

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE PICTURE ON THE COVER is a scene of the Lunugamvehera project under construction. The dam and the major infrastructural work are nearly over and the scheme is expected to become operative soon. As we have repeatedly stressed in these columns, what is more important than completing the construction—difficult though it may be especially finding the money—is the task of settling the right kind of people who will ensure the maximum utilisation of land and water to increase production and profits year by year. For this the marketing of agricultural produce by private and public sector organisations must be perfected and streamlined. This has become especially important now that the government has at last realised that the future of the country lies in agriculture (plantation, non-traditional and otherwise) and also on agro-based industries. Tree crop plantations and the non-traditional products (spices, etc.) have always been on an export basis but in more recent times not enough attention was paid to the all-important question of export marketing. Even the marketing abroad of a traditional crop like tea has unfortunately been neglected and has for too long been in amateurish and bureaucratic hands. Though there has been much official blah about developing the export of non-traditional and agricultural products, the incentives offered to producers was so minimal that little or no progress was made. This was because the incentives so far offered reached no further than the middle-man and produce-brokers who operate in collusion with the big and small export houses in Colombo. The Export Promotion Board (EPB) recently publicly indulged in loud lamentations about the failure of the export drive to produce the expected targets and went on to warn the nation that unless there was a marked improvement in export earnings, Sri Lanka would be submerged in three or four years in a foreign debt trap and not be able to sustain the economic levels to which people have become accustomed. In short, what the report of the EPB stated was that unless the export performance improved substantially, the country would be pitched head-long into virtual bankruptcy. No doubt, having this in mind, Ronnie de Mel's latest Budget makes a welcome and concerted effort to offer incentives to agriculturists and farmers of every kind. What is more, agrobased industries have also been brought into the picture besides livestock farming, the dairy industry, fisheries (inland and marine) and other allied enterprises. *Tribune* has for many years been pleading for special incentives direct to agriculturists, farmers and producers who have so far been exploited by middle-men, brokers, exporters and the like (who were probably expected to pass on part of the incentives and benefits to the producers but which they never did). This Budget has placed the emphasis on the correct priorities. Sri Lanka today imports over Rs. 1,000 million worth of milk powder and dairy products—which Sri Lanka can not only produce enough for the country's needs but also to export to nearby countries like the Maldives, the Gulf and West Asia. We import honey. We import meat. We import fish. We can easily produce these here and thereby reduce or even wipe out the current adverse balance of trade. We still import rice. We import wheat flour. We import pulses, dhals, onions and even chillies. We import coriander, garlic and other condiments most of which can be grown here. If these imports are eliminated or reduced, we will need less foreign loans to balance our budget. And if we increase our production and are able to export more we can become self-reliant. We are aware that self-reliance does not mean self-sufficiency in everything. What we need is adequate volume of exports not only to cover our imports but also give us a favourable balance of trade.

The Budget

Colombo, November 19: Minister of Finance, Ronnie de Mel must be congratulated for the Budget he presented on Wednesday, November 16. It was his seventh budget (in a row) and it came, as a surprise to those pundits who had expected a ruthless exercise in financial and fiscal harshness with a further devaluation of the rupee and the wholesale cutting of subsidies that presently support the welfare services—all on the *diktat* of the IMF and the World Bank. The pundits spoke about the global recession and inflation, diminishing world trade, the extravagant consumerist spending in Sri Lanka, the corrupt and wasteful disbursement of funds by Corporations and Government departments, the over-ambitious development plans, the 23 billion rupee deficit, the failure to induce greater production and increase export earnings, the July disturbances and the body blow to the island's economy especially the virtual stoppage of tourist inflow.

And for the last two or three weeks *Tribune* had received gloomy predictions that the Seventh Budget of the Jayewardene Government would really be an IMF-IBRD Type Plan monetary blood-letting with indirect taxation falling heavily on the poor and other punitive measures that will make life harder for the common man. We were not enamoured about such "predictions". We told the pundits that we would pass the verdict on the budget only after it was presented and that we were not inclined to make predictions that stemmed from cocksure prognostications based on ideological rigidities that tend to oversimplify politics, economics and history and reduce everything to unrealistic ex-cathedra pronouncements or pretensions absurdities.

Even Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel was aware of these doomsday prognostications in many quarters. In the course of his speech he said: "... Everybody expected a very hard Budget. This is a natural reaction after the recent disturbances. Prophets of gloom and doom forecast devaluation, import controls, sky-high taxes, reduction of subsidies and more burdens on the ordinary man. There are even fears expressed that free education, free health and other social services would be controlled" and went on to say, "... I am glad to inform the House and through this House the people of this country that I propose to do none of those things. There will be some reliefs which I think will be welcome and few additional burdens on those most able to bear them". He had also stated, "Despite our economic difficulties which have been aggravated by the recent disturbances, I have tried my utmost not to impose additional burdens on the less affluent sections of

people. Surprise is the hallmark of a good general. Surprise can also be a weapon in the armoury of a Finance Minister."

The Seventh UNP Budget is not all that one could have wished for but in the circumstances it is a remarkable document. It shows the country a way to survive and move forwards slowly in a situation beset with difficulties, constraints and hurdles of every kind. The IMF and the World Bank have to be kept happy because Sri Lanka like nearly every country in the Third World cannot do without the assistance of these international agencies. They are, no doubt, the instruments of the global financial vested interests of western capitalism, but Sri Lanka is a part of that system. Even in the heyday of the left-leaning SLFP-LSSP-CP Coalition (1970-1977), this island was not able to break away from it. Many Third World countries similarly placed like Sri Lanka have not been able to break away from the orbit of the IMF and IBRD in spite of pious intentions and firm declarations to chart a new and independent course and discard capitalism. Even socialist countries like Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia have borrowed heavily from western bankers. But these are matters that need not concern us here and now.

WHAT WE ARE CONCERNED with now is the latest Budget. And, for a critical and examination of the Budget what is needed is an understanding of the facts relevant to the problems of budgeting in relation to economic development and the quality of life of the people. At the moment the country is midway in the gigantic Mahaweli Accelerated Programme. It is also on the verge of launching the Million-house programme to give life and blood to the Model Villages and Village Reawakening Movement. The country is also in the throes of a bitter struggle to upgrade and streamline agriculture mainly for the purpose of eliminating the import of goods that can be produced here and for increasing production of products that can be exported. There are many ongoing projects that have to be sustained and completed if the quality of life of ordinary people is to be substantially improved. Even if no new projects are to be started for the next two or three years, what this government has done so far and what it will complete in the next three or four years is more than what any government has done since Independence. These are facts which even the bitterest opponents of the government cannot deny.

As in all human affairs, shortcomings abound, Waste and corruption bedevil the administration. Income Tax evasion had proliferated in areas where it should not have been tolerated especially in the period of the upsurge of an open economy that spawned millionaires by the thousands. It was also a time when opulent living and ostentatious consumerism gave a new handle to social unrest. The new rich broke all laws and the administration condoned

these acts. Law and order became a thing of the past and the State's law enforcement officers took the law into their hands. The excuse for these violations of the law was the outcry against the demand for a separate state (built up into a bogey by sections of the sensation-loving press). The inability and failure of the security forces and the police to maintain law and order led to the growth of terrorism in the North and East, and criminality in the rest of the island. The unfortunate outcome of all this was the ethnic holocaust of July/August 1983. The Government had ample warnings about it in the outbursts of communal violence in 1977, 1978, 1980 and 1981, but carried away by the euphoric mesmerism induced by rhetoric about the open economy the government refused to see any significance in the writing on the wall that was daily looming larger.

The wage-earners and income-tax payers of this country are now being called upon to pay one percent of their salary and a ten percent surcharge on income tax for one year to fill the coffers of the Rehabilitation Fund. In a sense people in no way responsible for the holocaust are being penalised. An impartial inquiry by an independent Commission (not a whitewash one) can easily identify the persons who organised the criminal acts of arson, looting, murder and the like. It is these persons who should be made to pay the damage especially by the forfeiture of property. To tax the whole nation for the misdeeds of the few (some of them very rich through gem smuggling and other illegal activities) is neither just nor fair. The miscreants thus go scot free; they have so far even evaded paying income tax on the millions, or even the billions, in the post-1977 era of the open economy.

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE, we have published the highlights of the Budget. In favour of the Budget the *Daily News* (17/11/83) had a frontpage piece that set out all its "plus" points. "In a 'no surprises' budget presented yesterday, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel offered substantial incentives to resuscitate the plantations, some tax relief to the middle class and announced a one percent levy on the wages of all employees to help pay for the rehabilitation of the July riot victims. Mr. de Mel, who said he had tried his best not to impose new burdens on the less affluent, remarked that surprise is the hallmark of a good general. It could also be a weapon in the armour of a finance minister. But he was not going to do any of the nasty things that prophets of doom and gloom had prophesied. The proposals raised the exemption limit on income tax from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 18,000 a year and broadened the slabs in such a manner that somebody with an income of Rs. 36,000 a year who now pays Rs. 3,720 as income tax will carry a tab of Rs. 1,950. The minister who candidly admitted that liquor and cigarettes are favorite target of finance ministers, announced that a cigarette will cost two cents more from today while a Rs. 3 increase in the price of a bottle of arrack was imposed from

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last week. The import duties on books and periodicals a tax on knowledge which brought in Rs. 10 million revenue, is being immediately abolished. The mail, which Mr. de Mel said was cheap in Sri Lanka is going to cost more. So are the tele-communication services. The exact charges were not announced yesterday, but Rs. 130 million extra revenue from the post and Rs. 90 million from telecommunications was announced.

"The minister swung a flurry of punches at corruption in the gem trade and said that the Gem Corporation and the Export Development Board were trying to persuade traders to export their gems through legitimate channels. He raised a laugh by ruefully admitting "This is more difficult than getting an elephant to pass through the eye of a needle". Discussing widespread tax evasion in the country, the minister revealed that only 23 lawyers have declared gross incomes of over Rs. 100,000 a year. Non-monetary executive benefits like housing and transport of senior private sector managers will be taxed at more realistic rates, Mr. de Mel said, while anything not so taxed will be disallowed as a deduction to the employer. Mr. de Mel adjusted the turnover tax structure on which much of his revenue depends, trimming general trading levies from 4 to 1 percent with immediate effect. But he expected to ensure that 200,000 people will pay this tax now against 45,000 earlier. 'Drastic action' on evasion was promised. "The minister said that the new revenue proposals will bring in Rs. 1,710 million. On the final expenditure and revenue estimates, after taking the budget proposals into account, a deficit of Rs. 16.5 billion will remain. This will be financed by outright foreign grants (Rs. 4.2 billion), project, commodity and other loans from abroad (Rs. 8.2 billion), domestic rupee loans (Rs. 3.6 billion) and the banking system (Rs. 0.7 billion). Mr. de Mel said that he proposed to rely on the banking system for only Rs. 681 million to finance the budget. This was not even half percent of the projected 1984 GDP and therefore 'not a source of imbalance in the economy'. Concluding what has been the longest of his seven budget speeches, a tired minister stressed that some remarkable economic gains had been won and stability and law and order were intrinsic to those achievements. 'We cannot now allow communal or racial strife to divert us from our cherished goal of bringing prosperity to all sections of our people in the quickest possible time', he declared. There was a long way yet to go for the gains already made had to be consolidated. For this, the support of all races inhabiting this country was necessary. 'We cannot continue to be a house divided against itself', he said."

The *Sun* (17/11) in an editorial summed said: "It was indeed a mixed bag of tricks that came out of the 'Black box' last night. It was a clever sleight of hand by the veteran card player of Geekiyanakanda. His bridge over the troubled deficit was played with

the usual calm and aplomb though the impact of it will be felt in the days to come. Whatever the public verdict will be — a good budget or a bad one—the fact of the matter is that the Finance Minister tried hard not only to please every Lankan but also the international community. In his inimitable style he even ventured to cite the Younger Pitt and his metaphorical concerns about leaking roofs. The levy and the surcharge the people must now cough up to finance the massive damage inflicted by marauding mobs of July last were the real surprises that came out of the Pandora's Box...."

But the *Sun* was concerned about the impact of the budget on the private sector: "He is absolutely right in the mere logic but not quite right in making the private sector tax payers more liable in that respect. It may even look like economic apartheid." The editorial was a little caustic about the way the "deficit" had been dealt with: "The Minister, we know, has tried hard to make the budget a popular one despite all odds and despite the fact that he had to row his financial boat against the surging tide of stagflation. He encountered the predicament of juggling with figures which were almost mind-boggling while his kitty was virtually empty. But the same way, Rubik solved his cubic problems the Minister seems to have done a remarkable job with the yawning gap of 23.4 billion rupees". After paying a compliment to the Minister, the *Sun* said: "He has also been quite pragmatic and meaningful with measures like giving concessions to exporters and the crucial plantation sectors as well as reducing the turn-over tax. Abolition of import duty on books and periodicals is indeed a step in the right direction and a blessing to the literate masses of this country.

