picks the following to do duty for Sri Lanka in the Test:

Bandula Warnapura (Capt), Duleep Mendis (V. Capt), Roy Dias, Rohan Jayesekera, Anura Ranasinghe or Sritharan Jeganathan, Mahes Goonetilleke, Ajit de Silva, D. S. de Silva, Lalith Kaluperuma, Asantha de Mel and Sidath Wettimuny.

This side looks well balanced both in batting and bowling and in the side are some outstanding fielders.

Anyway selecting a team in any sport is not an easy assignment and we hope the Selectors will endeavour to do a job to the best of their ability and pick a team on form.

After the tour of the Englishmen is over the Selectors will have another difficult task to perform—that of picking a squad to tour Pakistan in the latter part of February.

The Englishmen are a tried and tested lot and are masters when it comes to Test cricket. We have had teams from England playing here in the past, but these have been unofficial Tests and light-hearted games. But this English team will be the first to play an official test with Sri Lanka and as such they will certainly enter this game with an altogether different outlook and approach.

They have a side strong in every department of the game. Though they will miss the steadying influence of Geoff Boycott they have Chris Tavaré who is following in Boycott's footsteps. Chris is fast earning a name for careful batting. He plodded on in India and his slow scoring rate was one factor that went to thwart victory for England.

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982

Opener Graham Gooch has finally found form with the bat and making his first appearance here he is certain to be a draw.

However, the star attraction on this tour will be the mercurial Ian Botham. Botham has taken the cricketing world by storm with his fantastic effort with both bat and ball. He holds the record for the fastest 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in Test cricket. With his ability to have a go at the bowling from the first ball and with his ability to get the ball to rise off a good length he will surely prove a nightmare to our cricketers and a big draw to the spectators.

The Cricket Board had a few problems with the cricketers who were demanding higher wages. But the Board President settled all problems with his clever handling of the situation and now everything is set for the big day.

The Sri Lanka cricketers must play the game and play it hard for this will be our first fling at Test Cricket and a good show will do to enhance the good name of the country.

ALLROUNDER



SPORTS CHRONICLE

## January 10-15

**JANUARY 10:** Marlon Von Haught the 17 years old batting prodigy from St. Anthony's College, Kandy, smashed a scintillating double century—224 against Dharmaraja at Katugastota. When young Marlon was at the wicket there was a possibility of Jack Anderson's record of 297 being broken. Anderson set up this batting record in 1917. Marlon is one of the most promising cricketers in the local cricket scene now and it is hoped that the authorities concerned will take him in hand and spur him on to greater effort with the bat.

The Aussie blind cricketers won a Test against the blind cricketers from Sri Lanka played at Moratuwa. The Aussie blind cricketers were all received wherever they played.

Mr. E. W. Balasuriya a keen sport promoter in Kandy was appointed to be in charge of the "gate" at Asgiriya where the first game between the Sri Lanka Board President's XI and the English team will be played.

**JANUARY 11:** Dashing Duleep Mendis hit the local cricket scene like a hurricane scoring 98 in the first innings and followed it up with a blistering 123



in the second innings against the strong Nodescripts in the final round "Sara" Trophy match.

The SSC scored a first inings points victory. Scores : SSC 417 and 258; NCC 275. Mendis' 50 came off 36 balls and his 100 came in 77 balls and was made in 125 minutes. He gave delightful exhibition of controlled hitting and as always entertained the large crowd present. There is no better sight than Mendis in full cry in Sri Lanka cricket today.

In the other "Sara" games Bloomfield had an outright triumph over the Tamil Union. This was a surprise victory for the Bloomfielders as the Tamils were expected to offer stiff opposition. The match-winner for Bloomfield was their tantalising off spinner Lalith Kaluperuma who is also staking a strong claim to retain his place in the Sri Lanka team. Waranapura the Sri Lanka captain scored twin half centuries in this game. Scores: Bloomfield 345 and 198 for seven; Tamil Union 220 and 104.

