

TRIBUNE



27TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION





WOOD FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

It's time you cleared some popular misconceptions about wood

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

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

The suitable species are –

Etamba (*Manzifera Zeylanica*),

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

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



Feel free to consult us
if you need further advice.

7. VAJIRA LANE, COLOMBO 5. TEL: 88299 & 85537.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SRI LANKANS are naturally very concerned that the value of their Rupee has progressively deteriorated in the last four years. When the Government adopted the new economic policies in July/August 1977, it was on the basis that the rupee would be devalued. The old two-tier currency rates were abolished (with a black market very much in the foreground) and a single straightforward system was introduced. The Sri Lanka rupee was allowed to float in relation to a basket of a few strong currencies after it was pegged, for a start, to one US dollar at around Rs. 15.50—a devaluation that brought the rupee to the black market level. Today four years later, the one US dollar costs about Rs. 20 and local futurologists predict that it may cost about Rs. 25. Government spokesmen have at last begun to take serious note of the need to promote local production of goods and services in order to check this galloping devaluation. Readers will recall that *Tribune* had pointed out, no sooner the new economic policy had been introduced that its success would depend on the quantum of local production and that unless production kept up with the inflow of new money into the system, the experiment would get into serious difficulties. Unfortunately, the government did not pay adequate attention to production, and had concentrated in long gestation and even non-productive (immediate) development programmes. The World Bank and the IMF have come down heavily on the Government for this sad default. There has been talk about maintaining 'financial discipline', but talk is not enough. Reports indicate that President Jayewardene has taken upon himself to tailor the next Budget (to be presented on November 12) to make available resources and also to introduce corrective measures to boost local production through short-term projects. Many politicians and bureaucrats seem to think that an increase in the production of paddy was enough to override reduced production in all other sectors. In spite of sunshine stories about increased production of subsidiary food crops, fruits and other agricultural produce, the quantities that come into the local market are not sufficient to meet the local demand at reasonable prices. Some governmental authorities claim that there is increased production, but this has not been reflected in market trends. Chillies, onions and potatoes continue to be imported in a bid to keep prices down—which means that local production is still inadequate to ensure fair prices for the consumer. Floor prices alone do not seem to be the answer. Marketing is an even greater problem. Not so very long ago, the *Daily News* published a story that thousands of kilograms of tomatoes were buried by Matale farmers because they could not sell them. But in Colombo and other urban centres tomatoes continued to fetch premium prices. Cabbage farmers had also experienced similar difficulties some months before. There is not the slightest doubt that farmers are reluctant to produce more—vegetables and subsidiary food crops—because more often than not they cannot market them. It is the same story in regard to fruits. Citrus fruits are rarely seen. Mangoes and plantains cost a fortune. Even the humble papaw has virtually disappeared from our fruit stalls. On the cover we have chosen to spotlight the papaw or the papaya. This is partly to remind the authorities that unless something is done soon about the virus disease that has begun to attack papaw trees, this fruit may disappear completely from this island. Already the virus that is fast destroying the Sri Lankan pumpkin has taken a heavy toll—and the remedy has not yet been found. If production is to be sustained immediate attention must be paid to these constraints that undermine the best efforts of farmers. Plantation tea seems to have taken a turn for the better, but what is needed is an all round increase in agricultural production.

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President Jayewardene

PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on September 17. Good wishes and greetings had poured in from personal friends well-wishers and also people from all walks of life. In the present troubled times, even his critics say that he has shown a rare capacity to rise above sectarian, racial, religious, and linguistic considerations. In this country, as in others, a web of political, economic, social and emotional constraints continuously hamper and often engulf those who seek to lead, but J. R. Jayewardene will go down in history as a leader whose political acumen in understanding the real imperatives of power, global as well as domestic, and whose native genius, in handling men and matters, have enabled him to fashion a Sri Lanka after his heart. In less than four years he has successfully turned this island, which was groping its way towards a kind of faltering and anaemic Third World socialism, into a vigorous open market economy increasingly dominated by international and national finance capital. This a no mean achievement in a country which was nurtured from Independence in the tentacles of a subsidised welfare state and where populist politics had thrived on the fond delusions created by stirring slogans about the millenium round the corner. **Whether one feels this change is for the better or the worse—depending on one's ideological outlook—there is not the slightest doubt that what J. R. Jayewardene has successfully achieved is remarkable, especially in a country where parliamentary democracy of the British and West European pattern has continued to prevail. The success stories of Taiwan and Singapore were in the context of Mandarin (and Confucian) regimentation demanding hard work for comparatively low salaries and where political control was the essence of the system. South Korea, like Japan, grew under the heavy hand of similar Samurai discipline.**

TO VEER Sri Lanka from its pseudo-socialist welfare moorings and its more ancient karma-influenced lotus-eating tendencies and set it on the road towards capitalist market economy with a consumerist orientation is not easy in the volatile politics of this multi-racial, multi-religious, multi-linguistic and multi-caste island. J. R. Jayewardene has gone further and has fashioned a Constitution based on proportional representation on a district basis that will make it difficult for any political party to undo what he has started. Through the District Councils he has also endeavoured to introduce a system of local Government, revolving on limited

and partial autonomy making the first major change in provincial administration since the last days of colonialism. All this he has achieved in spite of communal tensions, conflicts and riots—mixed with arson, murder, looting and mayhem—that has disturbed the smooth course of what he had planned. From the time he had come to power in 1977, there have been outbursts of communal violence made worse by the growth of terrorism and banditry (under political cover) in the North. No leader has faced a more difficult problem than J. R. Jayewardene from the so-called Tamil question. The way he handled this delicate and sensitive question merits close study by political scientists. This aspect of his style of government must be examined separately, and it would be best after the present period of Emergency is over. In this note, we will confine our attention to the economic aspects of the Jayewardene regime. Its success or failure, so far as the nation is concerned, can be evaluated from two angles: one from the capitalist free enterprise view and the other from the standpoint of socialists and Marxists who believe that a predominantly capitalist path of development can only bring disaster to the bulk of the population. This study is an exercise for political parties. *In examining the record of President J. R. Jayewardene, one must first see how the ideologues of modern capitalism view the efforts of his government. And this has recently been provided by the World Bank in its latest (1980) report about Sri Lanka. In its Report, released recently, the Bank states that import liberalisation, external assistance and a rationalisation of prices led to an upsurge of private and public investment and large increases in production and employment. It also recounted that following policy reforms launched in 1977, Sri Lanka's economy had improved dramatically. The Report pointed out that growth in gross domestic product (GDP) slowed in 1980 to 5.5 percent—due to declines in tree crops, manufacturing, construction and mining—but the figure was still twice the rate recorded during 1970-1977. Paddy production for example reached record levels, increasing by more than 10 per cent during 1979, and brought the country close to self-sufficiency in price. A "striking feature" of Sri Lanka's recent growth was 'a massive increase in capital formation', with foreign capital accounting for most of the rise in investments. "Private investments increased sharply with total gross investment increasing from 14 percent of GDP in 1977 to 35 percent in 1980". Public investment was significant, too, the Report says. Important projects include the Accelerated Mahaveli Program—the multi purpose project for river basin development—and housing and urban renewal programs.*

THE REPORT also drew attention to several danger signals. It has stressed that beginning in 1980, severe pressures in public finances and

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balance of payments, which in turn, led to rapid rise in prices, threatened the gains reached in the period since 1977. This deterioration led to a "reassessment supported by the economic and sector work of the Bank, of the government development program", and there a decision was made to "reduce general expenditures and readjust spending priorities. The central problem was excessive spending on long-gestation or low-yielding projects, coupled with stagnation in export of tree crops." Reversal of this trend, the Report emphasised, required "a reform of public finances including better performance of corporations in the public sector, revaluation of the public investment program, improvements in the tree-crop sector, and rectification of the trade deficit by stimulating exports and containing imports".

On the economy of the South Asia region, the World Bank's Annual Report stated that the countries enjoyed "an encouraging expansion in total output and per capita growth, recovering from the drought induced declines in 1979". The growth was particularly "notable" since it occurred despite a sharp rise in the price of petroleum products on which the region depends heavily. It says that "during 1979 and 1980, the petroleum import bill of South Asian countries jumped 80 percent; in these two years, the share of earnings from merchandise exports absorbed by oil imports increased from around 45 percent to 70 percent". The Report points out that favourable weather for most of the region was a key factor in the impressive agricultural performance. Also government policies, combined with agricultural growth, spurred development in other sectors. It warns, however, that because of a "profound deterioration in balance of payments"—caused by a rise in energy prices and world inflation countries should "intensify efforts of reorganising their economies". Moreover, it calls on the international community to step up support "to facilitate the necessary process of change that has come to be called structural adjustment".

IT WILL THUS be seen the World Bank and the IMF, which is now the guiding genius of international capitalism, has commended Sri Lanka's record of economic resurgence during the period 1977 and 1980. The Report made specific references to the government's new open economic policy that led to what it called a 'dramatic improvement, in Lanka's economic performance'. This was due, it had stressed, to liberalisation of trade and rationalisation of prices that eventually led to private and public investments and rise in production and employment opportunities. The report added that striking features of Lanka's recent growth was a massive increase in capital formation with foreign capital accounting for most of the rise in investment. Private Investment also rose sharply

thus making a total gross investment increase from 14 per cent Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1977 to 35 per cent in 1980. Even though the GDP growth fell to 5.5 per cent in 1980, it was still twice the rate that prevailed during the period 1970-1977. Quite correctly the Bank pointed out that excessive spending on long gestation and low yielding projects coupled with stagnation in exports of tree crops have been the primary causes for Lanka's current crisis. From 1980 to 1981 claims on resources—particularly demands by the public sector for the completion of important long-term projects brought severe pressures on public finance and the balance of payments causing rapidly rising prices, the report pointed out. Further the World Bank admitted in the report that it was now working closely with the Lankan Government in working out suitable solutions. It has called for a reform of public finances in order to reverse the deterioration that has already set in. Among formulas suggested by the Bank is better performance of public sector corporations, improvement in the plantation sector and the rectification of the trade deficit by stimulating exports and containing imports.

The Economist (London) in a special survey (June 13, 1981) said. "Four years ago, Sri Lanka turned its back on its past. For 30 years after independence, its economic policies had been protectionist and dirigiste; GDP growth averaged 4% a year. Then the government scrapped most controls, drew up an ambitious development plan, and started courting foreign investors. Since 1977 GDP has grown by 6½% a year. An unqualified success—or has the government tried to run too fast? Have the new policies blotted Sri Lanka's copybook of social progress? And what, Rupert Pennant Rea asks, are the prospects for the 1983 election? The Survey went on: "....At the 1977 election, the UNP presented its new deal to the electorate—and won 140 of the 168 parliamentary seats. It set about transforming Sri Lanka. It rewrote the constitution, introducing an executive presidency (with Mr. Jayewardene moving over from Prime minister to President) and proportional representation. Import and price controls were scrapped, taxes lowered, the rupee's two-tier rates were unified and the currency devalued by 46%. Foreign borrowing was increased; a three-year loan of \$325m, conditional on various fiscal and monetary targets being met, was arranged with the International Monetary Fund. The Government cut back on subsidised food rations; previously universal, they were restricted to only half the population (and later replaced with a system of food stamps). Work began on three major capital projects; on irrigation and hydro scheme based on dams in the Mahaveli district in the centre of the island, a new parliamentary building and township east of the capital, Colombo, and public housing. To encourage

foreign investment and exports, the government established an export processing zone free of red tape and (for up to 10 years) the taxman...

FROM THIS, the survey pointed out: "... Four years later the fruits of this boldness taste both sweet and sour. The world economy has been more unkind than Sri Lanka (and others) expected. At home, the economy has overheated; some of the big spending plans have had to be cut, and the government faces serious difficulties in financing the trade gap and keeping its own accounts under control. To add to its woes, the monsoon has been poor for years in a row. But the overall strategy is still the same; to tip the scales in favour of producers, believing that consumers will ultimately benefit as well. In a country with no unemployment, producers and consumers are one and the same, of course. But a full quarter of Sri Lanka's workforce was unemployed in 1977, so the trade-offs involved in the government's strategy could not be disguised. Least of all in agriculture...