The *Sun* editorial concluded with a plea for the private sector: "But the real 'scorpion sting' of the budget it appears will be felt by the private sector. It is a paradox for this in the most viable and productive sector in the country today. While the white elephants of the public sector clog up the hard-to-come-by finances by way of extravagance and unbridled waste it is the private sector that plays a major role in keeping the wheels of the Lankan economy turning in the right direction. They certainly deserve a better deal. And the private sector employees should not be called upon to undergo comparatively severe hardships and bear the formidable while their public sector counterparts carry on regardless like verriable drones and Queen bees. If this is not discrimination—what is?"

WHILE TRADE AND COMMERCIAL CIRCLES were happy about the incentives for export and the subsidies to improve agricultural production, Pieter Kueneman of the Communist Party had declared: "The Budget speech is an attempt to administer the last rites to the dying open economy. In 1977

his slogan was 'Import and prosper'. Now it is 'Export or die'. The budget is an attempt at a double-bluff. On the one hand it seeks to bluff the World Bank in order to wheedle more aid out of it. On the other hand it tries to bluff the people by prophesising projects and services for which there is no money. I doubt whether the last minute attempt to give a shot in the arm to export sector, which had entered a period of terminal decline under the government, will do the trick. It seems to me to be another case of 'too little too late'. The people will be worse off in 1984 than in 1983. There is no wage or salary increase although real wages and incomes have declined sharply. In addition, there will be increases in bus fares and the prices of sugar and rice. Postal and telecommunication rates will also go up still more. The Minister of Finance himself has said the price of a coconut now Rs. 5 may go up to Rs. 10 by 1984 and already preparations are being made to introduce a new water tax. It remains to be seen whether the small decrease in BTT will be passed on to the consumer or pocketed by the traders. I do not agree with the Minister of Finance that unemployment will decline in 1984. West Asian jobs are drying up and 10,000 return next year. No new development projects and construction is cut to the bone. The July disturbances have left several thousands of employees of burnt out factories jobless, while the decline in industry has already led to over 50,000 people losing their means of livelihood. So unemployment is likely to increase not decrease, by next year. All in all it is a bad outlook for everyone except the super rich."

K. P. de Silva, General Secretary of the CP said that: "Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel's budget speech this year was like a funeral oration. The minister had spoken at length about the benefits that had accrued to the country from the open economy during the last few years. The Minister had said that no new development projects would be undertaken by the government this year. This indicated that the 'open economy' was now dead. Twenty five percent of our national income was spent on servicing our debts and this showed the economic bankruptcy of the nation. Mr. Silva said the one percent rehabilitation levy on all wage earners was a blow to them. The increase in postal rates, telecommunication service charges and passport fees was a direct blow against the common man. However, a noteworthy of the Budget was the tax holiday for those engaged in the production and processing of sugar, milk and milk products, livestock and fisheries activities and specified agro-based industries. Although some relief had been granted to the plantation industries the farmer who produced our staple diet had been overlooked, "

Bernard Soysa, Secretary of the LSSP said: "The halting tones of the Finance Minister, his apologetic manner after six years and the magnitude of the pro-

blem indicated not an advancement but a regression. He announces a two billion surplus on his current account. If this was true it would be a healthy sign. Unfortunately we have had these announcements of surplus before. In the seventh year after the launching of an open economy, the Minister weeps over his lack of control over the balance of payment. The surplus smacks of 'they Presto'. The extent of inflationary financing is announced to be very low. This too is something yet to be seen. It is noted that the affluent have received many benefits, like tax concessions, increased subsidies and tax holidays.

To be Concluded.

BUDGET

Highlights

1. Raising of income tax exemption limit from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 18,000 per annum and widening of income tax slabs from 1934-85.
2. Increase in the tea replanting subsidy for the private sector from Rs. 29,000 to Rs. 36,000 per hectare for low country and from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 43,000 per hectare for mid and upcountry.
3. Increase in the tea replanting subsidy for the state sector from Rs. 24,700 to Rs. 30,000 per hectare for low country and from Rs. 29,700 to Rs. 36,000 per hectare for mid and upcountry.
4. Increase in the subsidy for infilling of vacancies in tea lands from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 per plant.
5. Increase in the coconut replanting, underplanting, subsidy from Rs. 7,400 to Rs. 12,000 per hectare.
6. Increase in the subsidy for coconut new planting from Rs. 8,650 to Rs. 11,500 per hectare.
7. Increase in the coconut rehabilitation subsidy from Rs. 1,250 to Rs. 3,000 per hectare.
8. Tax holiday for non traditional exports to be extended to individuals, partnerships and to all companies for the period 1984-85 to 1988-89.
9. Five-year tax holiday for companies engaged in the production and processing of sugar, milk and milk products, livestock and fisheries activities and specified agro-based industries.
10. Extension of income-tax exemption on interest in NRFC Accounts from 3 to 6 years and extension of wealth tax exemption for the same period.
11. Reintroduction of the 20 percent withholding tax on dividends declared by quoted public companies.
12. Rehabilitation levy of 1 percent on the remuneration of all public and private sector employees and a 10 percent surcharge on income tax for a one-year period.

13. Reduction in rate of turnover tax at the wholesale, retail and other distribution points from 4 percent to 1 percent and increase in the rates at the point of import of manufacture. Books, bread, paddy and all exports will continue to be exempt from turnover tax.

14. Increase in the price of a cigarette by 2 cents.
15. Increase in the price of arrack by Rs. 3 per bottle from 1.11.83.
16. Reduction in the price of locally made foreign type liquor by Rs. 16.50 per bottle.
17. Abolition of import duty on books and periodicals.
18. Increase in postal rates from 1.12.83.
19. Increase in telecommunication services charge from 1.12.83.
20. Increase in Passport fees from Rs.100 to Rs.200
21. Increase in government fees and rents on government business by 25 percent.

BIOLOGY TEACHING—3

Inadequate Response

By Dr. A. C. J. Weerakoon.

The concluding part of the Presidential Address of Dr. A. C. J. Weerakoon, delivered on 24th, September 1983, at the 2nd Annual Session, Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka.

THE INADEQUATE RESPONSE

FINALLY, I come to a totally different aspect of the environment of Biology teaching in Sri Lanka. I began by reminding you that Biology was not taught in a vacuum, that it was taught to people who form part of human society. In that society men live and make their living, producing the means by which they live. In our Sri Lanka society the most important of these social activities of man are agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, activities by which he produces his basic food. Almost as important are those activities by which he seeks to preserve this basic produce from deterioration and destruction—activities like curd making or fish curing or fruit and vegetable pickling, for example. Yet, although the major purpose of all education (including Biology) must be to prepare men for and to assist them in their social activities, nevertheless even as recently as the early 1930s few secondary schools taught either Botany or Zoology at all, let alone Botany and Zoology of relevance and value to agriculture, animal husbandry or fisheries. In the Ceylon University College itself—which saw the beginning of university education in this century

in 1922—Botany and Zoology were taught but these courses included no agricultural botany, no veterinary or fisheries zoology. The first two had to await the setting up, in 1945 or thereabouts, of the Faculties of Agriculture and of Veterinary Science; whilst a beginning was made with teaching some aspects of fisheries zoology only in 1967 (in the Department of Biological Sciences at Vidyodaya, now called Sri Jayawardenapura); there is still no Department, let alone a Faculty of Fisheries.

- THIS NEGLECT by Biology teaching in this country, to take note of, and to respond appropriately to the main productive activities of man in Sri Lankan society is a grave shortcoming; and I am afraid that those who taught Biology and drew up its syllabuses and the curricula for school and university cannot escape blame. Nor, for that matter, can the Educational Authorities who, god-like, are wont to dispose of from on high and truly indigenous response that an exceptional biology teacher might have proposed. The same sort of thing happened in respect of other areas of man's activities in our society. *In our living, for example, we have to contend with various enemies which form part of our non-human biological environment; with several kinds of poisonous snakes whose bite is generally fatal; with noxious and disease-transmitting insects; with an array of worm and protozoan, bacterial and viral and other parasites, which attacks us and, at the very least, make us very ill.*

Did Biology teaching impart to our citizens-in-the-making any knowledge of these hazards and of how to reduce or to avoid them? And when was it done? *Parasitology* began to be taught in the Zoology special course of the Science Faculty of our one university as late as 1936; and even today forms a very minor part, if at all, of Biology teaching at schools. *Bacteriology* was not taught to any significant extent in any university Botany course till the early 1960s; and so far as I know it still forms no real part of Biology teaching in our schools. As for any knowledge of our poisonous snakes that could be of help to the ordinary citizens of our Sri Lankan society that has yet not been included in any zoology course either at school or at university. I shall refer to just one more of the many examples of this sort of failure of Biology teaching in Sri Lanka. Man does not exist in isolation. He forms part of a very complex network of inter-relationships involving the hundreds of other species, plant and animal, in his surroundings. Let him damage too many strands or links of that network, in the course of living in and developing his environment and the whole network could collapse, destroying man in that place. Change even a few remote strands of the network and man is likely to be affected—for good or ill.

Yet, Biology teaching in Sri Lanka had not included until very recently—any training in the importance and understanding of these vital inter-relationships although their study—the science called *Ecology* by Haeckel in 1869—was being actively pursued even in Darwin's time, well over 100 years ago. *When in 1952, I tried to introduce at the Colombo University the teaching of Ecology with field classes for training students and monitoring a typical part of our lowland dry-zone country which was shortly to come under a new irrigation scheme, I was forced against my will to abandon the project.*

First the small grant of funds that was requested was not recommended for consideration; as the students and I decided to contribute the necessary money ourselves. Then, the students were "removed" that killed the project. Of course, now that the West has been forced into a special awareness of how its unbridled development has destroyed so much of its own environment (especially in the USA) and has adopted a vociferous advocacy of ecological teaching, there is no dearth of Biology teachers and professional Administrators in Sri Lanka to repeat that belated call. Here we are afforded another glimpse of the colonial mentality at work.

As I have said earlier, the failure of Biology-teaching in Sri Lanka to note and to respond effectively to Man's activities and needs in our society is a grave and serious shortcoming. It seems inexplicable save in terms of that "environment of Biology teaching in Sri Lanka" which I have today briefly outlined for you.

In concluding this survey I wish to apologise to you all very sincerely, for the feelings I may have lacerated. It was not my intention to do so. My purpose was to focus your attention upon some of our failures and upon the unseen but powerful causes behind them. Regrettably, self-realisation is often painful but without it there can be no hope of real improvement.

Concluded....

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ENCROACHMENTS

On State Lands-2

The concluding part of the Speech delivered by Hon. Gamini Dissanayake Minister of Lands & Land Development and Mahaweli Development at the press conference held on 31st October, 1983 on the encroachments of state land. The first part appeared last week.

WE HAVE FOUND IN RECENT TIMES, I would say during the last 10 years, efforts being made by

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people to go and settle down in these lands. I would like to classify how this is being done. How this effort is being made. Such efforts take two forms. One is an individuals effort. Even if one of you get the sack from your newspapers you might think of going and putting up a hut and I would like to join you if you do that in Vavuniya or Mullaitivu, but don't come to Nuwara Eliya because there is no land at all, or in the Right Bank of Maduru Oya. That is an individual effort. It is an effort on your own. The other is the organised and the orchestrated method, where 100 go at a certain time, 200 go at a certain time, 300 go at a certain time and as in the case of the Right Bank of Maduru Oya 3,000-5,000 go at once. That is, there is an organisation. *I do not think, as my Secretary would tell you, that you can deal with both the situations in the same way. We just cannot do that. We have the individual encroacher.* and I have got a study here done by the very famous American Irrigation and Settlement expert Professor Scudder whose view is that the individual encroacher has been a very dynamic factor in development. He doesn't ask anything from the Government. He doesn't complain if a tile in his house breaks or his roof starts to leak. He starts small. He goes through hardships and he saves and he builds up on his own. *While a society can come to terms with individual encroachers, one cannot come to similar terms with organized encroachers whether they are Sinhalese, Tamils or Muslims. I wish to emphasize that irrespective of race or creed or colour or religion it is not possible to come to terms with organised encroachers.*

SO WHENEVER MY MINISTRY HAS BEEN FACED WITH ENCROACHMENT in the case of individual encroachments from 1978, we did an island wide survey and we found that nearly a million acres were encroached upon. The total number of encroachments were 610,163. They are all in the annual report of the Ministry of Lands and Land Development. The total number of encroachments, that is units of encroachments was 610,153. The acres, involved was 939,342. That is one acre, two acres one and a half acre, may be 2½ acres, like that. 939,342 acres and I repeat it again 939,342 acres. *We have regularised 493 461 acres, nearly half a million acres. In the case of the balance efforts are being made to rationalise those encroachments, to find alternate lands and this is being done under the present land laws prevailing in the country.* Wherever a 50 or 100 people have to be moved out because they were living say in a catchment area of the Mahaweli or in a forest reserve, and we felt that there would be resistance we had to work for the assistance of the Police and if the Police said that they couldn't do it alone, we had to seek the help of the Army. But on more occasions than one through the political sources, through the District Ministers, MPs who

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have been very cooperative, we have been able to move them out peacefully but there were occasions when the Army and Police had to be used, because the Land Officer cannot go and hand over a piece of paper asking them to go, and if they don't go our Ministry does not have the capacity to throw people out by force. We are not playing the role of the fiscal. So it is not possible for me or my Ministry to adopt an instantaneous eviction of the people who are settled on the Right Bank of the Maduru Oya.