Moratuwa Sports Club just failed to beat the bad light and snatch a victory over the Nomads. The umpires were compelled to call off play after two deliveries in the 18th mandatory over at five minutes past six. Scores: Nomads 79 and 209 for five; Moratuwa SC 395 and 116 for 4 at close.

The Colombo Cricket Club had to be content with first innings points in their game against the Saracens. The Saracens managed to get up to 298 due to a careful 140 by their prolific scorer Flavian Aponso who hit up 140. Scores: Saracens 298 and 342P CCC 308 for 9 dec., and 23 for one.

Police went down to the Air Force by a solitary run in their game. Air Force 205,287; Police 204 and 184 for 6: Australia's chances of entering the finals of the Benson and Hedges tournney best of five matches all but dissappeared with another defeat at the hands of the West Indies at the Melbourne Cricket ground. It was the second loss for the Aussies in as many days following their capitulation to Pakistan.

The Australians batting first scored 146 and the West Indies hit up the required runs for victory for the loss of 7 wickets. A disappointed Greg Chappell who skippers the Aussies said after the match was lost: "We had to win both today and yesterday to keep our chances alive but we didn't and we just have to win our next three games in a row—two of which are against the West Indies....I think our fielding has let us down and we are not converting our run-out chances as much as we should", he added. The West Indian captain Clive Lloyd said he would not have batted if he had won the toss. "I thought there was a lot of moisture in the wicket and I would have put the Australians in to bat." Scores: Australia 146; West Indies 147 for 5.

Meanwhile, England after losing the first Test to India were held to a tame draw by East Zone in a friendly game at Jameshedpur. The England players entertained the crowd with some antics in the closing minutes. Richards the wicket keeper bowled with pads on the Graham Gooch kept wickets without. Scores: East Zone 74 and for no loss at close: England 356 for 8 dec:

After trailing 0-2 Saunders the glamour boys of socecr in Sri Lanka bloossomed to a fascinating 5-2 victory over York SC in the semi-finals of the Abdul Rahman Knockout soccer tourney.

**JANUARY 12:** Geoff Boycott who deserted the England team and flew home to Yokshire gave his version as to why he did so. 41 years-old Boycott who has always been a controversial figure in the cricketing scene clarified as to why he played golf during the fourth Test against India after he has been excused fielding in the match because he was unwell. Boycott said that the golfing incident has been blown out of proportion. The teams' physiotherapist had advised Boycott to find different surroundings and fresh air. To insist or insinuate I played 18 holes of golf and went there while our players were fielding in the morning is ludicrous", Boycott said.

After leading 3-1 at half time Pakistan, holders of the World Cup Hockey Title defeated Holland 4-2 in a fast paced semi-final match of the Fifth World Cup Hockey Championship in Bombay. West Germany beat Australia 8-5 on penalties after extra time when the score was 3-3 West Germany led 1-0 at half time.

Merlene Ottey who already holds three world records set a new mark in the women's 440-yard dash at an Invitational Track and Field Meet in Johnson City, Tennessee. Merlene from the United States ran the race in 53.2 secs to erase the record of 53.5 secs set by Rosalyn Bryant. "I had a good feeling when I went out on the track", said Marlene who holds the records for the 220 yards, the 300 yards and the 300 metres.

The World Cup Soccer Qualifying matches are over. 103 countries competed in the Qualifying rounds seeking places alongside hosts Spain and holders Argentina in the 24 nation finals which will run from June 13 to July 11. Fiji suffered the largest defeat in the history of the World Cup being thrashed 13-0 by New Zealand. New Zealand qualified to play in the World Cup.

The selectors of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka made a surprise. The selectors of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka created a sensation by including the ageing Tony Opatha in the cricket "pool which is in training to meet the English cricketers. Opatha who gave up

TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982



playing serious cricket after the 79 tour of England has done well this cricket season which warranted his inclusion.

Three Polish boxers, one of them apparently related to Stanislaw Kania, former Communist Party Leader had defected to the West. Christa Hamann, a boxing official with the sports club in the Northern German town of Oldenburg said the three Kritos Kania, 27, Andrej Chabowski 18, and Andrej Silminski 31, ran away from their Gdansk team mates while on tour of West Germany and Denmark.