There has, as yet, been no comprehensive critique from a Marxist or neo-Marxist angle, about the Jayewardene's economic programme together with, a concrete point by point alternative programme to develop the country to achieve a socialist socio economic structure. Opposition parties have so far only drawn attention to the dizzy inflation and the phenomenal increase in prices of many basic and essential items. They also allege that foreign investors and banks were getting a tight control of the economy. The public awaits a detailed analysis of the present economic situation and a plan of action to remedy matters from the SLFP LSSP, CPSL or the JVP. It is not enough to merely underline the aberrations that have arisen as a result of certain zig-zags in the policies and programmes of the UNP Government as pointed out by the Bank and the IMF. It is necessary to have an alternative plan of action.



FILM FOCUS

Holiday on Ice

When we hark back on the impact and popularity that trailed films like "My Fair Lady", "Gigi" and "Sound of Music", it becomes clearly evident now, that there has been a progressive decline of musical hits as in yesteryear. Many reasons are being attributed to this—there haven't been any

male and female dancers like Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Judy Garland or Betty Grable, suitable lyrics to fit into a story are hard to come by and appropriate musical dialogues have been virtually exhausted. This column lives in the hope that one of these days somebody will spark off a marvelous musical and start it all over again, with some new personality on the screen. The stage however, has remained more alive to musicals, and while on the subject let us turn to the musical with a difference in town now—a *Holiday On Ice*. Taking a brief respite from the world of celluloid, I visited Vihara Maha Devi Park, where thanks to cine producer cum businessman, E. A. M. Edirisinghe, a glittering fare frozen to international standards was this popular menu. An impressive array of ballet artistes who skim and skip over a hard three inch layer of floor ice, with consumed ease have come together from many corners of the world to delight local audiences with an exclusive and exquisite performance which most of us may have viewed only in foreign films. A freezer behind stage keeps the ice layer vapourous and conditioned at the right temperature to keep the dazzling ballet items moving smoothly from sequence to sequence in the glare of the multi-coloured footlights and a backdrop curtain which takes on different hues as the programme skates on to powerful musical accompaniment, which never got a step out of place, the synchronisation being so perfect and adding infinitely to the grandeur of it all. The foot and time was at its very best, while the comedians too took over at intervals with their slapstick and balancing performances as in a circus to let the children go gay. The split second swings in ballet duets at times were too close to the ice and heads could have cracked but for the confident artistry. The costumes were matched to the seasonal tunes and the colour jetted prismatically as the Christmasy numbers broke out in a hail of snow—Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Jingle Bells being among them.

It would be unfair to pick out only a few items for mention, but this column is doing it with a fine pin to mention a few. There was the three-legged Keiser (Jerry Wills) all on skates who swung around splendidly with that extra foot which was in unison with the real pair, the petite Korean star Hai Han Helga who careered around at breakneck speed to execute several dances with a lithe and lissom grace, a limbo sequence by the Indian daredevilish Don who kept everyone in a fiery spell. The scottish champion ballerina Evan Cameron and the choreographer Sylvana Cameron, shed their expertise, the only flaw worth mentioning being the spotlight which was clumsily out of focus at times—a situation that should be remedied without delay. This Indian managed

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troupe has been received well in many world capitals, but the uptake has been comparatively low locally, due to inadequate publicity perhaps, that does not spell out the novelty of the show with clarity and the ticket rates which are being kept a trifle high to level the overheads that such painstaking performances entail. There being, scarcely a dull moment in this icy extravaganza which many might cross oceans to view, is heartily recommended to family groups. For not a cent of the ticket fares appeared wasted in its hypnotic appeal. Children will gladly glide into the display that will linger forever in their tender minds, while for adults it is a dish to be relished for its sheer spectacle and the eye pleasing grace of the beautiful ballerinas, who speed around on castors and skates with a knife edged balance and precision. Make this Holdiay a family date.

PASSAGE (English): Quite probably the premiere production of a General Film Compay named after the title of the film, it features that versatile veteran actor Anthony Quinn, who is run pretty close in histrionics by Malcolm McDowell, coupled on with that of the polished James Mason. This story is set in the dark and dismal days of the Nazi regime with its deadly "Gestapo" that never abandoned to do or die trail of victims even against overwhelming odds. An American Professor Bergan (Mason) is on the run with his family from Germany with a sadistically spastic and seized secret serviceman of the Fieulherer (McDowell) on his heels, to be outwitted and inched out of the kill by a tough and genuine Bosque Guide (Quinn) who gives as much as he takes on the mercenary assignment with nerves of steel. The chase ascends the treacherous and ice-bound Pyrennees Mountains where a passage is sought for the final escape from fear to freedom. Brilliantly photographed by Michael Reed, the film is packed to the hilt with breathtaking action and adventure interspersed with many sentimental seconds, as when a Gypsy guide (Christopher Lee) is turned, into a human torch. The roles are cut out so fine that they could not but tie up the story very convincingly, from a tense moment to moment. Get your bookings without delay for this film and hurry.

THE OUTLAW JOSEY WALES (English): The day actor Clint Eastwood turned Director, he sounded a death knell to his creations, which have become a cropper since. The tough poker face is now bereft of the fire it breathed out in the early Dollar westerns, and boredom reigns supreme as in this film, with a promising story. A warner Brothers Production, with Clint in the title role is one who is on the trail of a band of guerillas who had

decimated his family and left him revengefully desolate. As he straps his gun and hits the trail, there was more Yakkity Yak—with a few spits thrown in—then Ack Ack which should have prevailed. The ride was to a tame climax which leads one to the feeling that Clint is now trading more on his once famous name than living out his roles. The American Civil war is drawn as a red herring to make the story more convincing but the connection wears thin and feeble. A time killer that definitely disappoints.

STONER (English): Another action film, where the American Karate Black Belt George Lazenby—a one time 007 tryout—goes for the martial arts in a big way. He is engaged to track down a dubious gang of Aphrodisiac manufacturers who do their immoral runnings from Taipei to Hong Kong—and he cut and chops his way through to crack the Connection. I am no Karate lover but Lazenby won me over to it while the film lasted. The sex portion too gave it its incandescent moments that have earned the film its Adults only tag. A good film that did not slacken from the word go.

JAMES N. BENEDICT.



LETTERS

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor," and must include the writer's address and signature. Priority is given to letters that are brief and do not request anonymity. Letters may be abridged. We are unable to acknowledge all letters, but value the views of readers who submit them.

TENDER NOTICE.

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

Tender for the construction of office for Medical Officers of Health, stage, I Kelaniya, will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 07th October, 1981.

Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Colombo South before 4.15 p.m. on 30.09.1981, by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 500,000/= and above on production of a Tender Deposit receipt for Rs. 250/= issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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. 21st September, 1981.

Sept. 6 - 12

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

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6: In an all-out attempt to fully equip the country's Police Force, the authorities have decided to give a military training to the Police; the first batch of 100 Policemen are already being trained by the Army at the Kalutara Police Training School; a high ranking Police spokesman said that the men, who would be trained in counter-revolutionary warfare and tactics, will be able to tackle any situations of mob violence, terrorism etc., at short notice. The Institute of Fundamental Studies, which will function as the centre of advanced scientific research in Sri Lanka is to be launched on September 17. Seventy skilled heavy machinery operators from the People's Republic of China will arrive in Sri Lanka within the next six weeks to work on the Mahaveli Scheme following negotiations carried out by a top-level team with the Hydraulic Engineering Corporation of China—SO. Former Justice Minister, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike will be summoned by Parliament and charged for commenting on what transpired in the Sri Lanka Parliament during the debate on the motion of no-confidence on the Leader of the Opposition; an offence under the Parliamentary (Powers and Privileges) Act can result in Parliament sentencing the offender to a jail sentence of not more than two years and a fine of Rs. 5,000 or both. Lashes for those found robbing and damaging railway property has been recommended by the Police. Mr. S. S. Wijesinghe former Secretary General of Parliament has been appointed Ombudsman with effect from tomorrow by the President—ST. A pay rise of Rs. 300 is on the cards for Public Servants; Government, *Weekend* reliably learns, is actively considering this matter; it is expected to be announced in its fourth budget on November 12. An attempt to implicate Police officers in the attack on the Anaicottai Police station has sparked off a major

news investigation; according to top level Police sources, two Policemen attached to the Chunriakam station have been remanded in this connection. Somaweera Wijesinghe, Alawathuwela MP for Dodangaslanda was yesterday appointed by President J. R. Jayewardene as the Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Acting Minister of Regional Development—WK. It is proposed to make Tamil the language of administration in the Northern and Eastern Provinces where the majority of tamil-speaking people live—VK.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: There has been an alarming increase in the number of timber thieves and poachers who operate in gangs and concentrate their attacks on the national Wild Life reserves, Wild Life chief, Lyn de Alwis said yesterday.—The Employees' Trust Fund (ETF) launched by Labour Minister Capt. C. P. J. Seneviratne last March, has already raised Rs. 40 million and the ETF Board expects to have Rs. 80 million in resources by the end of the year; the ETF Chairman, Mr. Douglas Liyanage said that 1,400 employers in both the public and private sectors with over 150 employees each on their books are now contributing to the ETF—CDN. America too will compete with petro-dollar countries in the Middle East to induce people in various categories of employment in Sri Lanka and other countries to accept employment there. President J. R. Jayewardene has entrusted Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali with a programme to set up free milk feeding centres throughout the country exclusively for pre-school children. The cremation of Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe, the Communist Party leader took place yesterday evening at Uyanwatta, Matara before a large and representative gathering—CDM. The requirement of heavy machine operators for the country's vital on-going development projects for 1982 and 1983 will be 1,000 to 1,200 personnel, an intensive study on the subject carried out by the Employment and Manpower Planning Division of the Ministry of Plan Implementation has revealed—SU. President J. R. Jayewardene advised Government sources that it was the duty of everyone concerned to bring about communal and racial unity and that therefore no one should speak or act in a way that would harm such unity—VK.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: The Government is now considering phasing itself out of the essential food import business, which has long been the monopoly of the Food Department; already the private sector has come into the sugar import business and fairly large quantities of such imports have come into the country or have been contracted for. President J. R. Jayewardene in his talks with King Khaled said that although Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka were separated by a vast

expanse of sea, there were many possibilities for greater economic co-operation between them. Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike yesterday filed a series of objections to Mr. Maithripala Senanayake's application to the District Court of Colombo challenging his suspension from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party—*CDN*. The Irrigation Department which maintains 700,000 acres of irrigable land under major irrigation projects yielding 60 million bushels of paddy a year is now working with only 50 percent of its approved cadre of engineers; this is because of the exodus of 70 engineers during last year alone from the Irrigation Department; this is started by Dr. R. U. Fernando, Director of Irrigation in his report for 1980 presented to the Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development a few days ago. A house to house campaign to meet farmers and find on-the-spot solutions to their problems has been launched by the Minister of Agricultural Development and Research; this is one of steps taken by the Minister to increase the paddy production—*CDN*. Sri Lanka's tightest ever personal security operation involving 6,000 Police and Army personnel will get underway next month. Queen Elizabeth II arrives here on a five day official visit; backing up the exercise will be all serviceable aircraft of the Sri Lankan Air Force which will be placed on a constant standby for the duration of the visit. Fresh investigations are now underway in respect of several incidents of violence in Jaffna during the four days in which the Police are alleged to have attacked and set fire to a number of shops and buildings in the peninsula—*SU*. Tea and rubber development work will also come under the purview of the District Development Councils; President J. R. Jayewardene who is also in charge of Plantations has consented to this—*DP*.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: The Tamil United Liberation Front is expected to decide on September 16 to end its three-month boycott of Parliament, a highly placed spokesman said yesterday; he said this decision would help strengthen the process of communal unity and the understanding between the government and the TULF. Prime Minister R. Premadasa told Parliament yesterday that government was now inquiring into the damage caused by rioters and thugs recently; when the report from the investigators was available, government would decide on the question of paying compensation to the deserving. Associated Management Services Ltd., have been made Competent Authority for the National Milk Board whose board of directors was removed under emergency powers last week. Every Grama Sevaka division will have a Gramodaya Mandalaya. Already District Secretaries have been instructed to form such Mandalayas in each Grama Sevaka division; the first meeting of Gramodaya Mandalayas has been fixed for October 15—