In relation to all the encroachments in Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Trincomalee and Batticaloa the procedure has taken sometimes one year, it has taken 18 years, sometimes it has taken 2 years. In relation to encroachments in Vavuniya for e.g., our Ministry has filed action in courts in relation to most of these encroachments. But where a Ministerial colleague or a M.P. asks me "well there is a reason why X or Y should not be ejected because hewent there during the communal disturbances", our Ministry has always given directives to stop action being taken because that would create human hardships. Sometimes where it is difficult to send letters, we even sent radio messages, because if the court has given an ejection order for the next day we have to stop it the previous day. So we have taken action wherever we have felt that the Ministry's intervention is necessary for the purpose of creating an immediate hardship by A, B or C being evicted from land. Now this is a typical letter we have sent. You need not take it down, I just want to refer to you. "Encroachment on state lands by non-nationals. The attention of my Minister has been drawn to instances of action instituted for eviction against the encroachers of state lands in your district who are non nationals under the state Lands Recovery and Protection Acts. You are kindly advised to get long dates in respect of such cases until my Hon. Minister considers the representations. A further communication will be sent to you in this regard". Similarly, another Addl. Secretary of Ministry—"Encroachments of state lands by non nationals—I would like to draw your attention to my letter of even number dated... Your advice in that letter to get long dates in respect of action instituted for eviction against encroachers of state lands in your district who are non nationals, but there have been some instances where some encroachers coming within this category have been evicted by some court order. Please take necessary action to get long dates in respect of such ejection cases until my Hon. Minister takes a final decision on this matter".

SO IT IS INCORRECT TO SAY that we have just bundled out people without any consideration for human sufferings. But when I sent these letters for i.e., This is the reply that my Ministry has got from the Government Agent for Mannar. He says

"it has been brought to my notice that incidents of non-nationals encroaching into state lands have increased. Moreover, I get letters very often from branches of the Ceylon Worker's Congress starting that that no action should be taken in relation to these encroachments. My field officers are faced with problems when they resort to ejection of encroachers both nationals and non nationals. They experience immense difficulties in ejecting the nationals. They defy them saying nationals are being discriminated in ejection whereas the non nationals enjoy the privilege of being protected from encroachment. So these are the field level problems of the officers. So we have to weigh these things carefully to see that ultimately no injustice is being done. So because encroachments in the Right Bank have received such wide publicity, in relation to the problem that encroachment has caused in general both in Vavuniya and Mullaitivu, as reporters have quite correctly assessed these problems, and as I have got information in my Ministry that there are thousands of encroachers who are settled on state lands, and they have not been bundled out in a month or two, it is humanly impossible to bundle out people in a month or two unless the military walks in with machine guns and Bren guns and packs them into lorries and goes and dumps them somewhere.

So in relation to the encroachments on the Right Bank of the Maduru Oya our Ministry will take steps as we must see that those encroachers are asked to move out because these areas are areas where by 1985 the Mahaweli Ministry would have settled people in any way. But a lot of work has to be done. Roads have to be built. Electricity has to be provided. Community centres, health facilities, schools have to be built. Village centres must be built. Towns have to be built. This is what the Mahaweli Development means as most of you who have been to Kalawewa and places like Girandurukotte and Kandeketiya in System C have seen. It is a total development of new villages, government houses, people can settle down to do a highly intensive form of cultivation. Now that is what we seek to do in system B both on the Left Bank and Right Bank of Maduru Oya. Then I refer to the 100,000 people who have encroached upon by this people on the Right Bank, it is about 100,000 acres of scrub jungle. Now Secretary and people in my Ministry have inspected these areas and these are lands where the Timber Corporation have already removed all the valuable timber. No timber has been burnt by these people. What they have done is what is called in land development as under bushing. It is incorrect to say that they have destroyed all the land from Maduru Oya Right Bank to Batticaloa or up to the middle of civilisation. That is not correct and they are clustered together in one area and have been appointed Mr. J. K. Weerawardena, a well known public servant who is working in my Ministry

to take such steps as are necessary to see that development goes on in these areas, to make an assessment of the encroachments, to tabulate their names etc., so that while we ask them to move out of this area we can tell them that we can consider their names for future settlements.

IT NEEDS A THOROUGH, DETAILED INVESTIGATION of the different areas from where they came, their background, their classification, they will be asked to fill up those forms and I am quite sure that after the monsoon is over, it is raining very heavily in that area now, we will find a different picture of the encroachments of the Right Bank of Maduru Oya, but while I say this, that we are going to remove all the encroachments on the Right Bank of Maduru Oya, we will be taking a similar action on all encroachments all over the country. I will not be sending radio messages hereafter to stay action. The same policy will be implemented uniformly all over the country, and any bona fide encroachers can get the remedy in the courts of law, because our regularisation procedures do not contemplate a situation where any action is taken outside courts. But in relation to the Right Bank of the Maduru Oya I feel there has been much to do with the intense communal feelings that were generated after the 23rd of July. I am surprised about the response that this has had in the minds of the people, I feel that now that the tampers are cooler that they are quite prepared to take a fresh look at what they have done and we will be able to persuade most of them, to move out from where they have now moved in. Anyway we are committed to see that it is done.

Whenever we have to regularise encroachments we have got to get the support of the local administration. Most often we get the information. In some instances we do not get the information, although we repeatedly remind local officials to get the information. There have been instances where information has not been given. So that too has also been brought to the notice of His Excellency the President. If officials are not willing to cooperate they will have to be removed and others who are willing to cooperate will have to be appointed. So these are the basic matters that I have to refer to you, and I will now ask my Secretary to perhaps fill in on some of the matters that I have referred to in what I have explained to you just now and I will also give you an opportunity to speak to me before this conference ends.

Concluded.

We had to work for the assistance and if the Police said that they couldn't we had to seek the help of the Army. On more occasions than one through the political offices through the District Ministers, MPs who

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**DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS-
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO**

DN—Daily News; CDM—Daily Mirror; EO—Evening Observer; ST—Sunday Times; SO—Sunday Observer; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLDP—Sri Lankadipa JG—Jnadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RV—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IS—Island; DI—Divaina; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7: The Health Department is trying to recover almost a million rupees from an international firm which had supplied it with sub-standard drugs. The reservoirs are still only about quarter full. "We want to fill them up for dry weather," Mr. H. S. Subasinghe, General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board said yesterday. The retail price of potatoes shot steeply upwards from around Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 per kilogram last week. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who has been expelled from three Arab capitals has again been fighting to maintain his remaining position in northern Lebanon. President Amin Gemayal of Lebanon yesterday met his French counterpart Francois Mitterrand for the first in a series of talks with Western and Arab leaders aimed at negotiating an Israeli withdrawal from his country—*DN*. The public who go to the Overseas Telecommunication Service office in Fort to take overseas telephone calls are terribly inconvenienced as there is only very limited seating accommodation; this place is not only patronised by the locals but also by tourists—*CDM*. Government will consult foreign donors before taking a decision to close down the Urea factory run by the State Fertilizer Manufacturing Corporation as it has turned out to be a veritable white elephant. Three by-elections are on the cards before March 1984—to Trincomalee, Manipay and Vavuniya, Polls Chief Chandrananda de Silva said yesterday. The Colombo Airport has been brought under a tight security cordon; Security personnel deployed in the terminal building and other areas have been instructed to insist on photo identity cards from persons seeing entry to restricted areas. Sri Lanka will print its own currency notes when the government establishes a joint venture with one of the present prestigious security printers Bradbury Wilkinson PLC of Britain—*SU*. The Chamber of Small Industry has made representations to Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel and Central Bank Governor Dr. Warnasena Rasaputram seeking certain concessions from the credit squeeze effect last week. Indian Prime Minister

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Indira Gandhi's special envoy Mr. Gopalswamy Parthasarathy will hold talks with President J. R. Jayewardene at 10 a.m. today in pursuance of the two countries' efforts to find a lasting solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic crisis. The SLFP is planning to contest the by-elections to vacant Parliamentary seats in the North and East; the Senior Vice-President of the Party Ratna Deshapriya Senanayake said that the Central Committee had authorised a committee headed by Vice-President K. B. Ratnayake to make preliminary arrangements for contesting the 14 northern seats in consultation with party organisers in these areas—*IS*. Fishermen living in the coastal areas of the North and East will be permitted to keep guns with them; the government has decided to issue permits to such fishermen to possess arms for security purpose—*DP*.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8: The SLFP Parliamentary Group met yesterday and decided to nominate Mr. Anura Bandaranaike for the vacant position of Leader of the Opposition. The death penalty or life imprisonment may be imposed on hard drug offenders; appropriate changes to the country's drug laws are now under active consideration, authoritative government sources said yesterday. Savage fighting between opponents and defenders of Yasser Arafat today raised the possibility of a last stand by the Palestinian leaders' forces on the streets of Tripoli. The two men behind a coup that led to Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's death were moved from a US warship to jail in Grenada yesterday, said a spokesman for the Caribbean security force controlling the island—*DN*. Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel will table next year's budgetary estimates in Parliament today; the exact budgetary gap which is estimated to be around Rs. 23.5 billion will be known when the figures are presented to Parliament. Coconut production in the country having reached a peak in 1982, is falling; in 1982, production of coconut was estimated at 2,510 million nuts—a 11 percent increase over 1981. An American tourist has been shot dead by burglars on Patuwatta beach in the Hikkaduwa Police area; the tourist Paul Andrew Terman, according to Police, lived with his wife in a rented house in the fishing village of Patuwatha. Anura Bandaranaike, SLFP member for Nuwara Eliya-Maskeliya, will hold talks with visiting Indian Special Envoy Gopalswamy Parthasarathy this morning. The countrywide rolling power cuts will be relaxed if there is sufficient rain to fill the hydro reservoirs to their optimum levels—*SU*. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's special envoy Mr. G. Parthasarathy met President J. R. Jayewardene for about 70 minutes yesterday morning and discussed the ethnic problems in Sri Lanka. The Central Bank moved in yesterday to ease the shortage of liquidity in the financial markets by offering funds at 20 percent interest. The budget debate is likely to be curtailed this year due to the absence of any TULF MPs in Parliament, informed sources said yesterday.