Jimmy Connors putting on display a brilliant array of strokes outplayed Wimbledon champion John McEnroe in the dispute filled 310,000 dollar Michelob Light Challenge Tennis Tourney.

Sunil Gavaskar the Indian captain congratulated his team on their good showing against England and discounted allegations that he had applied negative tactics as India were one up in the series.

**JANUARY 13:** The Chess Federation of Sri Lanka was gifted a block of land by the Government and Mr. Esmond Satharasinghe, Chairman, Brooke Bond Ceylon Ltd., has agreed to put up a building to house the Federation. It was Mr. Satharasinghe who was instrumental in promoting chess in the schools and all over the island by gifting chess sets and chess tables to a number of schools.

The West Indies entered the final series of the Benson and Hedges world Cup Series with a convincing seven-wicket victory over Pakistan. The West Indies now have 10 points and are in the lead followed by Pakistan with 8 points from 4 wins and Australia last with four points from two wins. Scores: Pakistan 191 for 7; West Indies 192 for 3.

Defending Champions Pakistan emerged World Cup Hockey Champions by beating West Germany by 3 goals to one in the final played in Bombay.

England and New Zealand were on equal terms in the points table of the Women's World Cup Cricket Tourney in Auckland. New Zealand trounced an International XI by 184 runs and England beat India by four wickets.

Surprise finalist Martina Navratilova gained her first win for 1982. Surprise finalist Anne Smith gave Martina Navratilova her first win for 1982 by losing, 2-6, 3-6 in a 200,000 dollar tournament in Washington. "I always play well in January. The indoor carpet suits my game and I'm always eager to begin the new year on the winter tour. Tonight the ball felt so good on my racquet I felt I could do anything."

**TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 6, 1982**

**JANUARY 14:** Keith Fletcher who won the toss and put India in to bat saw his gamble fail as India plodded on to a comfortable 178 for two wickets on the opening day of the 5th Cricket Test. The Brown's Trophy semi-finalists were found. They are Bloomfield-BCC and SSC and the Tamils.

The Indian women cricketers hit top form at Auckland in the World Cup Women's Cricket tournament. After losing to England they had a convincing win over Auckland by 146 runs.

**JANUARY 15:** Duleep Mendis set the SSC ground alight with a blazing 99 runs off 68 balls. He was virtually on one leg as he slammed the Tamil Union bowlers to all corners of the field in notching up his runs. Mendis has suffered a pulled muscle while fielding. Mendis cracked five sixes and 10 fours in his innings. In the other semi-final Bloomfield romped home easy winners against the NCC. Scores Tamil Union 255 for 9 in 50 overs: SSC 257 for 7 in 43.2 overs. NCC 161 in 50 overs: Bloomfield 162 for 8 in 41.5 overs.

The Australians kept their chances of qualifying for the Benson and Hedges limited-over cricket tournament by inflicting a 78-run defeat on the Pakistanis. The tourney is played with prize money amounting to 50,000 Australian dollars. Scores: Australia 230 for 5 in 50 overs: Pakistan 154 in 40.3 overs. Man of the Match: Kim Hughes.

Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, President of the Cricket Board visited Asgiriya to inspect the progress of the construction of the ground which has been earmarked as future Test-playing venue. The England cricketers will play their opening game on this ground.

Gundapp Vishwanath and Vashpal Sharma both hit centuries for India on the second day of their 5th Test against England in Madras. India went to 395 for 2 as Vishwanath remained unbeaten on 181 and Sharma on 102.

In the 150,000 dollar Benson and Hedges Tennis Open at Auckland, seeds continued to fall. Now only four seeds remain in the tourney.

In the first chess tourney conducted by the Chess Club of Galle and held at the club Parakrama Dahana-yake emerged champion with C. T. Kuruneru as runnerup.

In the Bob Hope Desert Classic Golf tournament, in Palm Springs, California, Rex Caldwell and Japans.