CDN. The three tiered pay increase to the 450,000 strong public sector expected to be effective from December this year will automatically benefit pensioners, Corporation employees and those in the private sector as well—*CDN*. Police Chief Ana Seneviratne yesterday ordered the adoption of new strategies to deal with civil commotion; his orders came after a detailed study of the recent wave of unrest exposed certain deficiencies of the Police and the civil authorities in dealing with the new methods adopted by rioters. Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka yesterday urged the Soviet Union to quit Afghanistan and also demanded that Israel vacate Arab lands it occupied in 1967. The Ministry of Labour has revised the regulation regarding the ban on the employment of women workers on the night shift as a move to ease economic pressures that had arisen with the exemption of women on night duty, Labour Ministry sources said yesterday—*SU*. King Khaled of Saudi Arabia will visit Sri Lanka; he has accepted the invitation extended to him by President J. R. Jayewardene; the economic, cultural and other relations between the two countries will improve; Ministers of the two countries will meet often and discuss matters—*DP*.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: Minister of State, Anandatissa de Alwis told the Press yesterday that there was a ban on the publication of news under the provisions of the Control of Publications on Horse-racing Act No. 14 of 1961. Government yesterday approved a proposal by Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya, Minister of Health to include dental surgeons and dental specialists for extra duty payments similar to the extra duty payments made to other Medical officers. The Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE), the parliamentary committee delegated with the responsibility to closely monitor the financial and management affairs of over 170 state-owned corporations, will next week undertake an extensive study of how counterpart bodies in several countries abroad tackle jobs; the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is funding a COPE visit to the United States of America, Costa Rica, Britain, France and Yugoslavia where the United Nations' International Centre for Public Enterprise is located. The annual license duty on motor vehicles will be doubled from next year; the Registrar of Motor Vehicles hopes to net Rs. 200 million from licence duties as a result—*CDN*. The Government has decided to expedite the commissioning of the Kotmale Power Project to meet the increasing demand for hydro-power—*CDN*. All Ministries are to set up Internal Freight Bureaux or participate jointly in the exercise of co-ordinating the optimum use of transport vehicles to avoid fuel waste and idle running, Cabinet decided yesterday; Cabinet spokesman, Anandatissa de Alwis told the weekly press briefing that Government studied a memorandum submitted

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by Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali on an experiment conducted by his Ministry. A weather radar station to monitor cyclonic depressions in the Bay of Bengal will be set up shortly in Trincomalee by the Meteorology Department in collaboration with the World Meteorology organisation—*SU*. Government has taken steps to encourage the private bus transport service; the import duty of 25% on 15 seator vehicles has been reduced to 7½ per cent; the permission for this was granted yesterday at the Cabinet meeting—*DP*.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: Four new magistrates courts have been set up in the Ratnapura District to deal with cases of violence, arson and looting there last month, Mr. M. I. M. Aboosally, District Minister for Ratnapura said; these courts have been set up at Ratnapura, Pelmadulla, Rakwana and Balangoda and have started functioning already, the District Minister said. The Leader of the Opposition Mr. Amirthalingam told a meeting in Jaffna on Tuesday that the talks the TULF has had with the Government had been satisfactory. There is an acute shortage of staff from doctors downward at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital, a hospital source said yesterday; lack of security and the absence of even a police post at this hospital poses a major problem for the authorities and patients as the place is teeming with pick-pockets and other undesirables. President and Mrs. J. R. Jayewardene returned home yesterday to a simple and warm welcome. The National Television Service would be beamed to all parts of the country beginning from late January; Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Chairman Eamon Kariyakarawana said yesterday; Mr. Kariyakarawana said that test transmissions would be done in October—*CDN*. The government has decided to nab owners or users of unlicensed radio and television sets; it was revealed that nearly 40 per cent of the radio sets had not been licensed and only five per cent of radio sets installed in motor vehicles had been licensed—*CDM*. A top level Saudi delegation will arrive in Sri Lanka shortly to follow up a series of decisions reached during President Jayewardene's talks with Saudi Monarch, King Khaled Ibn Abdul Aziz; a main area of discussion will be to chalk out areas for Saudi investment. Police are conducting a full investigation into an alleged secret move to force Tamil persons settled in the North Central and North Western provinces to resettle in the Northern Province. Brigadier Tissa Indika Weeratunga (50) will take over as the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army on October 14; he succeeds lieutenant General Dennis Perera, whose term as the Commander expires next month. The Court of Appeal yesterday refused the four applications for writs of Habeas Corpus made in respect of the four suspects in the Neervely People's Bank robbery—*SU*.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: A Saudi Arabian economic delegation, probably led by the Finance Minister, Sheikh Aba-Al Khail, is expected here in the first week of November to explore the possibilities of economic assistance to Sri Lanka, authoritative governmental sources said yesterday; a delegation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry there is also due here early to examine the possibilities of private investment particularly in the areas of tourism, manufacturing and industry, urban and property development and fisheries—*CDN*. A Three-member Compensation Committee headed by Mr. Lionel Fernando, a former Government Agent of Jaffna has been appointed by the Government to inquire into claims in respect of damage caused to property in the Jaffna district during incidents reported to have taken place in the area between May 31 and June 30, 1981—*CDM*. Sri Lanka's biggest duty-free shopping complex comprising over 50 shops will function from October 2, Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali announced yesterday; all varieties of goods, luxury and semiluxury, electronic items, pharmaceutical goods and whole host of others currently imported from Singapore and other countries will be made available here. The Excise Department recorded their biggest ever haul of adulterated liquor following a swift raid carried out of adulterated liquor following a swift raid carried out in Colombo yesterday where over five thousand bottles were taken into custody—*SU*. The four accused in the Puloly bank robbery were sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment each; the other two accused were acquitted—*DP*.



TOURISM

Only For Sex ?

With acknowledgements to NEWS, No. 7/8 1981 published by the Department Commission, National Christian Council, 490/1, Havelock Road, Colombo, we publish this article Kathy Lowe which will be of interest to readers in this country. In an introductory note, NEWS stated: "Women's organisations and church groups in Asia are working together to attack the way sex is slotted into tourist packages just as easily as native dances, souvenir shopping and golf. Tourism for sex (only) is something Sri Lanka must avoid. A little prostitution cannot be avoided in the best of times, but prostitution *en masse* to attract male tourists can not only degrade but denigrate tourism .

As the banquet at the Manila hotel drew to a close, the 200 dealers being entertained by a Japanese electrical company discovered that their hosts had a surprise bonus up their sleeves. A large folding screen parted to reveal a group of "hostesses" each wearing a number and the Japanese men were invited to pick out their partner for the night. There were red faces all round when this "sex auction" story leaked out last year. Yet it is only one of the more blatant examples of what is now a wide-spread phenomenon of prostitution tourism in the developing countries of South East Asia. Sex trips to Taipei, Seoul, Manila and Bangkok come cheap. The social cost in dehumanized lives of the thousands of women involved is immeasurable. The trade has provoked an outcry among Asian churches and women's organisations who are struggling to fight this seamy side of tourism. "The sex is slotted into the package as unquestioningly as the native dancing, souvenir shopping and golf, which fill in the idle hours," said a recent report in Britain's *Guardian*. The paper quoted an example from Taiwan where tour coaches enroute from airport to hotel deposit their clients at a thinly disguised brothels for a night out. "Sex imperialism is how many of its critics label this booming prostitution business. Some 1.2 million Japanese men a year board planes at Tokyo's Narita airport bound for the bars, brothels, night clubs and massage parlours of their country's former conquered territories. Ninety four percent of Japanese tourists to South Korea are men, while Taiwan, the Philippines and Thailand receive 93 percent, 85 per cent and 82 per cent respectively. Four day holiday package deals for Manila, for instance, go for between \$ 300 and \$ 400—quite a bargain by Japanese standards. Most of the prostitutes the tourists meet are young girls from poor families. They operate under the control of vicious racketeers who claim a large slice of their earnings. In Taiwan, according to the Taiwan Pastoral Centre, "for the low class prostitution 'market' girls (frequently from the mountain areas) have usually been sold". In Seoul, church women were threatened when they started intercepting girls arriving at the city's railway station and offering assistance with jobs and shelter to prevent them falling into the hands of the brothel-keepers.

In the Philippines, as elsewhere, prostitution is seen as the only means of survival by many women. Sister Mary/John Mananzan, dean of Manila convent school, estimates that there are some 50,000 prostitutes and thousands of illegitimate children in her city alone. "You see the girls husbands calling for them at the hotels in the morning and taking them home on bicycles," she says. Sister Mary-John stunned delegates at the WCC Women's Conference on Human

Rights and Mission in Venice last year, with her own frank report on the prostitution trade. The presence of US bases in the Philippines makes the problem even worse, she argues. She tells how she smuggled herself into a night club where semi-named Filipinas dressed as mermaids, had coins thrown to them "like dogs" by American GI's.

Women's organisations accuse the governments of the tourist countries of making token criticisms of sex trips while happily building up their exchequers on the proceeds. The Philippines has set up a bureau for the welfare of women and minors, but another of its government departments actively promotes the holiday trade with all the exploitation of Filipina women which the trade implies. One important new development, though, is the growing cooperation on the issue between women activists and churches in the countries exporting tourists and in countries receiving them. On the church front, the National Christian Council of Japan is one of the groups to have discussed strategy, as have delegates at the Workshop on Tourism in Manila in September sponsored by the Christian Conference of Asia.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in Japan, which helped to bring an end to legalized prostitution there in the 1950s, has mounted a tough propaganda attack on travel firms and the male tourists themselves. WCTU members devised a lively slide-film on the sex-trip theme and picketed the airport with leaflets headed "Stop buying-girl tourists. At the South Korean end, the National Christian Council has gone on radio and TV to condemn the sexual slavery of women, as well as lobbying government officials and hotel managers. It is also channelling funds into a rehabilitation centre offering support and training for girls trying to break out of the prostitution trap. While seeking to take all immediate practical steps possible, the anti-prostitution activists stress that, for them, sex tourism is not an isolated moral issue.

It thrives, they argue, because of the subordinate role imposed on women generally and because of the greed of governments who accumulate power and wealth and leave their poor to fend for themselves. Says Sister Mary-John Mananzan: "We need a complete transformation of the economic system and of the consciousness of women in society."

KATHY LOWE.
—*One World*, No. 62.



Ministry of Local Government Housing and Construction National Water Supply and Drainage Board

BILLING FOR WATER CONSUMPTION IN KOTTE

Water is essential for use by every human being for his survival. Man has, step by step, advanced from going to where it was available, like the stream, well or other sources, to have it at his residence easily accessible on beck and call on tap to use it when he needs it and in ample quantity. He developed it, at the start, individually but he found it cheaper to do so collectively when he found his needs increasing and that it took time to fetch and lift large quantities. Can you imagine if you wanted 1000 litres (220 gallons) for a day for our household lifting or carrying 1,000 kg. (2,200 lb.) of water or a Ton daily from the source, be it a stream or well. This alone did not satisfy him when he found polluted water caused him to suffer through diseases that he could easily avoid and be able to use his time better for his benefit without suffering through diseases and time taken to obtain the water he most essentially needed for his survival. This is the advent of the piped borne water systems inclusive of treatment to be safe for use. In many under-developed countries a lot of time and manpower are lost on this account when people still go miles to fetch water suitable for use. With the time he gains he found it could pay him better returns than doing what he had to do to survive. This in whatever form you consider he was paying for the water and there is no truth in it being free other than at its source.

A water supply system was established for areas like Kotte and Towns South of Colombo way back in 1956 or so where water was pumped from the Kelani River that had to be pumped to a treatment process and pumped through to areas to be fed in such a manner that they received it adequately and at required pressure in a big pipe network to do so to have it on the tap where you need it. Nobody realises or may be aware that the water you get when you open the tap has travelled many miles after being treated before you got it. Imagine a man having to do that for his Ton of water. If he has he would have valued what he brought to use it judiciously and contained himself in its use to satisfy his needs without wastage. The present system supplies as could be seen from the sketch plan, along the way to Panadura over 32 Kilometers (20 miles) away from the source which was capable of meeting any demand that may be required for all the people in the areas to be fed. To get to them water has to be pumped, stored, re-pumped under pressure or supplied under pressure by overhead reservoirs etc., that involves a very complex system as could be observed from the Sketch Plan. Observe the position of Kotte and you will see it to be initial

recipient of water before it reaches any other Town by which a lions share can be theirs uncontrolled that causes shortages down the line and could happen even within its own areas as well without control where the lower areas waste to prevent the high areas receiving it, dependent on the carrying capacity of the pipe and system pressure.