The Maruthaddi and Alvai sub-post office in the Jaffna district which were closed due to terrorist activities have been reopened for business—*DP*. One of the primary reasons for the sudden price increase of vegetables during the last week was that the vegetable supplies arriving from Jaffna were almost nil, spokesman for the Agrarian Research and Training Institute (ARTI) said yesterday—*EO*. **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9:** Hopeful signs of narrowing ethnic differences were discerned by diplomatic circles in Colombo yesterday following consultations between President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's special envoy, Mr. Gopalaswamy Parthasarathi. Sabre-rattling grew louder around Lebanon on Monday as Israel and Syria prepared major troop mobilisation and the Reagan administration let speculation rise about possible US retaliation for the bomb slaying of 240 marines. Fears are growing among the half million people of Tripoli the northern Lebanese city that they will pay the price for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's decision to stand and fight his Syrian-backed opponents. Syria yesterday stepped up its measures against Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat by closing his main office and his home in Damascus a member of his staff said—*DN*. Sri Lanka's expenditure for 1984 is estimated to be nearly double its income according to the budgetary estimate presented to Parliament by Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel yesterday. Legal action would be taken against encroachers on state land and those who helped them to encroach, President J. R. Jayewardene informed the Government Group last morning; no one is above the law, he said. President Jayewardene is today expected to brief his Ministers on his talks with Indian Premier Indira Gandhi's special envoy Gopalaswamy Parthasarathi—*SU*. REPIA has received over a thousand applications for loans to build or repair partially damaged houses and buildings attacked during the July/August ethnic violence said Rear Admiral Alfred Perera—*EO*. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party's 34-year old MP for Nuwara Eliya-Maskeliya Mr. Anura Bandaranaike was yesterday appointed the new Leader of the Opposition following the vacancy created by the incumbent Mr. A. Amirthalingam three months' absence from Parliament. The allocation for the Defence Ministry in the 1982 budget which was Rs. 1.1 billion has been more than doubled in the 1984 budget to Rs. 2.3 billion. Employees of the People's Bank are up in arms against the bank's failure to resume grants of housing loans which were suspended 3 years ago—*IS*.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10: The Government Dental Surgeons' Association has told Health Minister, Ranjit Atapattu, that a load of obsolete and unusable supplies has been dumped on the Dental Institute in Colombo; recently a stock of lower dental forceps was supplied; these were outmoded. Several sea going opportunities for Lankan sailors

will arise with immediate effect following the conclusion of an agreement in Athens between the Union of Greek Shipowners and the Sri Lankan Seafarers Union. Palestinian rebels have closed in on PLO chief Yasser Arafat last bastion in Lebanon and called on his defenders to lay down their arms after six days of internecine battles that have killed or injured hundreds of people. United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar issued an urgent appeal for a ceasefire in and around Tripoli, Northern Lebanon, the scene of fighting between rival factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation—*DN*. The All-Ceylon Pavement Hawkers Union yesterday petitioned President J. R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister R. Premadasa against their sudden removal by the Colombo Municipal Council prohibiting business along Main Street. The hydro-project at Samanala Wewa when completed will have a capacity of producing 200 megawatts of electricity meeting half of the daily demand of the country—*CDM*. The credit squeeze imposed by the Central Bank will not effect the lending operations of the State and Investment Bank—*EO*. Mr. Gopalaswamy Parthasarathi, special envoy of the Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi is likely to persuade the TULF to drop its Tamil Eelam demand in exchange for the Sri Lanka government's order for greater regional autonomy in the north and east, according to knowledgeable political sources. The Working Committee of the UNP is scheduled to discuss how best the party can use the support of the SLFP sections in the forth-coming by-election, the Trincomalee seat. Inquiries into the case of the politico who is alleged to have imported a Mercedes Benz car using the duty-free facility allowed to him are to be taken up today—*IS*. Dr. S. A. Dharmalingam, leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front, who was detained under the Emergency Regulations and subsequently released has indicated that he has decided to resign from politics—*VK*.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11: Despite fears that the Middle East job boom would nosedive because of falling oil prices, the remittance flowing into Sri Lanka had grown 18 percent during the first nine months of this year, the Central Bank said; according to its figures remittances had increased from Rs. 4.4 billion to Rs. 5.2 billion during this period. In two separate statements issued in Colombo yesterday, President Jayewardene and Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Special Envoy Gopalaswamy Parthasarathi indicated that a firm package of proposals to end communal conflict in Sri Lanka was now ready. A ceasefire came into force between rival Palestinian armies in and around Tripoli at 16 hrs (GMT), Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat said. The Soviet Government appeared firm in its support today for Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat although it had not yet explicitly criticised the dissidents in the PLO, observers said in Moscow yesterday—*DN*. Presi-

dent J. R. Jayewardene who has had rounds of talks with Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Special Envoy Mr. Gopalaswamy Parthasarathi has in a press release issued last evening said that all proposals to solve the present problems facing the Tamil community will be put before Parliament and the executive committee of all political parties—*CDM*. A scheme of incentives to officials in the Department of Inland Revenue is being considered by the Minister of Finance and Planning Ronnie de Mel.—*EO*. The blessings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on Sri Lanka's economic policies are almost a "sine quo non" if the country is to receive foreign aid to bridge the massive budget deficit, Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel said yesterday. Opposition Leader Anura Bandaranaike told SLFPers in Kandy yesterday that he would step down to allow Mrs. Bandaranaike to take office if her civic rights were restored before October 1987. The issue of passports is to be confined to essential and urgent applications in view of the scarcity of blank passports—*SU*. The special envoy of the Indian Prime Minister Mr. G. Parthasarathi will meet TULF leaders Messrs A. Amirthalingam, M. Sivasithamparam, T. Sivasithamparam and R. Sambanthan in New Delhi on Wednesday 16th November. When human beings need information and entertainment as food and when inventions arrive which can provide information and entertainment in unprecedented quantities sooner or later everyone manages to find the money for them, President Jayewardene observed in his inaugural address at the Fourth Asia Conference on Remote Sensing which opened yesterday at the BMICH; President Jayewardene said that it was the intention of the Government to have a telephone in every village before the end of this century—*IS*.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12: Nominations for the Trincomalee by-election caused by the forfeiture of the seat held by TULF MP R. Sambanthan will be received at the Trincomalee Kachcheri on December 8, the Elections Department said. Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami yesterday called on Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat to leave the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli and spare the city from more bloodshed. The 21 member Congressional black caucus has unanimously endorsed the conclusion of two black members of Congress who visited Grenada, that the US-led invasion there was unjustified and US troops should be immediately withdrawn—*DN*. Economic pressure which has hit the oil producing countries in the Middle East has resulted in the sacking of large chunks of expatriate staff including Sri Lankans. Libya will buy 9,750 metric tons of tea from Sri Lanka under the Libyan loan scheme—*CDM*. Malaria is threatening to take a firm grip on the country, a Health Ministry survey has found. Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman will attend a top-level meeting in New Delhi on November

16 and 17 at which TULF leaders now in India will meet with Indian Premier Indira Gandhi's special emissary G. Parthasarathi. Pakistan which was once Lanka's biggest tea buyer has now turned to Kenya for its requirements; the reason is that Pakistanis have now developed a taste for the CTC variety produced in that country. Several Members of Parliament have complained to the Ministry of Power and Energy that the expenditure estimates prepared by the Ceylon Electricity Board in regard to the rural electrification schemes under the decentralised budget are excessive—*SU*. A bitter exchange of words between the Minister of Rural Industrial Development S. Thondaman and Gampaha MP S. D. Bandaranayake and Maharagama MP Dinesh Gunawardena in which Attanagalla MP Lakshman Jayakody and Leader of the Opposition Anura Bandaranaike too joined in erupted at adjournment time in Parliament at noon yesterday. Some officials of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development had been questioned and others had been detained with regard to the settlement of people in the Maduru Oya system of the Mahaweli scheme, the Minister of Internal Security T. B. Werapitiya told Parliament yesterday. TULF President Mr. Sivasithamparam has said in Madras that the envisaged regional councils should encompass powers relating to the maintenance of law and order and the use of armed forces in predominantly Tamil areas—*IS*.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13: The Appropriation Accounts and Budget estimates for 1984 tabled by the Minister of Finance and Planning Ronnie de Mel in Parliament last Wednesday disclosed the huge budget gap of Rs. 23,160 million. The Indo-Lanka summit meeting on ethnic issues is scheduled to take place in Delhi on 21st November when President J. R. Jayewardene arrives there to attend the Commonwealth Heads of State conference starting on 22nd November. The appeal list in the court is so long that it would take twenty years to clear it; this was stated by an authoritative legal source. The Government has decided to appoint a committee of inquiry into the state of the Sinhala film industry—*SO*. Over Rs. 350,000 worth of ready made garments and textiles are lying in three godowns in the Port of Colombo awaiting instructions from the Principal Collector of Customs; informed Port sources said that these goods which have been lying in the custody of the Customs for almost over a year had been either confiscated, unclaimed or abandoned by incoming passengers—*ST*. Personnel of certain foreign diplomatic missions based in Sri Lanka have been banned from leaving the city of Colombo without prior permission from the Foreign Ministry. The Central Bank yesterday further clarified the credit squeeze imposed on commercial banks on November 1, specifying the areas that were exempted from the credit ceiling. Eight Tamil people who were bound for Canada but detained in New York because they did not have visas to enter

Canada are reported to have sought political asylum in New York. The United National Party's nominee to the vacant Minneriya seat will be decided on by the party's Working Committee on November 18 according to party sources—*WK*. A TULF delegation is to visit Trincomalee this week to discuss the forthcoming by-election there with local party branches; the Administrative Secretary of the TULF—Kopay MP Mr. M. Alalasundaram told *The Island* that he was awaiting instructions from the party hierarchy in Madras before proceeding to Trincomalee—*JS*.

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FOR THE RECORD

Concluding Sarvodaya Declaration

EDUCATION: (1) The education of Sinhala and Tamil children should be so organised from their young days, that they could acquire proficiency in both languages. (2) All children throughout the Island should have opportunities to gain admission to any school they prefer. In addition to the education they receive in their Mother Tongue, it should be looked into how far children should be given the opportunity to study certain subjects in English Tamil or Sinhala according to their preferences. (3) Sinhala and Tamil classical texts that are beneficial to school children should be translated into Tamil and Sinhala respectively, and published. (4) All institutes of Higher Education and Universities should be made common educational institutes into which children of all races could gain admission. (5) Children studying at all educational levels should be taught and made to respect the principles of all religious and spiritual experiences should be facilitated through inter-religious relationships fostered by activities such as collective meditation. (6) Children belonging to various religious and communities should be made to join together in common cultural and sports activities, so that from their young days, they would develop in their mind (the feeling that they all belong to One Nation. (7) In each district and A.G.A.'s divisions, there should be educational institutes of three levels—Primary, Intermediary and Advanced, where Sinhala, Tamil and English languages are taught. These institutes could be organised by the Department of Education and Private Organisations. (8) Pali and Sanskrit languages should be revived. (9) Scholars of Sri Lanka should look into the feasibility of developing an Alphabet, perhaps similar to the Roman Alphabet, so that language learning could be made easier. (10) Children speaking Sinhala

should spend one term in the homes of students speaking Tamil in the Tamil speaking areas, and vice versa. Such a system of education where these children could receive education during a term in another area could be organised and Community Service Programmes could be promoted so that National Unity could be fostered. Principals and Teachers should take leadership in providing these.

LAND—RESIDENCE—OCCUPATION : (1) There should be no obstacle whatsoever for any citizen of Sri Lanka to buy land, live and practise an occupation in any place in the country. (2) The Sinhala and Tamil leaders should provide leadership in settling Sinhala and other families in areas where the majority are Tamils, on acceptances and invitation of the Tamils, and settling Tamil and other families in areas where the Sinhala are in a majority, with the acceptance and on invitation of the Sinhala. (3) Self-employment generating centres such as Agricultural Centres and Industrial Units should be organised on State Land for young men and women selected according to ethnic population ratios. These centres should have residential facilities, and have in them as leaders, individuals who are trained in promoting racial harmony.

The Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya, other organisations and the common people, believing in the spiritual force that would be released from the people's inner selves while engaged in this Peace Walk, and being confident that, the Government of Sri Lanka, those parties which are with the Government or opposing it and those seeking solutions through non-violence as well as violence would extend their co-operation and blessings in order to provide an opportunity for us to succeed in this noble exercise and, finally wishing that, this Declaration would be an example an inspiration and a blessing to the people of other countries as well, who are beset with wars tension, insecurity, and as from the moment this Declaration is accepted, the great human qualities would develop themselves as an immense force and culminate into the unity, harmony, co-existence, prosperity of the whole country. We conclude this People's Declaration for National Harmony and Peace.

*"Many rains shower in due seasons,
And render the fields fertile
May every heart be fully contented;
The state be just and the world benefit"*
Concluded.

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BISHOP

Jewel of A Movement

By B. N. Uniyal

New Delhi: He had a warm strong hand a hand whose grip leaves a lasting memory in yours after the hand-shake. He was tall, stoutly built, handsome and brilliant. He left a deep impression on every one who had the occasion to meet him during his short visit to Delhi for the NAM summit here in March last. "Mr. Prime Minister", a journalist colleague had remarked to him after a long talk one evening in his room at the Ashok Hotel, "you are simply wasted in a small country like Grenada. You do very much deserve a large country to lead". Mr. Maurice smiled disarmingly and then snapped back, "I am flattered but I must say we don't appreciate that very much, this division of countries into small and big". There are all were very sensitive about it, Mr. Bishop, his Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, and Don Rojas, his press adviser whom I had known for some years past through a common friend from Africa, once a class-mate in Delhi. At so many gatherings, I had seen Mr. Whiteman and Don flare up all of a sudden at every reference to their country or any other country for that matter. as "small". Every time someone called a country "small" they were there to interrupt sharply, "Look here, Comrade, we don't appreciate this...."