## Dream Castles ?

IS NOT THE UPALI MYSTERY getting "curioser and curioser" as Alice said in her Wonderland? That the two government morning dailies—the *Daily News* *Daily Mirror*--on Wednesday, January 27 had the identical report about the UNP Working Committee meeting held the previous day? That after setting out the names of the office-bearers for the current year, the report went on to say: "... Mr. N. G. P. Panditharatne Chairman, and Mr. Harsha Abeywardena, General Secretary, were appointed to make recommendations to the Working Committee from those who had applied for Karadeniya. **In the course of a discussion the question was raised as to whether Mr. Upali Wijewardene is a Member of the Party. It was then revealed that he had not sought membership of the Party**"? That this is another Upali mystery that must be cleared up? That though some *Tribune* readers say that Upali in one of his numerous statements in the foreign press had stated that he was "primary member of the UNP", we cannot ourselves trace any report in local papers where he had made such a claim? That in one report he is believed to have said that he was willing to serve any party that would like to have his service with his "large following" in the South? That the report of what transpired at last Wednesday's UNP Working Committee has come as a surprise to many who had swallowed Upali's claim (hook, line and sinker) that His Excellency the President, "my cousin J. R. Jayewardene", had invited him to be a member of his Cabinet and also his open boast that the only portfolio he would accept was Finance? That he also hinted on many occasions through indirect suggestions that he was being groomed to be the next President? That in order to succeed in this leap-frog jump to the topmost political job in this country (in two hops) Upali's papers had launched a virulent and vicious campaign against Ronnie de Mel, the Finance Minister, and also Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Leader of the UNP, tipped by many as the likely next President? That many in this country had also been led to believe that the campaign against Ronnie de Mel and Premadasa had the secret blessing of the President? That it was even whispered in some places that they were secretly inspired by the President? That the campaign against these two UNP stalwarts however has all makings of a personal Upali-type vendetta? That the "public interest" content in some of the "stories" published became threadbare by constant repetition? That there were many other pieces especially with sly

references and innuendos about wives, children and the private lives of some of the *dramatis personae* which were not matters of "public interest"? That one does not know what impact these stories had on the Establishment and the ruling political hierarchy but the fact that Upali's claim to be made the Finance Minister as a stepping stone to the Presidency seems to have withered on the stalk? That it is likely that Upali had expected the President and the UNP to "invite" him to join the Party? That thereafter he had probably expected to be "pressed" into accepting the portfolio of Finance and later be crowned as the heir to the presidentship after J. R. Jayewardene? That it does not look as if Upali's dreams will come true? That such dream castles (in the air) are worse than mirages when they are blown away by a whiff of reality? That if Upali wants to achieve political fame and success through his "cousin's party" he has to make a start by applying for membership—unless of course he can show that the UNP Working Committee had made a mistake or that its members did not know that he was a primary member of the Kamburupitiya branch in the Matara area? That in a jig-saw puzzle what political observers are anxious to sort out is whether there is an iota of truth in Upali's claims that he was not only the President's conscience but that the President had sought his advice on major strategic political moves? That at one time many had been persuaded to believe that Upali's claims and boasts were the gospel of the JR-Upali plan for the salvation of Sri Lanka? That today they seem to have doubts about the veracity of some of Upali's (name dropping) claims to greatness? That this column had raised one question a fortnight ago—whether the President had called for the resignation of the GCEC Board at the request of Upali or whether the President had acted on his own without consulting Upali? That Upali's version is that the President had sought the resignation of the entire Board once he had indicated his intention of tendering his resignation on January 4, 1982 in order "to enter politics at the grassroots level"? That reports in knowledgeable political circles today seem to suggest that Upali's version is not the truth, certainly not the whole truth? That Upali can clear up this mystery when he has his next heart-to-heart chat with the nation in a front-page interview? That among other matters the public would like to know is why he never sought membership in the UNP? (That this raises the question whether the President would have invited a person who was not a member of the Party "to join his Cabinet"? That Upali must also say whether the allegation that his oversize loan with State banks was in default is true or false, whether the allegation that he has not made the statutory declaration under the Exchange Control Act is a fact or not and whether he has cleared up his tax arrears in full or in part?