The country has spent large sums of money in the establishment of the system and has still to spend large sums of money to improve and make available more water for the future for the increasing population in these areas with improved pipe systems, replacing the worn out pumps after so many years of use and the lines that are inadequate now. To add to this enormous expenditure the supply of water to the people with increasing cost of production every year, becomes a burden beyond control unless a discipline of proper use is not established without wastage to channel funds for them.

Today, it costs the National Water Supply and Drainage Board to produce a 4500 litres (1000 gallons) of water, aprox Rs. 1.44 broken up as follows:-

Power cost	0.86 cts.	59.7%	of cost
Chemicals	0.30 cts.	20.8%	"
Labour	0.21 cts.	14.6%	"
Repairs etc.	0.07 cts.	4.9%	"
	1.44	100.0%	"

Over 80% of the cost is spent to purify and deliver to the people. These costs continue to increase and will further increase the cost of production. Without these two components water neither can be treated nor reach the consumer and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board is hard-pressed to meet those costs when it is already in debt to the C.E.B. to the tune of Rs. 15 Million with a power bill of Rs. 1.0 Million or more each month. The C.E.B. too is hard-pressed for funds to provide its service and if the supply is cut off no water can be supplied which will bring untold hardship to millions of people.

To cut down cost of production is to reduce the wastage that is reckoned to be over 35%—40% in all the areas including Colombo. With the curtailment of wastage in Kotte, the first recipient of water, it could improve the supply to Dehiwala area whereby the areas that store water for fear of not receiving it could be reduced and wastage reduced while helping out to remove the existing water cut to overcome the area service problem and in turn transmit to the end of Panadura who too had a curtailed supply.

To overcome shortages of water in the future, like what was experienced in 1973/74 and 1976 the World Bank assistance was obtained with funds over U.S. \$ 50 Million along with Saudi

Funds to carry out the necessary improvements and development for the future, but this was on an agreed basis by the Government that we will take action to control the wastage and the only way was by metering the supplies to make the people conscious of the value of water to be used without wastage. This was entered into the Agreement before the funds were provided and now it is extremely important to do it to utilise the funds without which the system cannot be improved and is in no position to do any improvements without funds while these funds are more like a grant repayable in only 50 years after 10 years grace without interest.

People are paying for water through their property rates but do not recognise that, as it is not apparent by which the awareness of the value of water is lost. For this reason the rates adopted have been developed to emphasise this fact generally granting the maximum benefit to the low rate user, up to the range generally regarded as sufficient without wastage, but whoever exceeds that level to pay dearly to induce encouragement to conserve. The breakdown of the amount of water an individual needs is accepted as follows:-

Cooking & Drinking	9 litres (2 gallons)
Washing	13 litres (3 gallons)
Bathing	68 litres (15 gallons)
Toilet facilities	45 litres (10 gallons)
	135 litres (30 gallons)
Allowance, if needed	45 litres (10 gallons)
	180 litres (40 gallons)

On 180 litres (40 gallons) per person/day you could more adequately meet your requirements. In an average household of 6 persons (the national average) they require 1080 litres/day or 240 gallons/ or for a month it is approximately 32500 litres (7200 gallons). At 135 litres/person/day it is less around 24,300 litres or (5,400 gallons) per month.

The proposed charges are on a sliding scale to encourage conservation as shown below.

1st 10,000 litres is at -/20 cts. per	
1,000 litres	Rs. 2.00
2nd 10,000 litres is at -/75 cts.	
per 1,000 litres	Rs. 7.50
Balance 12,500 litres at 1.75 per	
1,000 litres	Rs. 21.88
	Rs. 31.38

This is only Rs. 1/- per day to provide a satisfactory supply for the whole household but could be less if controlled to 24,300 litres per month to Rs. 17.03 or nearly -/60 cts a day or even further to level of 20,000 litres to Rs. 9.50 a month or -/30 cts. per day approx. The lowest level is the one where no proper toilet facilities are available, except a latrine of some sort. This shows that the moment you skip the lower levels and move into heavy consumption with uncontrolled use, you pay very much higher and may not be due to just your usage alone. Take a leaking tap over 24

hours, it is likely to flow 450 litres for the day or 135,00 litres for the month and this will be reflected on the high scale level as already you have used the requirement needed. Two leaky taps or overflow from your tank or taps when not in use and kept open unnecessarily could mean a loss of over 27,000 litres a month or more and far above what you actually used. You will be in the payment range of the high level that might cost Rs. 47.25 or more a month. Then a bill of Rs. 80/- per month is not uncommon if these exist. This illustrates the method and control necessary to overcome the wastage that takes place.

Consider Kotte as an example but it is true of Colombo and most other areas. Approx. 130,000 people are consuming 32.4 Million litres per day averaging about 250 litres per person, but less than half have house connections around 8,000 or 50,000 people and it is not reasonable to expect to use more than 90 litres or so without toilet facilities and consumption could, if reasonably used, be controlled to about 18.0 Million litres per day or adding even a high consumption for the few industries to 20.0 Million litres. This shows an unaccountable water consumption of over 60% by some means or other. Imagine saving 12.0 Million litres a day of that and not only will it help to ease the shortage in Dehiwala and further down South but also the saving it brings besides the possibility of further saving in Dehiwala area and others who have had a restriction in their supply causing a bigger wastage by storing and keeping it for fear that they will not receive the water to be discarded when they do a. Dehiwala has a water cut during a certain period during the day.

This is the reason why Kotte, the first recipient area, was tackled to be metered but already other areas are being metered, like Panadura and Kolonnawa and immediate action taken to commence metering Dehiwala/Mt. Lavinia, Moratuwa and Colombo and as each area is completed to impose the metering basis that not only helps the conservation but is a basis of equitable basis of payment for what you use rather than the property rate tariff.

The Govt. has already thrown in a large expenditure to develop the systems and is in no position to sustain operation as well as these systems are supposed to be self sustained in operation. Furthermore, it has to continually throw in resources to develop further the systems. Kandy has been in the meter system for well over 12 years now and successfully controlled wastage that the average consumption is around 135 litres/person/day while many rural areas have followed the same system with payments for 4,500 litres much higher than this.

Thus it is necessary that to allow the proper operation to be maintained funds have to be generated and no other way is possible other than metering to conserve and charge excessively for heavy wastage.

N. D. Peiris,
Chairman,

TRIBUNE, September 26, 1981

NOTICE TO CONSUMERS OF WATER IN KOTTE URBAN COUNCIL AREA

NOTICE is hereby given to all metered consumers of water within the Kotte Urban Council Area that billing of water supplied to each consumer has commenced with effect from 01. 7. 1981.

This bill for water consumed will be posted to each consumer. The attention of consumers is drawn to the instructions given over each bill regarding the method of payment of their bills.

Consumers in Kotte who have paid their January, 1981 bills will get credit for same when payment of the July, 1981 bill is made.

N. D. Peiris
Chairman

National Water Supply & Drainage Board,
P. O. Box 14,
Mount Lavinia.

NOTICE TO CONSUMERS OF WATER IN COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AREA

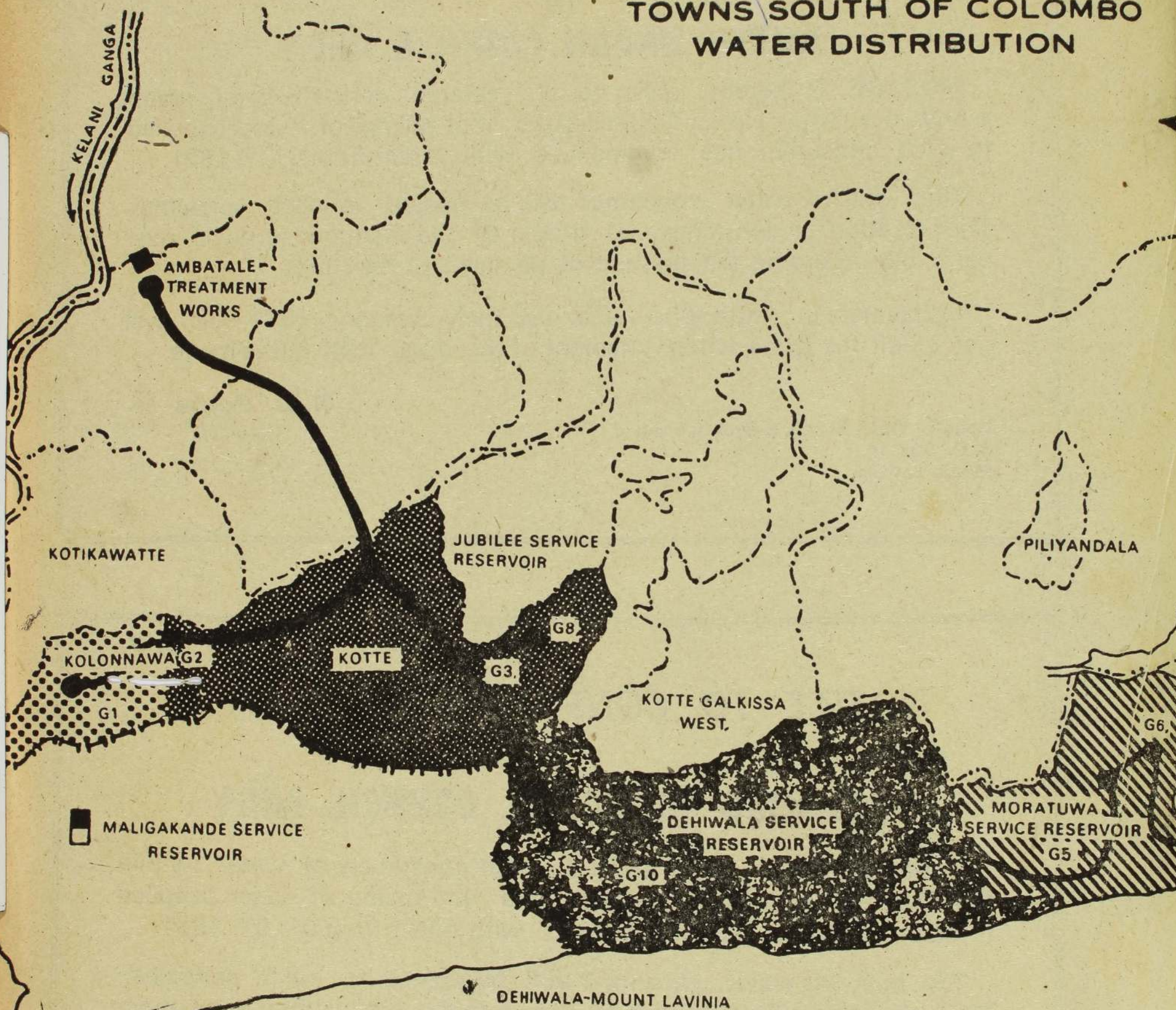
Notice is hereby given to all metered consumers of water within the Colombo Municipal Council Area that billing of water supplied to each consumer has commenced with effect from 01. 07. 1981.