MR. MAURICE BISHOP, whom his people called Brother Bishop and his colleagues just Comrade was the most popular leader ever to emerge in that most southerly of the Windward Islands in the West Indies, which was initially colonised by the French but passed into British hands in 1782. The English colonial rulers shipped large numbers of slaves from Africa to the Grenadines, as Grenada and its other small island territories are known, to work on banana, cocoa, nutmeg, mace and lemon plantations. The first political movement in Grenada was started by a charlatan called Eric Gairy, who was later knighted in Britain. Gairy founded the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) in 1950 with the help of an associated trade union to win his first majority in 1951 with the help of a large band of mobsters with obvious Mafia links. In 1957, however, he lost the election to Herbert Blaize's Grenada National Party (GNP) only to mobilise his mobsters to return to power in 1961

when he was the Chief Minister and again in 1967 when he became the Prime Minister winning the poll on a slogan of total independence for Grenada which it achieved that year, through still continuing its associations with the United Kingdom under a Governor-General. Throughout these years, Gairy ruled Grenada as his private fief and the Grenadian people as his slaves, whom he exploited directly and through the various US companies for siphoning off massive funds of America where he lives now. Ruthlessly suppressing all opposition, he often got his rivals liquidated through his lawless gangs just before, during or immediately after every sham election he held. Mr. Maurice Bishop's father was one of the victims of such an attack in St. Georges the capital city by bay-side in Grenada. In 1976, when Gairy won his last election before his eventual ouster in a bloodless coup on 13 March 1979, a general strike and massive demonstrations broke out all over the island in protest against outrageous rigging in the election. Gairy suppressed the demonstrations again with the backing of his mobsters and of mercenaries for the US mainland and Puerto Rico.

THEN CAME THE YOUNG warm-hearted, passionate Marxist revolutionaries who had formed the New Jewel Movement, the word jewel in the name standing for "joint endeavour, education, welfare and liberation". They were all young men mostly students and teachers, a few lawyers, soldiers and executives. They were all well educated widely travelled, highly informed and deeply disturbed young men. Though belonging to a small, remote island country their vision was global. They read Marx, Gandhi, Ho Chi Minn, Nyerere and more than anybody else Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. Castro was their hero and their ideal and always seeking to shape themselves in his image, they all sported flowing beards though some like Mr. Bishop and Mr. Whiteman kept theirs trimmed. On the night of 13 March 1979 the well-knit group of Marxist revolutionaries of the NJM stormed Gairy's official residence, woke him out of his sleep, disarmed his bodyguards and took power in their hands, rounding up his gang of mobsters called the Green Beasts. The new Government formed the next day received an overwhelming support from the people throughout the island, expressed through massive demonstrations and chants of "Down with Gairy and Gairyism". "Hall Revolution, Brother Bishop" and "Forward Ever, Backward Never". The event has been celebrated in many popular folk-songs and spontaneous poetic outbursts, "March 13th was a day of joy, While Gary wept like a little boy" sang one songster, chanting "He never believed GULP will die, while NJM planned that the time was nigh". "In the land of spice where I was born, A Revolution took place one early morn; Comrade Bishop's on the radio station, came out as a shock throughout the nation", sang another.

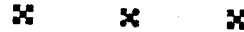
WITH FIRM IDEALISM, the NJM youngmen began organising the people along radical lines in a movement for participatory democracy setting up units for discussion decision and management at every farm and factory level. NJM ministers moved about thro.gh the country, engaging the local people in discussion and debate as other NJM yo.rng volunt- teers carried out mobilisation work, massive edu- cation campaigns, cultural shows, poetry competitions and people's drama contests. "To man' outsiders", Mr. Whiteman said during a conversation, "it all looked like a fairy land revolution", "No, a revolu- tionary fairyland". Mr. Bishop had then interjected "Comrade Bishop is only joking ", Don interrupted, "We are not mere idealists, we are all hard-trained Marxists, revolutionaries. It's only that in the Caribbeans, in Grenada, particularly, we must do everthing singing a song. Ours are a gay people who have retained their basic aspirations for happiness for song and for sun and for the sea through all their hardships and struggles". Mr. Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government was immensely popular in the island, though not with the US Administration and some of its neighbouring countries who feared that the popularity of the Bishop regime might become infectious sweeping the Caribbean chain of islands with a strong wave of change in favour of radicalism. The US made several attempts to overthrow Bishop, assassinate him, and to create disturbances in the country. As Mr. Bishop began forging closer ties, with Cuba, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the US increased pressures, encouraging Grenada's isolation in the Caribbean cutting off all aid to it and launching a vigorous propa. ganda that Grenada was offering itself as a base to Cuba and the Soviet Union.

The Bishop Government, however remained un- daunted and kept campaigning in the region that the US could no longer be allowed to treat the Caribbean as its private lake. Mr Bishop was very vocal about it at the Havana NAM summit, where Grenada had participated for the first time in the movement. He was very firm on his stand at the Delhi summit also, where he played a key role together with Cuba in helping develop a common Caribbean and Central American document, which was quite critical of the US, even if indirectly.

JUST ABOUT THE TIME, the Caribbean and Central American leaders were giving final touches to their consensus document, US President Ronald Reagan delivered yet another threat to Grenada in a speech in Washington, reiterating his Adminis- tration's insistence to threaten the Caribbean as a US lake. Mr. Bishop, Mr. Whiteman and their other colleagues rushed back home immediately. Just before leaving for home late that night. Mr. White- man left a telex copy of Mr. Reagan's speech at the reception in the hotel with a note strongly pleading that the threat be brought to the notice of the NAM

session through our paper to rouse opinion, a strong opi- nion, among the member countries against the US at- tempt to intervene in his country's internal affairs which appeared to be the import of Mr. Reagan's speech. "He is threatening trouble at home but we'll fight back" Mr. Whiteman told me on the phone from the hotel "Comrade Bishop and Comrade Don Rojas say they'll be meeting you in October. We are leaving now". That was the last time I talked to any of the friends from Grenada. Even in March Mr. Bishop had spoken of some ultraleft friends and colleagues who he said were somewhat impatient. He did not elaborate. He did not talk of the May 1980 coup plot allegedly hatched by some ultra-Leftists. He did not in any way seem to give much thought to such adventurists. He was all the time more seriously concerned about the threat of US intervention, though he was confident that the fear of adverse world opinion would help deter the Reagan Adminis- tration from attempting any direct intervention. His fears have come true though the blame for providing for a pretext to the US for this must fall on the adventurist colleagues of whom he had then spoken with such understanding.

Mr. Bishop is dead as are his several colleagues but he has shown that an able leader and a well organised movement such as the NJM was and such sincerity and dedication as his colleague possessed can raise even a small country like Grenada to the highest level in today's world. It is satisfying to see that today an outrage even against a small remote country like Grenada can and does cause such stirrings in the conscience of the world.—*Patriot.*



GRENADA

Commonwealth Conundrum

By S. P. Amarasingham

.... GRENADA is still very much in news. Though the Reagan Administration managed to get a consti- tutionally doubtful and politically fragile certificate of legitimacy, *post facto*, for its action, from Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, the United Nations General Assembly by 108 votes to 9 with 27 abstentions deplored the American-led invasion of Grenada.

After the US army was fully installed in Grenada and all resistance had ended, Sir Paul Scoon in a BBC interview said that he had, in fact, secretly appealed to the OECS for military intervention and had wanted them to obtain US assistance because Britain was too far away to do anything quickly. Constitutional experts point out that Sri Paul Scoon's appeal should

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have been directed to London in the first instance and that the British government alone had the constitutional right to invite the United States to intervene.

And it has also been pointed out that even if the OECS had appealed to Washington, the Reagan administration should have sought the approval of Britain to act in the way it did. But what was worse was that Reagan had flatly rejected the advice and wishes of the Thatcher Government. Sir Paul Scoon has now invited the US army to stay on in Grenada as long as it possibly can. It has been repeatedly stressed by British commentators that Sir Paul Scoon has acted in excess and in violation of his constitutional powers. But with the massive American military presence on the island he probably had no other option but to say and act the way he did. And the Thatcher government is now totally helpless to assert its authority in Grenada or anywhere else.

For Britain and the Commonwealth, what has taken place in Grenada has ominous implications. One question that looms large is whether it is open to a big nuclear power like the United States, France, the Soviet Union or China, or even a large-sized well armed Commonwealth country like Canada, Australia or India, to walk into and occupy a small Commonwealth country on the excuse that one or more ministers or leaders in that country had appealed for intervention on the ground that a bloody coup had taken place and also that the ensuing disturbances were a threat to the security of the invading country. The British Commonwealth is no longer the mighty power that it was, but this is the first time that there has been annexation of one of British's former possessions in this way by a friendly country.

In the UN General Assembly debate, *Sri Lanka* has voted for the resolution deploring the US invasion of Grenada and re-affirmed its commitment to the two vital principles on the non-use of force against the integrity and independence of States and the inadmissibility of intervention and interference in the internal affairs of states. There are good reasons why Sri Lanka took this attitude.

After the July disturbances in this island and loud noises made in Tamil Nadu that India should march an army into Sri Lanka to establish law and order and save the ethnic Tamils from what was described as genocidal attacks, the invasion of Grenada has given rise to serious disquiet. **Even if the question of Grenada does not figure prominently on the agenda of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit in New Delhi later this month, it is bound to be a major topic in behind-the-scenes confabulations and the repercussions are bound to surface in many ways at some of the open plenary sessions.**

—Concluding part of SLBC talk on
"Focus On Foreign Affairs" on 7/11/83

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BANGLADESH

Milk Powder Imports

We publish in this issue the third in a series of articles on a grave problem that came up in Bangladesh not very long ago on the question of milk imports and the livestock industry. The situation in Sri Lanka, with a few variations, is not very different from Bangladesh.

Large imports make milk powder available down to the thana (hamlet) level. Cheaper than local milk, it controls a significant share of the market. Relief operations are misappropriated to a large extent and rarely reach the poor. The present policy is clearly to neglect local livestock development, and to rely heavily on imports and aid, which depresses local production further. To commercial imports the huge quantities of SMP coming as EEC aid have to be added; those have averaged 800 to 900 tons yearly (or 9% of local production, taking eight tons of milk from one ton of SMP) with peaks over 19,000 tons and other years no imports at all. According to a high official of a foreign diplomatic mission the EEC was even, 2 years ago, pressing Bangladesh to accept, over 3 years, 63,000 tons of SMP. Reportedly, public services like hospitals, some schools, as well as jails and the army and police get free EEC milk. Most of these imports are presently sold to private traders through Milk Vita. Private traders buy it at Tk. 11/1b. to sell it back to Tk. 13 or 15. Dacca plays a central role for the country's milk powder market, and traders in Dacca said sometimes they sell up to 500 tons a week. (previously SMP imports were channelled through the ration system, but probably due to very large scale misappropriations, this was stopped a few years ago). From Dacca, SMP is taken by merchants to all over the country. Thirty miles of Dacca, on the road to Comilla, milk

Powder is used in tea shops : as it is cheaper than cow milk. One person remembered having seen, on her way back from Barisal, people mixing powder with water from the river and putting it on the launch to Dacca, but from villages 14 miles away, milk is also collected by people who carry it by train, or even on foot, up to Bogva, to be sold with a margin of 1 taka per litre. In the small town on Magura as well people find it cheaper to use powder milk. At T K. 15/16 powder milk is still 25% cheaper than milk sold at 5 takas/seer.

Government relief for the rural elite. SMP is also distributed in poor and disaster affected areas, as relief, through the union councils. A social worker in Jamalpur district, cousin of the union chairman, gave the following report on the relief operations in his union: "SMP consignment usually arrive once a year, generally in January, for distribution in June: thus the distribution often takes place when the worst period is over. Every year 20 to 25 bags of 22.5 kg. of SMP are allocated to our union. But the chairman will not get all of them, as higher officials take their share and mark the equivalent amount as 'damaged' or improper for consumption etc. Milk powder is to be distributed to the very poor, and they give their finger prints to acknowledge receipt. It is easy for the chairman to cheat them by giving less than the allocated quantity, as the people do not even know how much they are supposed to get. Milk powder has a high market value, and only about 40% will reach them. The rest is sold to local shopkeepers, an extra income of several thousands takas for the chairman. Shopkeepers make good profits as well by selling it at the rate of Tk 13/lb, mostly to tea and sweet shops, in small quantities at a time. We conclude that these relief operations, unless this report from Jamalpur does not reflect the picture for other areas (which would be surprising, as wheat, allocated for food for work is commonly misappropriated to an extent of 50%, though being a much cheaper item than milk), are a direct subsidy to rural government officials, as well as to the rural elites who control the union councils, not counting the shopkeepers. The poor get the scraps, and milk producers suffer from very unfair competition (the poor do not buy milk, whereas the richer people would have bought it). Milk Vita is another project that benefits the well-to-do of Decca. Farmers do not get a fair price and close to nothing is spent for livestock. The project is now heavily dependent on imports, and the government is covering the huge losses, not allowing a price increase for the urban consumers. Milk Vita is to be honest, an outlet for SMP surpluses from Europe and for Danish equipments.