The bills for water consumed will be posted to each consumer. The attention of consumers is drawn to the instructions given over-leaf each bill regarding the method of payment of their bills

N. D. Peiris
Chairman.

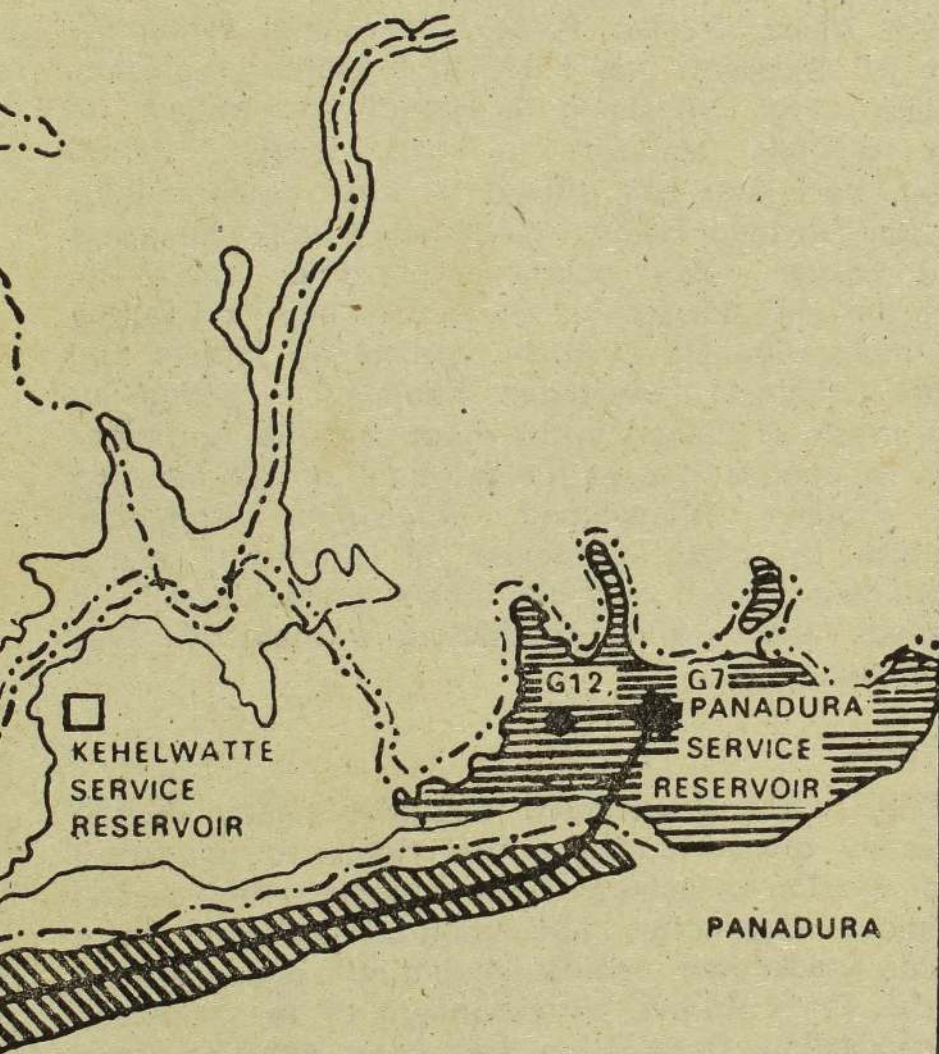
National Water Supply & Drainage Board,
P. O. Box 14,
Mount Lavinia.

TOWNS SOUTH OF COLOMBO WATER DISTRIBUTION



MUNICIPALITY

- KEY**
- EXISTING SERVICE RESERVOIR
 - PROPOSED SERVICE RESERVOIR
 - EXISTING WATER TOWER
 - - - GREATER COLOMBO BOUND.
 - |||| COLOMBO M.C. BOUNDARY
 - . - . OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY,



**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION**

**NATIONAL
WATER SUPPLY
& DRAINAGE BOARD**



**WATER IS PRECIOUS
USE IT BUT PLEASE DO NOT WASTE IT**

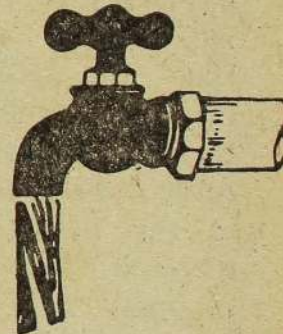
**SMALL LEAK
IN A TAP**



WILL WASTE

**450 Litres
(100 Gals) a Day
13500 Litres
(3000 Gals) a Month**

**A CONTINUOUSLY
LEAKING TAP**



WILL WASTE

**2250 Litres
(500 Gals) a Day
67500 Litres
(15000 Gals) a Month**

Sept. 6-12

SOUTH ASIA :

INDIA: Prime Minister Indira Gandhi charged that there was a major campaign to downgrade India in international affairs. Taj Mahal, one of the priceless wonders of the world is threatened by pollution. Afghan foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost handed over a message from Babrak Karmal to Indira Gandhi. Between 25,000—100,000 Sikhs of the Akali Dal, a Sikh dominated party demonstrated against government interference in their religious affairs; hundreds of them were arrested. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi will visit Romania and Bulgaria in October. Maharashtra Chief Minister Abdul Rahman Autulay had submitted his resignation following the controversy over funds raised in Indira Gandhi's name. The entire opposition in the Indian Parliament walked out in protest as the government introduced a Bill to replace the Presidential Ordinance banning strikes in all essential services. **BANGLADESH:** Presidential election to find a successor to the late President Ziaur Rahman was postponed to November 15. As the government postponed the elections the Opposition parties have called off the strike. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shamsul Haque left for New Delhi to have discussions on bilateral problems including the row over the New Moore Island in the Bay of Bengal. **PAKISTAN:** Afghan soldiers and armoured personnel crossed into the Baluchistan side of Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto was released on parole for three days to attend her sister's wedding. President Zia had said Pakistan is ready to meet intrusions from across the Afghan border. Pakistan will receive seven to nine F16 fighter bombers from the NATO. The All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has demanded the removal of the present government headed by an Army Brigadier and called for a free election in the Pakistan held Kashmir state. The military governor of NWFP bordering Afghanistan has pledged to weed out anti-state socialists and communists from the area.

EAST ASIA :

KAMPUCHEA: According to a report released by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) there is a severe shortage for marriageable men in Kampuchea. **CHINA:** The fifth death anniversary of Chairman Mao went unnoticed except for the wreath placed on the memorial by two unknown Chinese workers.

WEST ASIA :

SAUDI ARABIA: Oil Minister Ahmed Yamani has said that it would be suicidal of his country to raise its oil price in the next few years when there was a falling in demand for OPEC oil. President J. R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka paid a State visit to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka, in a joint communique urged the Soviet Union to quit Afghanistan, the withdrawal of foreign forces from Kampuchea and demanded that Israel vacate Arab lands it occupied in 1967. **ISRAEL:** Prime Minister Menachem Begin has undertaken an official visit to US. Israel is not very happy about the proposed US sale of AWACs aircrafts to Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Begin supported Sadat's crackdown of fanatical Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt. **IRAN:** Iranian Prosecutor-General Hajatollah Ali Ghodassi was killed in a bomb explosion. Police Chief Houshang Dastgerdi succumbed to the wounds suffered in last weeks' bomb blast. Bani-Sadr has offered to stop assassinations in Iran provided Teheran government halts executions and closes down courts responsible for them. But the new Prosecutor General is bent on setting up more tribunals of such type to try leftists and other criminals. Ayatollah Khomeini reacting to the arrests of Clergymen in Egypt said that participation in politics was at the forefront of the teaching of Prophet Mohammed. Ayatollah Assadollah Madani, a close associate of Khomeini and a prominent Iranian and six others were killed in a grenade attack while conducting a mass in East Azerbaijan.

AFRICA :

EGYPT: The government took over nearly 40,000 privately owned mosques and tightened its control over Muslim preachers. Government arrested several religious dignitaries and political agitators in a major crackdown against mounting opposition to Sadat. Chris Horper, correspondent of the American Broadcasting Corporation has been expelled from Cairo. The police broke up anti-government demonstrations staged in Cairo by Islamic fundamentalists after Friday's prayers. President Sadat's attempt to suppress Moslem clerics and Coptic Christians Bishops was seen as an attempt to safeguard the peace process with Israel. **UGANDA.** The poorly trained Ugandan soldiers have been committing senseless killings and torture of civilians.

EUROPE :

NETHERLANDS: A coalition party headed by Christian Democrat Prime Minister Dries Van Agt was sworn in after a hard bargaining since the May general elections. **POLAND:** The prisoners in the northern city of Bydgoszcz staged a mini revolt and quietened down when a would be

escaper was shot at. Poland's Solidarity Trade Union called for free elections. News reports say that Solidarity Trade Union now aims at a national government as it had leaders capable of forming such a government. **WEST GERMANY:** West Germany, already facing a large non-German population of 4.4 million of the total 60 million, has decided to impose severe restrictions on the would be immigrants. **FRANCE:** French newspapers blamed Iranian revolutionaries for the assassination of their Ambassador to Lebanon. The socialist government of President Mitterrand has decided to nationalise 36 French-owned Banks putting 95 percent of all deposits in State control and take over 51 per cent of the Matra armaments and telecommunications company and of the Dassault aviation concern. The UN conference on the world's least developed countries has ended in a deadlock over the question of increased aid contributions. **UNITED KINGDOM:** Two policemen were killed in Northern Ireland in a bomb explosion. British Trade Unions blamed Thatcher's Government as deliberately encouraging joblessness and this has caused violent racial and communal tensions. British Opposition leader Michael Foot blamed and attacked the economic policies of Thatcher and Reagan and said "Reaganism has no more chances of success than Thatcherism. It is the same cold, blind inhuman and imbecile doctrine. Guatemala has broken off consular relations with Britain. The Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal said that US may be harming its own interest by taking a soft stand on South Africa's racial policies. Britain and France announced their willingness to give practical shape to the plan of building a tunnel under the 23 mile English Channel, which was first mooted by Napoleon in 1802. The announcement that Poland's Trade Union is planning to seize power caused panic in exchange markets weakening West German mark and Pound Sterling. **VATICAN:** Vatican has denied that it ever suspected an international plot much less SOVIET KGB to kill Pope John Paul. Vatican has also denied another allegation that Pope John Paul said that Poland was abandoned by its Western allies from Nazi forces in 1939. **SPAIN:** Pablo Picasso's celebrated painting Guernica will be returned to Spain after 42 years in a New York museum. Jordanian Ambassador to Spain has denied reports that there was an attempt to kill King Hussein of Jordan while he was on a private visit to Spain. **SOVIET UNION:** Moscow announced that in her military manoeuvres near Polish borders nearly 100,000 military personnel were participating; Western diplomats viewed this as a pressure on Poland. An announcement that Government has decided to increase the maternity allowance for women for a year has been interpreted as Russia was in need of more babies. President Leonid Brezhnev made it clear that if the West proceeds

with the development of new weapons Soviets will not remain indifferent to it.

AMERICAS

UNITED STATES: Labour Secretary Donovan said that the government would not offer any amnesty to striking Air Traffic Controllers. US is developing the Lajes air base in Terceira Island in the mid Atlantic for the use of Rapid Deployment Force (RDF). US condemned the intrusion of Afghan soldiers into Pakistan and held the Soviet Union as responsible for the incident. Poland's Solidarity Union has planned to open a publicity office in New York. **UNITED NATIONS:** A UN human rights committee has urged Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to make efforts to stop "systematic persecution" of Bahais in Iran. The European Economic Community accused South Africa's attempt to impose an internal settlement on Namibia instead of the UN approved independent plans for the territory UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has announced his willingness to serve for another five year period.



A BRIEF NOTE ON

Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe

By T. Duraisingam

IN 1929, Dr. SUGISWARA ABEYWARDENE WICK-REMASINGHE completed his medical studies in England and returned to Sri Lanka. This was the time when, following the arrival of the Donoughmore Commissioners in 1927, there was heightened interest in politics. Issues such as the degree of self-government for the country and the extension of the franchise were hotly debated. This was also the time when the world-wide great economic crises of capitalism began to hit Sri Lanka. The mass unemployment and the great hardships suffered by the people caused by the economic depression made the radical sections of the intelligentsia to think of a way out. The policies of the bourgeois leaders of the national movement like Sir D. B. Jayatilleke and D. S. Senanayake, who advocated that our path to eventual self-government and prosperity lay in collaboration with British imperialism, did not point the way out of the problems affecting the common man. The working people's movement also was being adversely affected by the crisis. The Labour Union led by A. E. Goonesinha had abandoned its radical policy after the onset of the depression. From being a militant and uncompromising leader of the working class, Goonesinha changed over to become a peaceful settler of disputes with the employers, to the detriment of the workers.

Among the nationalist youth there was great dissatisfaction with the existing political organisations and the need for a new approach to political, social and economic issues was felt. In March 1920 a meeting consisting mainly of students of the University College, Law College and Medical College was held at Ananda College, Colombo. This meeting had been called on the initiative of one of the joint secretaries of the Student's Congress, N. Kumarasingham. It was decided to form a "Colombo Youth League and a committee consisting of Messrs. P. de S. Kularatne, T. B. Jayah, S. R. Kanaganayagam, D. S. S. Peiris, N. Kumarasingham, Robin Rutnam, M. Rajasingham, F. S. J. Cooray, M. Sally, M. Nadarajah and C. Ranasinghe had been elected. The Students Congress itself was the first radical youth league to be formed in Sri Lanka. It was formed in Jaffna in December 1924 on the initiative of S. Handy Perinbanayagam and M. Balasundaram with the avowed purpose of eventually organising an all Ceylon Movement embracing young people of all races, creeds and castes, so that they may radically improve "the condition of their country in its social and political, cultural and intellectual and spiritual sides. The politically conscious youth of the early 1930s began to group themselves into youth leagues in various parts of the country. The young Doctor Wickremasinghe, soon after his return to Sri Lanka, joined the activities of these radical youth leagues. The writer of this article, who has been associated with the political activities of Doctor Wickremasinghe since the early 1930s, had completed his schooling in Jaffna and had come over to Colombo in 1929 for his higher studies. He had joined the Students Congress, Jaffna, in 1927 and later was elected to its executive committee. The Students Congress was in 1931 renamed the Youth Congress.

DOCTOR WICKREMASINGHE was one of the founders of the original Lanka Sama Samaja Party which was formed on 18th December 1935. But the origins of this party can be traced to the activities of the All Ceylon Youth League which was inaugurated on 16.5.1931. The youth leagues that then existed at Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna, Negombo and other parts of the country came together to form this Youth Congress. The first sessions of the All Ceylon Youth Congress was held at Plaza Theatre, Wellawatte, Colombo with Valentine S. Perera in the chair. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs. Nehru, Mrs. Indira Gandhi (then Miss Nehru) and Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya attended these sessions as distinguished guests. Doctor Wickremasinghe, who took an active part in the Congress sessions moved the following resolution: "That the Youth of Ceylon respectfully pays its tribute of profound admiration at the supreme courage and tremendous sacrifice manifested by the youth of India in their great struggle for the

liberation of their motherland. This resolution was seconded by Terence N. de Zilva and adopted by the Congress. The "Swaraj resolution which was moved by Stanley de Zoysa and seconded by S. H. Perinapanayagam read as follows: "That the youth of Ceylon in Congress assembled do hereby resolve that whereas the people of this country have completely lost faith in British Rule and whereas any further continuance of British Rule is fraught with incalculable detriment to the social, economic, political and cultural life of this country and her people, an intensive campaign be launched for the immediate attainment of swaraj for Ceylon.

A resolution calling for a boycott of the general elections of June 1931 as a protest against the Donoughmore Constitution, was passed at this Congress. The youth leaguers carried on an active campaign for the boycott of the elections. The boycott was only successful in Jaffna. However, the youth leaguers who did enter the State Council continued to expose, from inside the State Council, the defects of the Constitution. The all Ceylon Youth Congress made a great impact on the progressive youth of these times and more youth leagues were formed in various parts of the country. Doctor Wickremasinghe took an active part in the various activities of the youth leagues. A campaign was organised by the youth leagues to boycott foreign goods, especially rice, liquor, cloth and tobacco, and the people were urged to join the Swadeshi Movement launched to encourage the local products. Doctor Wickremasinghe spoke about the achievements of the first socialist state, the Soviet Union, to members of these youth leagues and to his circle of friends and associates and introduced the idea of socialism to them.

Doctor Wickremasingh was elected to the first State Council in 1931 as the member for Morawaka. At the State Council he spoke about the deplorable conditions of the workers and peasants and the need for legislation to protect them. The voice of the working people began to be heard, for the first time, in the legislative assembly of the country. He made a scientific analysis of the causes for the poverty and backwardness of the Sri Lankan people and exposed the true nature of colonial exploitation in Sri Lanka. He pointed out that the poverty and degradation of the people were directly due to the political and economic domination by British Imperialism. In 1931, Doctor Wickremasinghe actively assisted the organisation of the sale of Suriya Mal in Matara. Under the auspices of the Ex-Servicemen's Association the sale of Suriya Mal was started in 1931 by the Ceylonese ex-servicemen of the first world war, as a protest against the proceeds of the poppy sales on November 11 being sent to England. They wanted the monies

collected to be spent among the ex-servicemen and their dependents in Ceylon

THE ALL CEYLON YOUTH CONGRESS gave its full support to the Suriya Mal campaign. Doctor Wickremasinghe appealed to the public, through a letter in the daily press, for support. In his letter he stated that he earnestly appealed to the public in general and the youth in particular to support the worthy cause of the Suriya Mal campaign. "Our critical financial situation" he stated, "urgently demands the immediate cessation of the drain of money from this country. Also we need an organisation to collect large sums of money to give relief to the various institutions of charity in the country and to maintain the starving men, women and children. The Suriya Mal campaign with the idealism of youth behind it is unique, as it will serve both these purposes". Among the active workers at Matara was Miss Doreen Young, the then principal of Matara Sujatha Vidyalaya, who later married Doctor Wickremasinghe. In a letter to the Editor published in the *Daily News* of 10.11.1931, Miss Doreen Young explained to the public the real issue between the Suriya Flower and the Poppy "There is said to be no rivalry", she wrote, "between the two sales. Even some of the most ardent supporters of the Suriya Flower are taking great pains to assure everyone of this. But it is untrue. It is a delusion calculated to soothe their inner torments and allay their friends's misgivings. It is also a pathetic sign of cowardice and an inability to face facts. Beyond a shadow of doubt the 11th of November is to be a battle of flowers. The Suriya Flower is no a vain expressions of narrow and selfish nationalism but a challenge to the moral tight of the citizens of Ceylon to send donations abroad when they are needed infinitely more urgently at home. Every cent that goes to the Poppy collection lessens the amount which might otherwise have helped the needy of this country".

To be concluded.....



ENGLISH

Verse and Poetry

By Dr. H. D. Walbeoff Jansz

Language, by thought is expressed, is found in two distinct forms—prose and verse. Prose is the direct, straight-forward, unversified arrangement of words which characterises the plain speech that is in everyday use. You may have heard of that famous Frenchman of fiction who one day suddenly woke up to the fact that for more than forty years

he had been speaking prose without knowing it. He patted himself on the back for that wonderful performance of his. We all do the same thing—speak in prose every day of our lives—the only difference being that some people do this much better than others.

Here we shall speak of verse and poetry. "Aren't these two things you may ask. They are not. Just listen to this nursery rhyme:

Hickory dickory dock i
The mouse ran up the clock;
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down,
Hickory dickory dock i

Can you call that poetry? Some might say: Why yes, of course i There are rhymes in it." But rhyming is not essential to versification. Some of the finest poetry—such as that of Shakespeare and Milton for example—is in the form of unrhymed verse, called blank verse.

What is there noteworthy about that nursery rhyme? It is the regularly recurring pattern of alternately stressed and unstressed syllables. This is the essential feature that distinguishes verse, from prose. It is called metrical rhythm.

We have deliberately chosen a jingling nursery rhyme in order to point out that verse is not quite the same thing as poetry. A good example of humorous verse is the case of limericks, many of which are naughty. Listen to this one:

There was a young lady of Louth,
Who came back from a stay in the south;
Her mother said, "Nellie,
I see that your belly

Has more than goes in through your mouth".

Here again we have both rhyme and rhythm—which nevertheless do not amount to poetry.

Poetry is the lofty expression of sublime thought and feeling. It is usually in the form of verse, but not always so. Some of the finest prose, such as the majestic eloquence of the great masters of this form of language can be truly called poetry. A poet is essentially a creative artist; his is the art of expressing in melodious words the thoughts that are the creation of feeling and imagination. Poetry owes its moving quality not only to the choice of words, but also to the metrical rhythm of verse.

Let us now deal briefly with some of the technicalities of versification. Consider the following sentence when read aloud:

"The curfew tolls the knell of parting day". In this line there are ten syllables arranged in a sequence of five pairs, the second syllable of each pair being stressed. Listen again: The **cur**-few tolls the **knell** of **par**-ting **day**.

This pattern of metrical rhythm is technically called iambic pentameter. It is a characteristic feature of the blank verse of England's two greatest poets, Shakespeare and Milton. Consider the following 2 lines from Shakespeare:

1. If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.
2. If music be the food of love, play on.

Also consider the following 2 lines from Milton

1. Incens'd with indignation Satan stood.
2. The serpent subtlest beast of all the field.

Apart from blank verse iambic pentameter is also a feature of the rhymed pairs of sentences, or couplets as they are called, of many English poets. Consider the following for example:

1. from Shakespeare:

For we, which now behold these present days,
Have eyes to wonder, but lack tongues to praise.

2. from Goldsmith:

Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men delay

3. from Dryden:

Great wits are sure to madness near allied
And thin partitions do their bounds divide.

4. from Pope:

True wit is nature to advantage dressed
What oft was thought but ne'er so well expressed

Iambic pentameter also appears in every line of what is perhaps the most famous of all English poems—Gray's *Elegy written in a country churchyard*. Here is one stanza from it:

Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear:
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Gray's *Elegy* illustrates how the metrical rhythm of verse admirably serves as the vehicle for expressing sublime thoughts in lofty style.

We pass on to consider another pattern—iambic heptameter. This is suited to rousing tales in verse. Our example is taken from Lord Macaulay's poem—*The Armada*.

Attend all ye who list to hear our noble
England's praise,
Tell of the thrice famous deeds she wrought
in ancient days.
When that great fleet invincible against her bore
in vain
The richest spoils of Mexico, the stoutest
hearts of Spain.

Next listen to a different rhythm—the trochaic measure. Our example is from the American poet Longfellow's poem *A psalm of life*.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream !
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem—

Life is real ! Life is earnest !
And the grave is not its goal ;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

A totally different type of rhythm is anapaestic tetrameter, the best known example of which is to be found in Lord Byron's poem, *The Destruction Of Sennacherib*. Here now are 3 separate stanzas:

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold ;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed,
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved and for ever grew still.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal,
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord.

No more striking illustration is required to show that poetry owes its moving quality to both the choice of words and the metrical rhythm of verse.

To conclude our presentation of some of the different metrical rhythms that have added variety to English poetry, we can do no better than to give two fine examples of ballad metre in order to kindle an interest in English poetry in those who are yet unacquainted with England's (and Scotland's) greatest gift to the world.

The first illustration is taken from Sir Walter Scott's famous narrative poem, *Marmion*. The

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lines which follow describe the closing stages of the Battle of Flodden, which was fought on English soil in the year 1513. There the Scottish army was crushingly defeated by the English. In the description which follows Scott is on the side of his countrymen who fought valiantly but lost heavily. Listen now

But as they left the darkening heath,
More desperate grew the strife of death.
The English shafts in volleys bailed,
In headlong charge their horse assailed:
Front, flank and rear, the squadrons sweep,
To break the Scottish circle deep.

That fought around their king.

But yet though thick the shafts as snow,
Though charging knights like whirlwinds go
Though bilmen play the ghastly blow,

Unbroken was the ring;

The stubborn spearmen still made good
Their dark impenetrable wood,
Each stepping where his comrade stood

The instant that he fell.

No thought was there of dastard flight
Linked in the serried phalanx tight,
Groom fought like noble, squire like knight,

As fearlessly and well.

The second illustration of ballad metre is taken from the poem, *Horatius*, one of Lord Macaulay's *Lays of Ancient Rome*, which have had more enthusiastic readers than any other book of English verse. We give two separate stanzas:

But meanwhile axe and lever
Have manfully been plied:
And now the bridge hangs tottering
Above the boiling tide.
'Come back, come back, Horatius!
Loud cried the Fathers all,
'Back Lartius! back Heminius!
Back are the ruin fall!

No sound of joy or sorrow!
Was heard from either bank;
But friends and foes in dumb surprise,
With parted lips and straining eyes
Stood gazing where he sank
And when above the surges
They saw his crest appear,
All Rome sent forth a rapturous cry
And even the ranks of Tuscany
Could scarce forbear to cheer.

Macaulay has, of course, earned lasting fame as a masterly prose writer. Of his own prose style it may safely be said that nothing more brilliant has ever been produced. His poetry too is deservedly popular. 'Those who do not recognise the fire poetic quality in it show that their poetical thermometer is deficient in sensitivity and range.