WESTERN INTERESTS. Thus the very common argument that dairy aid has productive uses in Bangladesh should be attacked. Anyway, food aid has never been more than an excuse for the very high and

embarrassing western surpluses. A booklet advertising World Food Programme's participation in Operation Flood, starts quite sincerely: "The programme was created with the aim of using productively the huge (western) surpluses..." When Canada looked for exporting its production, it was noted: "It must in all candour be recognized that the accumulation in 1976 of embarrassingly large surpluses of Canadian SMP was the decisive factor in getting the programme underway".

"EEC aid started in 1933 in response to the 350,000 for surplus stocks of SMP and 300,000 tons stock of butter". But this flow stops whenever the western industry wishes: in 1973, when famines were taking place in the Third World because of "world food shortages" only in the EEC 70 million tons of wheat were used as cattle-food and 22 million pounds were spent per year for denaturing wheat (i.e., making it unfit for human consumption); but food reduced to one fourth of its previous level. While food aid could play a temporary but useful role after disasters, generally 16 to 28 months are needed from the date of application to the time it is shipped to the applicant country. In Bangladesh, food aid was reduced or arrived late, in 1974, when thousands of people were starving of hunger after the floods, and in 1979, when the Government was compelled to buy food-grains in cash, to compensate for the losses due to the drought.

At the same time, the Canadian industry will get US\$ 2.32/lb for its butter, although the world market price is less than half that, and 78 cents for its SMPM when world market price is 24 cents, well below the cost of production (1979-82). The EEC price for butter was in 1977 over 3 times the world market price, and price of SMP 2.7 times. But because of subsidies to the industry, "by 1980 milk surpluses are expected to top 20 million tons a year", i.e., more than the weight of the entire 200 million population of the EEC. Still "western productivity" is on the increase, through imports of cassava (4 million tons in 1978), mainly from Thailand, where it is used as human food (35% of world production of cassava is used as cattle-feed in industrialised countries), but also ground nuts from Africa and oilcakes from India and Bangladesh, to feed its cattle. For instance, in 1976 Switzerland imported cattle feed equivalent to 875,000 acres of pasture land while total grazing ground was only 650,000 acres in the country. 88% of EEC SMP is used as cattle feed and in 1977 only 10% of the 2.3 million ton production of SMP was sold commercially.

Rather than pouring surpluses in disused mine shafts or try to render them improper to human consumption, a more comfortable way politically (to dispose of them) is to send them as food aid to the third world. In 1977, 75% of EEC SMP exports went to Third World countries, while the EEC share in

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SMP world exports was 50%. When a high official of one of the EEC countries' mission in Bangladesh argued SMP aid to Bangladesh, he was told by his government his comments were "very unfortunate" as cost of milk surpluses amounted to almost \$ 9 per capita in the EEC in 1978, and giving it away to third world countries is a much cheaper solution.

From aid to business : All kinds of justification are given for the continuation of food aid, like the following one which seems to forget 70% of world's cattle is in the third world: "The risk of disincentives does not seem to exist when the food aid is given in the form of milk powder for the development of local dairy industries". Probably more honest are those who advocate it to open new markets. "Food aid is designed not only to help fill intermediate nutritional gaps, but also to develop long term commercial demand" Fifteen years ago US senator McGovern declared "Japanese children, who started liking American milk and bread through free meal distribution from our food aid, contributed to make of Japan our best client for agricultural product. The big markets for the future are precisely these regions where large populations got used, through "Food for Peace" programmes, to American food. Those we help today, tomorrow will be our clients". Only in 1977, Third World countries' imports of dairy products amounted to US\$ 1.5 million.

EEC milk surpluses should be considered as a serious threat by Bangladesh, not as a bonanza. When some feel happy and proud in copying the Operation Flood model for Bangladesh, some critical comments made on this project several years ago, and the danger of deliberately relying on aid, should be remembered: "This failing to meet targets (in local production) means a heavy dependence on imported milk powder and butter. (The value of total imports rather than falling as indigenous production develops has actually risen from 250 million rupees in 1974-7 to 390 million in 1976-77). This dependence has already transcended the limits of western aid and has forced them to buy heavily on the western market. A dream of the European dairy manufacturers could well become true, then—the dairy aid develops a taste for dairy products in the Third World, which can, in the long term, only be met by buying from them on the commercial market. If this demand continues to rise, the days of dairy aid are numbered (why give away what you can't sell").

Almost 2 years ago, the Danish Dairy Federation organised a special importers' seminar in Hotel Intercontinental, in Dacca. "The Danish Dairy Federation is conscious of its responsibility towards developing countries like Bangladesh", declared its marketing director; "Its policy is to ensure that vital supplements to dietary requirements such as milk powder and milk products reach Bangladesh families with guaranteed quality". Denmark exports two thirds of its dairy

products; it produces 80,000 tons of full cream milk powder, 65,000 tons of SMP, all of it being exported (1978 figures). Looking for new markets overseas? According to the Danish Dairy Federation it was holding then 40% of the market of commercially imported milk powder in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is becoming another success story for multinationals. They call it development; it will be modernisation of hunger and poverty.

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POTATOES

Bacterial Wilt

One of the limiting factors to increased potato production, particularly in the Uva and lowland regions, is the high incidence of Bacterial wilt (*Pseudomonas solanacearum*). There is no known chemical control measures for this disease. Hence plant breeders at Sita Eliya, in collaboration with the International Potato Center (Peru), have been engaged in developing wilt-resistant varieties using *Solanum phureja* as a source of resistance. Several promising selections have been identified after screening them in wilt-endemic areas in Rahangala (warm up country) and Gannoruwa (warm mid country). The Plant Pathologist at the CARL, Gannoruwa, reports that lines 379418, 379420 and 379421 have done well at Rahangala. These lines are also heat tolerant. Both at Rahangala and Gannoruwa the following lines have also been promising 800224, 377863.1 and 377838.2 The Plant Pathologist (CARL) warns that since Bacterial Wilt is transferred through infected tubers, potato producers should be strongly dissuaded from purchasing uncertified seed potato from private sources. He cites the example of a recent outbreak of this disease in the Jaffna Peninsula which was caused by planting infected seed potatoes obtained from the upcountry.

The bacterium *Pseudomonas solanacearum* found in Sri Lanka has two biovars. Biovar 2 occurs only in the cool upcountry wet zone. Biovar 3 is found only in the lower elevations. The fact that the diseased plants in the Jaffna Peninsula were found to contain 70% of Biovar 2 is a clear indication that the disease had been "sparked off" by the use of infected uncertified planting material obtained in the cool upcountry where this biovar is usually found. A trial was conducted in the yellowish latosols of the Northern province to examine the effect of shading and mulching on the growth, tuberisation and yield of potato in this region. Sunhemp, cowpeas, soyabean, sweet potato and maize were used as intercrops with potato. These are mulched with a 10-15 on layer of straw. Potato was also grown alone, mulched with straw as stated and unmulched.

Best results were obtained with the mulched plots. Mulched potato and potato gave the highest yield,

followed by mulched potato and soyabean. This was followed by mulched potato alone. Statistics are given in the following table:

Yield Data in Tons Per Hectare

Crops	Unmulched	Mulched
Potato	3.27	8.17
Potato + Cowpea	5.39	7.76
Potato + Soya	4.13	11.18
Potato + Maize	8.28	7.30
Potato + Sunhemp	0.00	0.00
Potato + Sweet Potato	6.04	13.97

This experiment will be repeated in Yala 1983.

Trials at Kilinochchi have indicated that thrip and mite damage in potato can be controlled by two sprayings of Profenofos (Salecron) 50% E.C. at a fortnightly interval. 3.3 l-/ha is the recommended rate. Dilution is done at 3 cc/l.

Research Highlights—16.



TISSUE—CULTURED

Salt Tolerant Rice

TISSUE CULTURE OF PLANTS (the technique of raising plants from tiny vegetative cells) has come in handy for plant breeders to evolve new strains of the desired characteristics in a very short time. Rice breeders at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines, have found this rapid multiplication technique highly useful in developing improved varieties of robust nature. Tissue culture techniques promise to reduce both the time taken to produce a variety and the costs incurred in a conventional variety development programme. according to Dr. F. J. Zapata of the Tissue Culture Facility at IRRI.

In the conventional method, breeders must grow 5 to 6 generations of segregating populations to get different breeding lines. These early generation populations require a lot of management time and extensive field space. With tissue culture, the varying populations were avoided, thus saving considerable labour time and space said Dr. Zapata. Generally, in plant tissue cultures different parts such as embryos, protoplasts, somatic cells, anthers and pollens are used depending upon the need of the breeder. At IRRI research efforts are focussed on rice anther and pollen culture.

The ultimate use of tissue culture technology at IRRI will be for development of new improved rices. Rice varieties differ widely in their ability to produce callus (culturability) and regenerate green plants on a single medium. On the basis of relative culturability

the researchers have classified the rice varieties as the medium and low callus producers. They have also developed useful culture medium for rapid regeneration of green plants according to Dr. Zapata. As about 6 million hectares of the global rice area are affected by salt accumulation special emphasis was laid on evolving salt tolerant rice varieties, he said. Tissue culture offered a promise to increase rice's tolerance for high degree of salinity.

Under this programme IRRI was using seed-based cell culture which involved five steps Dr. Zapata said, *First Step*: callus is induced from seed on an agar medium containing as much as 2% salt. Only highly salt-tolerant may occur to produce salt-tolerant cells. *Third step*: Thus seedlings grown from regenerated plant seeds, are screened for salt tolerance. The surviving salt-tolerant plants are grown to maturity to produce seeds. *Fifth step*: The salt-tolerant lines will be field tested for salt-tolerance and other agronomic characteristics.

In this series step 4 forms the key to the success of the seed-based cell culture, according to Dr. Zapata. Several thousand plants regenerated from seeds in step 3 during 1981 were put to tests for salt tolerance he said. From the successful lines the best variety would be chosen after intensive field evaluation to be released for the farmers he said.

—Hindu.

THE VILLAGE and THE NATION

PRIME MINISTER PREMADASA

Million-Houses Plan for Poor Begins Next Year

(Excerpts of speech by Prime Minister R. Premadasa, at the inauguration of the first meeting of the Non-aligned Coordinators group on Housing.)

THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM of housing in all countries of the Third World is well known. Shortage of housing, which has resulted from the rapid growth of population and expansion of cities, has been aggravated by increasing poverty. The limited resources at the disposal of our governments are certainly not adequate to finance the solutions we desire. Therefore the need to find cost effective solutions to the problem of shelter is critical. Indeed in no time in our history, has this need been more critical than today. Attempts made by successive governments in the countries of the Third World

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to address the shelter needs have failed to accomplish the desired results. On the contrary, the realities of increased energy costs, rampant inflation and high rates of interest have complicated the task before us further. It also appears futile to hope that these conditions will improve in the near future.

This indeed, is the challenge, the politicians and decision makers of the Third World are facing today. It is a challenge which compels us to achieve "More from less" You will agree, it is also a challenge which positively compels us to create a whole new approach to the problem of shelter. Based on our experiences in the past, we also cannot pretend to offer magic solutions to this complex and pressing problem. We must admit that there is no easy process which will sweep us swiftly from our aspirations to achievements. Given the circumstances, our task ahead is not an easy one. Although the problem of shelter can be viewed as a part of a complex tangle of poverty, fundamental causes of poverty, admittedly, have no easy solutions.

OVER-COMING THE SHORTCOMINGS of the development process and the economic political and social systems is a slow process. Therefore, improved shelter for the poor which is fundamental to the life and well being of the millions in our part of the world, cannot await the realisation of our visions of altering the economic political and social landscape. Our passionate enthusiasm and idealism may appear fragile tools in comparison with the intensity of their needs. I am inclined to feel, given the socio-economic constraints in our countries that the introduction of realistic housing policies by themselves will not be adequate to arrest the growing problems of shelter.

To hasten to pace, they should be preceded by at least three other factors. The *first* is the need to affirm a higher political commitment to the provision of improved shelter. There is no doubt that politicians and policy makers in the countries of the world today are more sensitive to this problem than they were earlier. But unfortunately, this sensitivity is not adequately reflected in the political manifestoes and policies of the governments in our countries. The *second* requirement, which to some extent, is an extension of the first, is the need to allocate a higher priority to shelter efforts in the allocation of public and private resources. Shelter must be viewed not as an objective, but as a means of economic and social development. Shelter, like other basic needs, is fundamental to life, work and wellbeing. The shelter conditions of our people, therefore, both influence and reflect the level and pace of our national development. Commitment of a larger share of resources for the provision of improved shelter, should therefore be assigned a higher importance, since investment in housing, could itself make a significant contribution to the achievement of other development goals.