England's poets playwrights and prose masters have abundantly demonstrated the power and sweep of the English language, 'that language less musical indeed than the languages of the south but in force, in richness, in aptitude for all the highest purposes of the poet, the philosopher the orator, inferior to the tongue of Greece alone.

The tongue that Shakespeare spoke is today used by millions spread over the surface of the vast globe on which we dwell. It thoroughly deserves to be the world's language and long may continue to be so.

If there are some people who still say that English must be learned only because it is useful for ease of communication between man and man

and because it keeps the door wide open for acquiring information of science and technology then all we have to say in reply is that the tragedy of life is not what people suffer but what they miss.

That distinguished son of India Srinivasa Sastri is said to have said: 'English is the gift of the goddess Sarasvathy No finer tribute, to English has ever been paid.



INDIA

Antulay Affair

By Venugopala Rao

New Delhi, September 2: Abdur Rahman Antulay, Chief Minister of the Indian State of Maharashtra, has become the latest source of embarrassment to the ruling Congress Party and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. More than articulate on most subjects that do not always call for his views—as in his fervent canvassing for the Presidential form of government—he is the fourth Chief Minister of a State ruled by the Congress (1) to hit the headlines in recent months. This has done little good to his party, and the screws are reportedly being tightened on him and some others. Antulay is part of a new younger breed of men catapulted into positions of power by sweeping Congress (I) victories in Assembly elections held last year and their strong loyalty to the Prime Minister. The greatest embarrassment they cause is in the almost reckless collection of funds for all kinds of causes.

Antulay has set up over six such funds, one in the name of Indira Gandhi, with avowed purpose of helping the poor and the weak.

Opposition references to these funds have rocked both houses of Parliament. The parties charge that billions of rupees are being "extorted" from businessmen and "black market operators" in the name of the Prime Minister. Winning their demand for a discussion in Parliament after day long wrangles in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha (the Lower and Upper Houses), the Opposition parties forced the Government benches to answer some questions. Today, a young former Congress member who now sits in the Opposition, said the consolidated funds of India have been "defrauded" of billions of Rupees. The sound and fury is largely about Antulay setting up, among other the trust called "Indira Pratibha Pratishthan" with the stated purpose of giving "encouragement, recognition, promotion aid and assistance to talented persons in the fields of Literature and Fine Arts in Maharashtra and "to assist such persons belonging to the weaker sections etc. etc. Loud groans of disbelief were heard in the Lok Sabha today as Finance Minister R. Venkataraman affirmed the existence of this fund. This and another Trust called the Konkan Unnati Mitra Mandal. (Konkan is the region of Maharashtra from which Antula comes), were the focus of the motion.

At least five other Trusts, been publicly named in the Press and shown up in questionable light, were not mentioned in Parliament today. They are: The Raigharh Zilla Pratishthan or Trust (Raigharh in Antulay's home district), The Shriwardhan Matdar Sangha Pratishthan (Shriwardhan is his political constituency), The Mhasla Taluk Trust (Mhasla is his Taluk), The Ambet Pratishthan (Ambe is the name of his village) and Sethia Foundation (associated reportedly with one of his rich patrons). The charge made in Parliament today was that Antulay made use at least of the first two Trusts to obtain large income tax concessions for funds secured and used for party and other purposes. The related charge is that normal distribution of essential commodities like cement was shut off in order to secure huge donations to the trust from those who badly wanted cement. The Government today denied that any special favours had been shown to the Trusts in the matter of income tax exemption, and denied also that cement distribution has been cornered by the Chief Minister's office.

On the Income Tax question, the Government made this admission: The Indira Pratibha Pratishthan applied for registration on October 18, 1980, was registered on November 24, applied for income tax exemption (on the ground that it is a charitable Trust) on November 25 and was granted exemp-

tion the same day. About cement distribution, the government said that 462 persons (companies) were allotted 32,200 tonnes of cement in Bombay this year by a level committee, and that only 12 gave donations to the Trustee, getting only 2,000 tonnes of cement between them. The government maintained, amidst defending noise in both houses, that cement distribution had nothing to do with the collection of funds. This the opposition refused to accept. Their charge is that cement distribution, done always through the Civil Supplies Department, has been effectively put under the charge of the office of the Chief Minister from the time Antulay assumed office. They say this is also what has been done with allotment of public land for housing societies etc. They charge that it is not a private Trust but a Trust set up by the Government, that its "charitable" purposes are questionable and that a large part of the funds collected go to the ruling party. In both houses of Parliament they quoted from a pamphlet published by the Government of Maharashtra, called "Antulay's Inner Voice" to say that whenever rich people with income tax problems go to him, he tells them of the different trusts he has set up and urge them to contribute funds to help the poor.

It has been evident for some time that Antulay had become an embarrassment to the Prime Minister. He has reportedly been told by Indira Gandhi that he should remove her name from the main Trust and that he should mend his ways. It is said the name of the Trust has been changed. It is possible, however, that he will not be sacrificed to his opposition critics directly as a result of this affair. A change in leadership of the ruling party in Maharashtra may come about later, however. Antulay is not the only one of the new breed of Chief Ministers who have come to power in some States facing problems of accountability. Major and unsavoury controversy surrounds another Young Chief Minister, of Karnataka in South, Gundu Rao.

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, a Central Indian State, Arjun Singh, has offered to resign if charges of corruption made against him by the Opposition in the State are proved true. Opposition parties at the central level charge that there is an endless chain of corruption which does not leave Delhi untouched. But, as ruling party spokesman in Parliament tried to point out today, when the Janata Party and its splinter groups were in power two years ago, public money was collected as "donations" for allegedly public causes. The shadows of these charges and counter charges are likely to cloud this session of Parliament. With the Opposition unable to do anything else, it is assumed they will use these for all they are worth to try to make a dent in the authority and popularity of the Government.—IPS/Lankapuwath.

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And Lung Cancer - 2

By K. N. Tyagi

CIGARETTES ARE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR in the increase of chronic bronchitis and pulmonary emphysema as cause of death and those who smoke 40 cigarettes a day run an 18 times greater chance of contributing to this grim situation than the non-smokers. Smoking is also responsible for pneumoconiosis—deposition of carbon particles in the walls of aveoli (small chambers in the wall of the lung) and it is regarded to be precursor to tuberculosis. Then smoking contributes to laryngeal reflex, harshness of sound and may also cause irritation of vocal cords with occasional coughing. Coronary heart disease is another risk from cigarette smoking. Liability of this disease is about twice as great in cigarette smokers and its related to number smoked, to inhalation and to age of beginning to smoke. The risk is less in pipe and cigar smoking. Smoking generates a surge of fatty acids in the blood platelets to adhere to each other a process which is a factor in atherosclerosis or hardening of the arteries which is the underlying problem in most heart diseases. Smoking, doctors maintain, cause extra beats and fastening of the heart rate. Cigarette smoking affects the digestive system and smokers are now seen to be more prone than nonsmokers to peptic ulcers and there is good evidence that healing is delayed by smoking. Smoking also leads to certain forms of blindness and to gingivitis an inflammation of the gums which may cause loss of teeth. Bladder cancer is twice as common among smokers than non-smokers. Facial wrinkles above age of 50 years correlate with amount smoked. Whether smoking significantly affects blood clotting remains uncertain. Taken together the sickness and death directly chargeable to cigarettes they constitute the greatest single avoidable health menace.

Then what should be done? The best thing obviously for all smokers is to give up completely or gradually reducing the quantity. An International Congress on "Smoking or Health" was organised at Bonn in the early half of 1980. A physician Professor asked in general and the West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in particular to desist smoking in public or on TV. Anti-smoking authorities advocate forth right action by government. 1, March 1979 was observed as "Anti-smoking Day" throughout India. The Association of Physicians of India had decided to campaign for educating the people on hazards of smoking.

MOST DOCTORS AGREE that all cigarette advertising should be halted. The tobacco industry, which spends vast sums of money on sales pro-

motion, cannot hide from the unconscionable immorality of urging people towards suicide by continuing to insist that their advertising promotes only brand competition. Nothing now known in the field of preventive medicine would do more to improve health and lengthen life than putting an end to cigarette smoking though there is no guaranteed painless method of giving up smoking. The European Community (EC) was spending 600 million marks each year on supporting tobacco cultivation but organisations campaigning against smoking did not get anything. A campaign need to be organized to save humanity from this silent killer and if people are made to know such serious effects of smoking they may try their new ways to give up the vice. Whether a person (patient) should give up smoking depends on numerous factors including the amount of evidence that smoking aggravates disease in people in general and in the patient in particular and the patient's attitude to his habits. Some people are so miserable without tobacco that the risk of disease is the lesser evil. If the patient is heavily tobacco dependent and anxiety and tension are concomitants at attempts to stop smoking, then a sedative or tranquilliser may be useful for a short time, but, it is important to avoid substituting one drug-dependence for another. Those who cannot stop smoking are advised to take the cigarette out of the mouth between puffs, not to relight half-smoked cigarettes and to smoke brands with low nicotine and tar content. Various stringents can be used in the mouth to make the smoke taste bad. The longer one makes the more his body cries out for its supply of nicotine and tobacco supply when it is suddenly cut off. The first few days are going to be really trying.

It is advised to find out what kind of smoker a person is and when he has discovered then the problem could be solved rather easily. 1. *Psychological or Craving Smokers*—the craving for the next cigarette begins the moment the last one is put off since they are psychologically addicted to tobacco. This smoking is characteristic of early stages of smoking in adolescence but dependence on nicotine soon appears to develop into life long drug dependence. Solution—firm determination to give up smoking. 2. *Indulgent or Relaxation Smokers*—they smoke purely for pleasure when resting, watching TV, after a meal or with cup of coffee or tea. Solution—avoid such situations for a few days. Get up and do something after a meal instead of sitting about. 3. *Tranquillising or Crutch Smokers*—lightup in moments of stress and worry since nicotine is needed for sedation. Whenever things go wrong they take to cigarettes and the smoking frequency varies with the emotional state. A crutch smoker gives up when he is not strain so plan it before a relaxing week-end. 4. *Stimulation Smokers*—the nicotine is used to maintain performance and reduce fatigue in mono-

tonous or demanding tasks. Such smoker feels that a cigarette picks him up and when he gives up he looks for a substitute with a similar effect on his nervous system like alcohol or tea or coffee.

5. *Addictive or Habit Smokers*—are hardly conscious of smoking and for them there is no easy way out. Withdrawal symptoms are felt when subjects have been about 30 minutes without smoking and they smoke to relieve this but they are the most successful at giving up. 6. *Handling Smokers*—like to play around with the cigarette lighter and with the cigarette packet and have the greatest success with dummy cigarettes or pencils or pipe and when they find something to do with their hands for some days then it becomes easy to give up.

AFTER GIVING UP smoking there are going to be temptations to start again—the mere sight of the enticing advertisement, or the nears and dears offer to smoke but temptation should be resisted. It is therefore suggested that give up with a friend and lend each other a moral support, it should be announced to the family members and to circle of friends, routine should be changed for a few days at least and avoid company of smokers during "experimentation". To smoke, or not to smoke, is not primarily a problem of pharmacology but there is ample evidence to warrant strong advice against starting to smoke.

Responsible officials must take an emphatic stand on the proposition that cigarette smoking is calamitous to health. Smoking should be restricted by very heavy taxation so that it is no more a habit but a luxury which burns a hole in one's pocket. Then there should be an embargo on smoking in public places like theatres and parks or during travel in public transport and it should be completely banned on TV programmes. It is indeed high time Indian Government came down heavily on smokers by putting every conceivable curb on this habit which is a serious health hazard—concluded.



U. S. VIEW

Soviet Aid Meagre

By Sam Burke

(USICA Staff Correspondent).

Washington, September 16: In accordance with Lenin's strategy for global expansion, the Soviet Union has sought since the death of Joseph Stalin to become closely identified with the aims and aspirations of the Third World. But Soviet rhetoric in support of the non-Communist developing countries has not been matched by outflows of Soviet economic aid. According to the latest data published by the 24-member nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Soviet Union is believed to have disbursed some 9,371 million dollars in economic assistance of all types to developing countries between 1970 and 1979. If Soviet aid to such communist "client" states of Cuba, North Korea and Vietnam is excluded—which is in keeping with the definition of developing countries applied by the USSR itself—then only 2,029 million dollars in economic assistance was provided by the Soviets to the Third World. This represents an average yearly aid outlay over the ten-year period of about 203 million dollars, or roughly 0.03 of one percent of Soviet Gross National Product (GNP). The United States, by comparison, disbursed some 39,912 million dollars in concessional economic and financial aid to non-Communist development nations between 1970 and 1979—for an average yearly outlay of 3,991 million dollars, or about 0.26 of one percent of U. S. Gross National Product. In other words, the United States—with per capita GNP around two to two-and-a-half times that of the USSR—during this period—actually spent almost 20 times as much on economic aid to the non-Communist developing countries over the ten years.