IN MY VIEW, the *third* factor is perhaps the most important. Today, resources allocations to shelter programmes in some of our countries are constrained not so much because the need to provide improved shelter is considered less important. To the planner and the decision maker, it somehow appears that the competing demands emerging from other fields of economic activity are using our limited resources more wisely. The unrealistic standards, high costs of solutions, our failure to reach the desired target groups, heavy subsidies and poor recoveries, as you all agree, do not make economic sense. As long as the shelter solutions of our countries reflect these shortcomings, investment in housing will remain to be a poor alternative to investment in industry, agriculture or even other forms of social and economic infrastructure. As long as investments in housing fail to make economic sense, our efforts to improve shelter conditions will remain a palliative, a form of government charity or an isolated effort resulting from individual enthusiasm.

How could the viability of investment in housing be improved? The answers may appear simple. Realistic standards, cost effective solutions, shelter options based on affordability of the beneficiaries, improved recovery of costs are the obvious courses of action. They however involve difficult decisions. Nonetheless, our future shelter solutions should reflect a stronger commitment to these objectives. The economic circumstances of the poor, extremely low incomes and sociocultural practices of our society require more innovative, non-conventional approaches to realise these objectives. Strengthening of the informal economy, supporting community, initiatives in shelter, recognising the traditional shelter processes such as incremental housing, should therefore be reflected more prominently in our future shelter policies and programmes.

WE SHOULD ALSO ENDEAVOUR to improve the capacities of our institutions to respond to the customs and peculiarities that characterise the rural and urban poor, for instance obligations to the community, mutual help, social values attached to housing and irregular and seasonal incomes are some of the factors that should not be ignored. Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) has emphasised that "the international year of shelter for the homeless (1987) has been conceived not as an end itself, but as a crucial transition phase between an intensive search for solutions and an extensive application of them". Therefore, what we achieve during and after the year would depend, to a very great extent, on the innovative and effective solutions we could develop to the chronic problem of shelter, during the next four years.

THE YEAR 1987 will be a year of consolidation of what we have learnt upto then and the extensive application of this knowledge and experience, The

international year of shelter is different from other international years in many ways: It concerns the developing world more than any other year that has so far been celebrated. As you know, it is even financed to a great extent by the developing countries. What is perhaps most important is that the success of our achievements, during and after the year, would depend to a great extent on the ability of the developing countries to develop a set of realistic practical and replicable solutions to the problems of shelter in our own countries during the next few years. It would therefore be clear that what we derive out of this year, would depend purely on our own desire and initiatives. Shelter policy in Sri Lanka during the recent years had been very much influenced by the factors I have discussed so far.

On January 1st 1984, we will begin a brave new chapter in the history of housing in our country. Our new programme to build a million houses to the poor and the needy of our country, at costs that are affordable by them will be launched on this day. The programme makes a deliberate attempt to answer a wide range of questions, on which we have pondered a long time. It is my humble wish that the manner in which we have attempted to overcome these problems would provide some inspiration to our friendly member nations, to set their own programmes on a desirable path.

I would like you to share with me the wisdom of the great teacher Lord Buddha on the subject of shelter. The Lord Buddha said.

*Annado Balado Hoti
Vatthado Hoti Vannado
Yanado sukhado hoti
Deepado hoti chakkudo
So cha subba dado hoti
yo dadati upassayan.*

*He who gives food is a giver of strength.
He who gives clothing is a giver of complexion.
He who gives a mode of conveyance is a giver of comfort.
He who gives light is a giver of sight.
He indeed is a giver of all who ever gives a place to dwell.*

* * *

FOR A BETTER DIET

In Our Villages

It has been repeatedly pointed out that the diet of the people in Sri Lanka, especially the poorer sections in towns and villages,

should have more "protein content". The article we publish below shows that myths that meat contains more protein than any other food is not correct. The Government should take steps to educate people about what they should eat to increase the protein content of the food they eat—ED.

Myth No. 1: Meat contains more protein than any other food.

Fact: Containing 20 to 25 percent protein by weight, meat ranks about the middle of the protein quantity scale, along with some nuts, cheese, beans, and fish.

Myth No. 2: Eating lots of meat is the only way to get enough protein.

Fact: Americans often eat 50 to 100 percent more protein than their bodies can use. Thus, most Americans could completely eliminate meat, fish and poultry from their diets and still get the recommended daily allowance of protein from all the other protein-rich foods in the typical American diet.

Myth No. 3: Meat is the sole source of certain essential vitamins and minerals.

Fact: Even in the current meat-centred American diet, non-meat sources provide more than half of our intake of each of the 11 most critical vitamins and minerals, except vitamin B 12. And meat is not the sole source of B 12: it is also found in dairy products and eggs, and even more abundantly in tempeh, a fermented soy food. Some nutrients, such as iron, tend to be less absorbable by the body when eaten in plant instead of animal foods. Nevertheless, varied plant-centred diets using whole foods, especially if they include dairy products, do not risk deficiencies.

Myth No. 4: Meat has the highest quality protein of any food.

Fact: The word "quality" is an unscientific term. What is really meant is usability: how much of the protein eaten the body can actually use. The usability of egg and milk protein is greater than that of meat, and the usability of soy protein is about equal to that of meat.

Myth No. 5: Because plant protein lacks certain essential amino acids, it can never equal the quality of meat protein.

Fact: All plant foods commonly eaten as sources of protein contain all eight essential amino acids. Plant proteins do have deficiencies in their amino acid patterns that make them generally less usable by the body than animal protein. However, the deficiencies in some foods can be matched with amino acid strengths in other foods to produce protein usability equivalent or superior to meat protein. This effect is called "protein complementarity."

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Myth No. 6: Plant-centred diets are dull.

Fact: Just compare them. There are basically five different kinds of meat and poultry, but 40 to 50 kinds of commonly eaten vegetables, 24 kinds of peas, beans and lentils, 20 fruits, 12 nuts, and 9 grains. Variety of flavour, of texture, and of colour obviously lies in the plant world... though the average American restaurant would give you no clue to this fact.

Myth No. 7: Plant foods contain a lot of carbohydrates and therefore are more fattening than meat.

Fact: Plant foods do contain carbohydrates but they generally don't have the fat that meat does. So ounce for ounce, most plant food has either the same calories (bread is an example) or considerably fewer calories than most meats. Many fruits have one-third the calories; cooked beans have one half; and green vegetables have one eighth the calories that meat contains. Complex carbohydrates in whole plant foods, grain, vegetable, and fruits can actually aid weight control. Their fibre helps us feel full with fewer calories than do refined or fatty foods.

Myth No. 8: Americans meat-centred cuisine provides us with a more nutritious diet overall than that eaten in underdeveloped countries.

Fact: For the most part the problem of malnutrition in the third world is not the poor quality of the diet but the inadequate quantity. Traditional diets in most third world countries are probably more nutritious and less hazardous than the meat-centred highly processed diet most Americans eat. The hungry are simply too poor to buy enough of their traditional diet.

Table

Food	Protein% by weight
Dried frozen tofu	53
Yuba, dried	52
Soya flour (defatted)	51
Soya Flour (full fat)	40
Soyabeans (whole dry)	35
Cheeses	30
Fish	22
Chicken	21
Beef (steak)	20
Cottage cheese	20
Tofu pouches	19
Tofu Burgers	15
Whole-wheat Flour	13
Hamburger	13
Eggs	13
Tofu (Chinese style)	11
Tofu	8
Brown rice (uncooked)	6
Milk	3



ECONOMIC FARM LEVEL

Storage Structures

The traditional storage bins are not available to many farmers today. Even the technique and methodology of constructing them has been lost in many villages. The Village Reawakening Movement should pay special attention not only to revive the traditional storage bins but also devise better and more sophisticated constructions. This article below sets out what has been done in India in the matter of village level storage structures to indicate what can be done in our villages.

THE Indian Grain Storage Institute of the Union Food Department has designed and developed cheap and economic non-metallic storage structures for efficiently storing different agricultural commodities comprising cereals, millets and pulses for the benefit of the farming community. The construction programme is being implemented in Tamilnadu by the Save Grain Campaign of the Department located in Madras. The two designs namely Improvised Mud-Brick Bin and Pucca Koth (cement structure) are very popular among the villagers and widely acclaimed in Tamil-nadu and Pondicherry.

Improvised Mud-Brick Bin (Pusa Bin). This is economic and semi permanent and within the reach of an average Indian farmer. It is constructed over a hard floor as insurance against rats and made out of unburnt and burnt bricks. A sheet of polythene is sandwiched between the two layers of brick walls to make it damp proof and reasonably airtight. There is an inlet provided at the top for loading and an outlet at the bottom for emptying the structure using the device of gravitational force. The entire structure is plastered with mud except at the bottom for a height of 45 cm. from the ground level. The average cost of construction of a bin into one to 2 MT capacity is around Rs. 500/-

This is an improvement over the mud and brick bin. This structure is constructed using burnt bricks plastered with cement mortar, and provided with reinforcement metal rods. The structure is either constructed on the floor or with elevated base about 75 cms. above the ground level, with the application of liquid tar on the outside surface of walls.

This proved to be successful for tropical regions. The structure is provided with inclined or straight type metallic outlets for discharge of the grains while the inlet is fitted with rectangular timber lid with locking arrangements. Presently the approximate cost of a 2 MT structure is Rs. 1,200/-.

Both the structures are constructed indoors with locally available materials in the village by local masons. These structures can be hermetically sealed

and fumigated for control of insect. When they are loaded with grains to their full capacities latent infestation if any, does not develop/multiply due to depletion of oxygen.

Depending on the availability of space, the structures can be constructed in compartments and provided with separate inlet and outlet for each compartment, for storing different varieties of food grains.

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NEW METHOD

Sexing Chicks

Small and medium level poultry yards attached to model villages or even individual homesteads are one way to increase family incomes and ensure full utilisation of the man (and woman) power available in our rural countryside. "Tribune" will regularly publish articles on how poultry keeping can be done profitably. And also other livestock—cattle, goats, and pigs.

SEXING is an art of differentiating the males and females in chicks. It should be practised at the earliest possible time in poultry industry to remove and cull the unproductive and unwanted males. There are several methods by which sexing can be done. The most commonly followed method is 'vent sexing', a Japanese method, employed when the chicks are a day old. For this, the newly hatched chicks are tested under a bright source of light in a dark room.

The chick is held in one hand with its head away from the sexer. The vent or the cloacal area behind is everted with the thumb. The presence of a tiny protrusion indicating the male process helps to identify the male chicks. The hoicks with no such protrusions are classified as female chicks. A sexer with good experience and constant touch can spot as many as 800 chicks in an hour with an accuracy of 97%.

A NEW METHOD which has attracted considerable attention is the chick sexing machine, which is a special instrument called 'proctoscope'. This has to be inserted into the cloaca of the chick, and the testes—the male gonads—can be visually seen through the intestinal wall, as the proctoscope carried a light on its head.

Even other wise, the males can be differentiated from females by faster development of their comb and wattles; faster growth rate, body conformation and the development of cock feathers by about the fourth week.

The knowledge of genetics can also be employed to sex the chicks at hatch with much ease. Some

sex-linked characters can be made use of for this purpose. When barred females are crossed with non-barred white males, all the male chicks coming out from such cross will be barred in nature. They will have a black dot on their heads at hatch which the female chicks lack. The rate of feathering and the colour of the plumage are some-other sexlinked characters employed for sexing. The breeds which offer such a chance are referred to as autosexing breeds. **Sexing is a process of importance only in layer industry as in broiler industry the chicks are reared together as straight run chick, unsexed.**—Poultry Research Station, Nandanam, Madras.

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EARTHEN EQUIPMENT

For Poultry Houses

With a view of cutting down the cost on the waterers and feeders made of zinc sheets presently used in the poultry houses, scientists at the Farmers Training Centre (TNAU), Kattupakkam, have successfully tried feeders and waterers made out of the earth. It proved to be very economical.

For supplying 8 to 10 birds, a mud-feeder with a capacity of 1.5 kg (47.5 cm diameter) was costing only about Rs. 2, and the cost for the waterer of 2 litres volume (30 cm mouth diameter) was around Rs. 1.50. The prices of the mud equipment fell lower than the ones made of zinc sheet (costing Rs. 50 to 60).—TNAU Newsletter.

x x x
TEST TUBE

Sheep

A TEST-TUBE "angora baby" project to develop an Indian cross-breed sheep having greater potential for milk, meat and "mother" (wool) has been undertaken by the Mahatma Phule Agricultural University at Rahurt in Ahmednagar district. Genetically known as "transplant" the experiment if successful might provide a new dimension to sheep rearing in the country. It would also drastically cut down the time span of 15 to 20 years involved in the traditional cross-breeding process of graded insemination and selection to get the agora variety.