The OECD figures deal with Official Development Assistance (ODA) defined as grants or loans that are undertaken by the unofficial sector; with promotion of economic development welfare as main objectives; at concessional financial terms (if a loan, at least 25 per cent grant element). Official Development Assistance includes technical assistance for Development purposes, but it excludes all forms of military aid and trade subsidies—such as those provided by the Soviet Union to Cuba for its sugar and Nickel exports. It also excludes US export and import Bank loans for the purchase of US goods and private American aid flows abroad. General standards set by the OECD, which includes all major Western industrialized countries, specify that ODA should have an overall grant element of at least 86 percent. This means that

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loans should carry relatively long maturity dates and interest rates lower than the prevailing market rate—currently, about ten percent. This, the grant element is zero for a loan carrying an interest rate of ten percent; it is 100 percent for a direct grant (which does not have to be repaid), and it lies somewhere in between for a “soft” loan carrying an interest rate below the market rate. Generally speaking, a loan will not convey a grant element exceeding 25 per cent if its maturity is less than ten years, unless its interest rate is well below five percent. In recent years, the overall grant element of US concessional aid has averaged well over 90 per cent, rising as high as 96 percent. The grant element of Soviet economic aid ranged between 45 and 50 percent. Soviet economic assistance outside its own Communist orbit traditionally has been concentrated in a small number of selected developing nations. According to US experts, the recipient nations are selected so as to gain influence and entry into strategically located areas and to develop markets for Soviet exports and sources of supply for goods needed in the Soviet Union. In the past, most such aid has gone to “targets of opportunity” in the so-called “National Liberation Zone” which extends crescent-like from North Africa along the strategically important Mediterranean, through the Middle East and South Asia—whose countries are adjacent to the Soviet Union, or like India, constitute a counter-weight to China—then on to South-East Asia. In recent years, Sub-Sahara Africa, has taken on added importance to the USSR as a source of vital raw materials.

ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS of the Soviet Union have other distinctive features: (1) All aid commitments (including disbursements) are tied to the purchase of Soviet equipment and the use of Soviet technicians; (2) They focus on highly visible heavy industrial projects, such as steel plants in India and the Aswan Dam in Egypt, with the development of natural resources gaining in importance; (3) aid is invariably given to the state sector of the recipient country; (4) it is almost never dispensed through multilateral institutions, and (5) very little aid is given in the form of outright grants. The USSR’s rationale for offering so little economic aid to the very nations for which it professes a special kinship is that Soviet leaders feel no shared responsibility with the Western industrial nations for poverty and underdevelopment in the Third World. The Soviet Government argues that these problems were created by the former “colonial” powers and should be dealt with exclusively by them. Increasing numbers of developing nations no longer are willing to accept this Soviet explanation, however, and are insisting that the USSR assume a proportionate share of the world development burden.—USICA.

BOOK REVIEW

Race Relations

A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON RACE RELATIONS IN SRI LANKA 1900-1980 COMPILED BY USHA MOTHARAJ (*Quest 66*): published by The Centre for Society & Religion.

At a time when race relations in Sri Lanka have assumed crisis proportions, this bibliography compiled by a young library assistant attached to the Centre for Society and Religion is a most timely publication that would be welcomed by all those who are seriously concerned with this problem. As stated in her Introduction to this bibliography, her endeavour does not seem to have been motivated solely by academic interests on this subject but also by a desire “to find practical solutions to the communal problems by fostering better racial understanding and the recognition of human rights irrespective of race and creed. Thus the 379 entries she has made are primarily related to the growth of racial consciousness among ethnic groups, the problems confronted by them and their solutions.

These entries have been divided into 7 major subjects that would serve as a guide to serious students on this subject: (1) General (Ethnology, Language, Culture, Caste and Race relations); (2) Ethnic Groups (Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim); (3) Racial Conflict (General, 1915 riots, 1958 riots and 1977 riots); (4) Racial Problems (General, Language, Education, Mass media, Ceylon Tamils, Indian Tamils and Citizenship); (5) Eelam; (6) National Unity and (7) Racial Harmony. It also carries an Author and Subject Indices separately.

Although the very nature of the subject had made the compiler to draw heavily from local sources, she has also included entries from foreign sources such as the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *Modern Asian Studies*, *Modern Review* and *Far Eastern Survey*. She has not confined her entries to books and periodicals alone but has included “seminar proceedings, doctoral theses, letters and unpublished material relevant to the period 1900-1980. She has brought her professional skill to bear on this bibliography by giving brief annotations of most of the entries made. Included in this publication are also statements issued from time to time by various organisations that are concerned with race relations, ranging from the Citizens Committee for National Harmony to the Sinhala Youth Front.

As our legislature has been the main forum where matters pertaining to race relations have been aired in the most extensive manner for over half a century, one would have wished that such proceedings were also indexed in the compilation. But one has to, nevertheless, appreciate the constraints

that would have deterred Miss Motha from embarking in an exercise of such magnitude. It would have needed the undivided attention of a full-time compiler for at least twelve months to wade through the labyrinthine columns of the Hansard. As the compiler herself states, there is no doubt that this bibliography will be a "convenient work of reference to Researchers, Social Workers and Action Groups to foster racial harmony within the framework of Justice and equality.

ARIYARATNE.



PEACE MARCH

Only West Europeans

Moscow, September 17: On August 6, Leonid Brezhnev sent a message with wishes of success in the struggle for a peaceful Europe to the participants in the Peace March-81. He confirmed the Soviet Union's adherence to the principles of turning all of Europe into a zone of peace, security and good-neighbourliness. The idea of staging an anti-war march, a march of protest against the deployment in Western Europe of news US nuclear missiles belongs of Eve Norland, a Norwegian woman, a mother of four. The Peace March-81 which attracted people of different age, religions creeds and political views has been completed. It ended in Paris on August 6-9, the 36th anniversary of the atomic tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which claimed over 30,000 lives. European anti-militarism is the result of the "intrigues of Moscow", which according to Washington, is trying to "split" the ranks of Atlantic partners and, in so doing, not to let Europe be turned into a missile arsenal of the USA. This is naivete turning into the absurd.

It was not the hand of Moscow that led men and women along the roads of five countries. The new "wave of pacifism" is the growing enlightenment of East Europeans to the effect that there can be no "limited nuclear war" in Europe. Any conflict, with use made even of a fraction of the warheads deployed in Europe, its tantamount to a catastrophe. Nobody will survive. Only the West Europeans themselves can erect a barrier to the new missiles. And that took to the roads of Europe. The women from Scandinavia were first. After the new marchers—people belonging both to the pre and post-Hiroshima generation—joined the anti-war procession. They marched and their numbers grew, because they are concerned for the life of the planet Earth, for the life of the children — their future. They marched 1,700 km. so that the tragedy would not be repeated and that mankind would not fall into an abyss.—APN.

Govt.



Notices

Ref No. 3/62/597
J.78 E.27

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

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 160 (Part III) of 25.09.1981

SCHEDULE

Name of Land :- Medakandegedarawatta

Name of Village :- Buluwalakanda village in Hewawissa Korale, Ridigama D. R. O's Division, Kurunegala District.

Plan No. & Lot No :- Lot Nos 136 and 137 in Supplement No. 3 in F. V. P. 1123

The Kachcheri
Kurunegala,

03rd Sept., 1981.

A. George
District Land Officer
Kurunegala District.

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

Reference No. 3/2/4/8/831

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 160 (Part 111) of 25.09.1981

SCHEDULE

A. G. A's Division Minuwangoda

Village Siyambalpitiye

Situation

Name of Land Keragahawatta

Lot Nos 1

Plan No. P. P. Gam. 136

Kachcheri,
Gampaha.
Date: 2.09.1981

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

TRIBUNE, September 26, 1981

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Winged Bean ?

IS IT NOT A FACT that the Winged Bean makes world news? That in the latest issue of *Development Forum* (Vol. ix No. 7 September 1981), published by the United Nations University and the Division of Economic and Social Information, there is an interesting item entitled *Miracle Vegetable: Hit or Myth?* by a writer A. C. M. Saly? That is what it said: "Are certain under-utilized vegetables capable of providing at least part of the solution to the Third World food crisis? Research and development projects on such vegetables are apparently designed to develop plants that have nutritional value and could help ease the chaotic food situation in the developing countries. But do such projects serve their purpose? And who are the real beneficiaries—the developing countries or the transnationals? A controversy over this question is now raging in Sri Lanka where the winged bean is promoted as a wonder plant with a significant role to play in the country's health and nutrition fields. A native of Africa, the winged bean is said to have been introduced to most of the countries in the Asian region by the invading Portuguese. The bean is claimed in some instances, to be better than soyabean, another "miracle" crop promoted in Sri Lanka and many other developing countries. In Sri Lanka the winged bean is still in a semi-wild state and not popular, even though it has been grown as an emergency crop. Dr. Mervyn de Silva, director of the agricultural division of the Sri Lankan Implementation ministry, is highly critical of the campaign to promote the winged bean, launched with government backing. According to him, the green revolutions in general and wonder plants in particular have been established by practitioners of rural development in Third World countries and have brought about total dependence on the manufactures of the industrialized countries. Dr. de Silva fears that the winged bean will acquire total dependency on a package of costly chemical inputs imported from the industrialized countries when researched and bred into improved strains. In his view, promoting the winged bean will only serve to divert the attention from subsidiary crops already grown and confuse the farmers who may not be able to sell the winged bean as there is hardly any market for it. Another danger in undertaking projects on underutilized plants is the internal "brain-drain" which such programmes bring about. A depletion of agricultural resources and an exponential increase in rural poverty and unemployment is what the future predicts," says Dr. de Silva. To help ease the global food situation, technology, "chemicals" and other products of the industrialized countries are

passed on to unsuspecting Third World peasants, thus increasing their dependence on the industrialized North and indirectly strengthening the developed nations'?"

THAT LAST WEEK we had pointed out in this column, Dr. Mervyn de Silva had been sent on compulsory leave for releasing to the press his views in the Winged Bean without getting the permission of the appropriate authority? That the scientists in the public sector, in the University and other statutory bodies, are perturbed about the "disciplinary action taken against Dr. Mervyn de Silva? That whilst it is admitted that, in this particular case, he was guilty of a technical breach of governmental regulations, scientists are concerned that evidence should be led at the inquiry about reports he had prepared for government and published earlier by government to show that he had a "bias? That government should do a little rethinking about this matter if it does not want a further brain-drain of Sri Lankan scientists and specialists? That the technical violation of a rather obsolete AR does not call for such a massive punitive exercise or an "inquisitorial investigation into "bias ?

IS IT NOT A FACT, HOWEVER, that we in Sri Lanka should be thankful that a civilized system of jurisprudence obtains here in the framework of the rule of law? That we have received a clipping from a friend in the US of a news item published in the *New York Times* of September 18, 1981? That the report Karachi town read: A 15 years old high school girl and a 24-year-old school bus driver she had eloped with were ordered to be flogged and then stoned to death for adultery a fortnight ago making the first time such a sentence had been passed by a religious court here since Pakistan adopted traditional punishments for violations of Koranic law more than three years ago. The sentence was the most dramatic escalation of the Government-sponsored attempt to foster standards of probity and private behaviour that are defined as Islamic. Most of these efforts centre on relations between men and women and in the last month have involved decisions to limit or ban women models on television and the cancellation of a foreign tour of a women's hockey team on the ground that there would be men spectators watching the games.... That the punishment it is learnt, on the woman has been "suspended", because she was pregnant (as a result of this pre-marital affair)? That even if such punishment may be only a nominal "determinant", it is happy thought that erring persons (including scientists) in Sri Lanka are either not stoned to death or have their hands cut off for allegedly writing with "bias ?



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