The first experiment was carried out at the campus under the supervision of a genetic expert Dr. V. K. Patil, on 24 October. The University has imported a flock of angora rams and ewes from Texas (US) for this purpose. A set of ten to 12 eggs were obtained from the angora female after treating it with hormone injections. Fertilised later by insemination from the same breed, the eggs were surgically taken out from the uterus of the angora ewe and transplanted

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into that of the artificially rutted or normally hotted Indian variety. A university press release says that Dr. Patil has submitted a scheme to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research New Delhi for sanction and greater application of the project.—*Patriot*.

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MADRAS PLAN

To Augment City's Water

A new piece of equipment is being installed at the Red Hills lake to monitor the rate of evaporation from its surface. Every year, more than half the water stored in the lake, it is estimated, is lost by evaporation. This instrument called the evaporimeter, which is anchored at the centre of the lake, will enable Metrowater to measure precisely the volume of water that evaporates every day. The evaporimeter is being set up as part of a two-year United Nations Development Programme study to examine the feasibility of using ground and surface water conjunctively to augment supply to Madras.

The proposal under study is to put the entire storage of the three reservoirs (Red Hills, Poondi, Sholavaram lakes) into what appears to be a favourable aquifer in the Kortaliyar river basin using artificial recharge methods in a span of four or five months during and after the north-east monsoon. This is a time when evaporation rates are low—between 3 mm and 6 mm a day. By summer, when the level is liable to fall by as much as 9 mm every day because of evaporation, all the water is likely to be safely preserved underground, and can be pumped out as and when needed.

It is estimated that the evaporation losses thus avoided can mean an additional 20 million gallons of water a day for the city. The Red Hills lake today had about 625 million cubic feet of water and the picture it presented was far more respectable than just a month ago when with hardly 200 million cubic feet of storage, ridges of clay and stone had emerged to divide the water into several mini-lakes. The three reservoirs together have about 815 mcft (capacity, 6,500 mcft) as against 520 mcft a year ago.

✕ ✕ ✕
PUMP

Bio Mass Powered

A biomass powered pump which could prove a boon to small farmers has been developed by the Central Power Research Institute in Bangalore. The pump, which works on steam condensation and expansion principle uses firewood and other easily available biomass and is capable of lifting 1,200 litres of water an hour. The device can replace a conventional pump set which consumes over 9,000 million units of power annually in India.

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SPOTLIGHT

*Radella *Foreign Cricket *Rugger

THE BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET in Sri Lanka with a dynamic set of office-bearers has given cricket and all that it stands for one hell of a lift. It can be said that cricket is now in its full flowering time. The Board has now set its eyes on the visit of the cricketers from Zimbabwe who will play an unofficial "Test" and several one-day games. With this visit in view the Board is busy along with members of the Dimbulla Cricket and Athletic Club giving the ground at Radella a dressing up for a one-day game to be played there. Radella last hosted a team in 1962 when Ted Dexter's English-men played there. Radella is a picturesque ground surrounded by tea plantations and the Zimbabweans when they set foot on the Radella ground will enjoy one of the best sights that the game in Sri Lanka could afford.

In the past a team from Radella known as the Dimbulla Cricket and Athletic Club used to take part in all major tournaments conducted by the Cricket Board. But of late, apparently with no cricketing talent joining the planting fraternity, the game had been allowed to slip in the district and there is hardly any cricket played there. But with the awarding of the one-day game against Zimbabwe, the game has come alive and there is a lot of activity these days up at Radella with the ground being brought to shape. The man who has been entrusted with the job of bringing the ground into playing condition is none other than the President of the Dimbulla Cricket Club, P. H. A. N. Dias. The game is to be played on December 15 and Dias is now working round the clock with a dedicated set of workers to update the ground. The ground has been extended by a further 20 feet all round thus increasing the distance from the wicket to the boundary line by at least 15 yards. If the Radella game is successfully conducted there is the possibility of the Cricket Board considering it to be a Test playing venue in the future.

The Board President Gamini Dissanayake, Secretary Nuski Mohammed and Board member and chairman

of the Selection Committee Abu Fuard make frequent visits to Radella to study the progress of the work. The wicket which will be of vital importance in this game is being prepared under the supervision of Abu Fuard. According to Secretary Mohammed the visiting Zimbabweans will be hosted by planters in and around the district. Tickets for this game are priced at Rs. 100 (Club pavillion), Rs. 50 Pavilian A, Rs. 25 pavilion B, Rs. 15 open stands and Rs. 5 standing enclosure. It is also understood that the Sri Lanka Cricket Board Official dinner to the two teams will be held on December 25 at the Hill Club at Radella followed by a dance.

The Zimbabweans on this tour will miss the guiding influence of their star cricketer Duncan Fletcher who led them in the World Cup tournament in England in June. Fletcher was a master tactician and it was he who fashioned their upset win over Australia in one of the first round games. They also came very near to upsetting the final winners of the World Cup India who were saved by a blistering 175 by skipper Kapil Dev. However, the Zimbabweans have named a strong team for this tour and it is certain that our cricketers will be put to the test by the visitors. It will be interesting to see the makeup of the local teams. With Zimbabwe not being a Test playing nation, the Selectors of the Board will certainly not field a full Sri Lanka side. One thing certain in the make up of the local teams is that several promising schoolboys and others aspiring for a Sri Lanka "cap" will have the opportunity of showing their prowess and staking a claim to play against the New Zealanders who will be here in February 1984.

THE THIRD WEEK OF CRICKET in the Premier Division saw the Sinhalese Sports Club gain their first victory after their earlier two games were washed out by rain. Their victory was against the Tamils. In this game it was nice to see the return to batting form of master batsman Roy Dias. Roy massacred the Tamils bowlers to remain unbeaten on 175. Tamils batting first made 292 and the SSC in reply made 307 for five. These games also saw the first defeat of the reigning champions Bloomfield against the CCC. The CCC were brilliantly led by former Sri Lanka skipper Michael Tissera. When his team was in a bad way he came in to play a responsible innings and set an example to the other batsmen to follow. Bloomfield made 231 and 62 for two and the CCC made 251 for one declared in the other games Saracens, Colts, Airforce, NCC and Moratuwa registered victorious over Kandy, Galle Moors, Sebastianites and Nomads.

AS PREDICTED in our columns last week the CR & FC beat the Army to secure the prestigious knockot rugby trophy in the final by 12 points to nine at Longdon Place recently. However, on the next

day the Army received some sort of consolation when their second string playing under the name of Colts beat the Navy "Dreadnoughts" to secure the B Division Trophy. The "Colts" won by none points to seven. However the final between the CR and the Army was eagerly looked forward to and the game never reached great heights as there was a lot of kicking. There was hardly any running with the ball. This game was decided on penalties with CR's Marso connecting four while veteran S. P. de Silva managed three. Marso has been the match-winner for CR on an earlier occasion against the Havelocks and in this game he kicked correctly to give CR the trophy. Talking of Marso and the question asked after the game was "Why isn't the Police playing in the tourney? Marso plays for the Police. Several of the Police ruggerites are turning out for clubs in this tourney and we wonder what kept them out of this tourney. However CR did not win the way they would have liked to. The winners could have created a better impression had they endeavoured to run with the ball. Anyway a victory is a victory and our congratulations to the CR for their victory and the trophy which has eluded them for a long time.

ON TO THE FOREIGN CRICKET SCENE and comes the news that the Cricketers Association have won a stay of execution for a group of overseas cricketers who faced redundancy from English Country Championship teams under proposed tougher registration rules. An AFP report said: "At today's special meeting of the Test and Country Board at Lords, all moves to tighten the qualifications for one overseas player per country was thrown out. None of the proposals reached even 50 percent support, whereas 66 percent would have been required for a rule change. The issue has been referred to the Board's Executive Committee in the diminishing hope that new proposals will be presented at the winter meeting of the Board. The argument revolves around the agreement made in 1978 that no county should have more than one foreign born player once the current crop retired. The trouble is that the process is too slow for some counties, who have one or no overseas player, while seven countries still have two qualified under the current rule. TCCB spokesman Peter Lush said, "We are trying to come to a solution that is best for English cricket and at the same time fair to the countries and fair to the players. There is clearly no general satisfaction with the rules as they are written at the moment". The main proposal came from the Board's Executive Committee which would have limited all counties to one overseas player from 1985, with the exception of Somerset, who have Vivian Richards and Joel Garner under contract until 1986. Cricketers' Association Secretary Jack Bannister made a convincing speech in favour of the status quo, acknowledging that the objectives aimed at five years ago was being achieved.

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The West Indies won the second one-day international against India to show their supremacy in this type of cricket. True they were beaten by India in the World Cup final, but on this tour they have come back to their old form of one day champions and gave the Indians no chance whatsoever as they coasted to victory. The Indians batting first made 214 for six wickets in 49 overs. The West Indies obtained these runs in 47.5 overs. The West Indies also won the First one-day international. With the India-West Indies Third Test half over, (that is the second day) Sunil Gavaskar who equalled the record which lay to the credit of Sir Donald Bradman—29 Test centuries—when he scored 83 beat the previous highest aggregate—8,114 runs held by England's former Opener Geoff Boycott. He also became the first player to score 1,000 runs in a calendar year for the fourth time. He falls by 1p runs to make the century which would have beaten Sri Donald Bradman's record. Gavaskar made a chancless 30.

ALLR UNDER



SPORTS CHRONICLE

November 7-13

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7: Defending Champions Army qualified to meet CR & FC in the Final of the SLRFU President's Trophy next Saturday at Longdon Place yesterday, the soldiers scored a lacklustre victory over Air Force by 15 points (2 goals, 1 penalty) to 9 (2 penalties, 1 drop goal) after leading 12-6 at half time. CCC scored a first innings win over Panadura SC at National Crescent; Panadura SC 83 for 8 continued 96 and CCC 179 for 8 at stumps.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8: Army stormed into a Second Rugby Final this season when their Colts XV beat CH & FC Kabaragoyas by 13 points (a goal, a try and a penalty) to 10 (a goal and a try) in their CRFU Trophy B Division Semi-Final at Longdon Place yesterday after leading 9-4 at half time. Liverpool moved into their accustomed spot at the top of the English First Division with an effortless 3-0 win over city rivals Everton on Sunday. China surged on the top of the medals standings of the second day of the Asian Athletics Championships on Kuwait on Sunday capturing five golds while arch-rivals in sport Japan had a bleak day.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9: Paceman Chaminda Handunnetige's 5 wickets for 14 runs and an unbeaten 57 with six sixes and 3 fours by Chamara Dunusinghe helped Nalanda to an easy first-innings win over Isipatana in their All Island Under 13 Colombo Zone Group B Tournament cricket match played on the Prisons Grounds: Isipatana 60 and Nalanda 107 for 4. Matale Hockey Association beat Sri Lanka Schools Hockey Federation (Golds) 2-1

to win the 1993 Junior Hockey Championships in the 11th Annual Tournament at Polcie Park yesterday

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10: Leo Stadium CC Negombo and Chilaw Marians CC figured in an exciting tie in their Pure Beverages Trophy match played at Chilow: Chilow Marians A 182 for 9 in 55 overs and Leo Stadium 182 for 9. West Indies won the Second Charminar Challenge One-day International in Baroda on Wednesday beating India by four wickets with 1.4 overs to spare. West Indies have now taken a two-nil lead in the Five day International Series having won the First at Srinagar: India 214 and West Indies 217.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11. St. Sebastians crushed Lumbini MV by an innings and 180 runs in their All Island Under 13 Cricket Tournament match played at Moratuwa; St. Sebastians 217 for 5 declared and Lumbini 90. Army "Bullets" scored a two-nil win over Ratnam in their FA Cup Quarter Final game at Police Park yesterday; at half time Army led 1-0. Dilan Senathuleke or S. Thomas College Mr. Lavinia established a New Age Group Record in the 33 1/3 metres free style for boys (under 10) at the novices swimming championships now on at the Otters Club Pool.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12: Top Seed Chabbir Hussein beta l. Jayatissa in four sets to enter the men's Singles Final of the Ashok Melvani Memorial Table Tennis Tournament at the Colombo YMCA yesterday he beat C. Samuel 23-21, 21-11, 21-18. Wayne Phillips making his Test debut and Graham Yallop scored hundreds as Australia amassed 330 for three after being put into bat on the first day of the First Cricket Test against Pakistan at Perth on Friday; Phillips was out for 159, but Yallop was undefeated on 122 at the close.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13: A magnificent 203 not out by Gihan Mallawaratchi with thirty hits to the ropes was the highlight of the day in the St. Josephs-Isipathana inter school clash that ended up in a draw at Darley Road yesterday: Isipathana 152 and 135 for 7 at close and St. Josephs 46 for 2 overnight 342 for 5 dec. Trinity College after 31 years emerged champions to win the "Stubbs Shield" with 33 points and Royal College the runners up with 27 points at the "Stubbs Shield" Boxing Championships conducted by the Schools Boxing Association of Sri Lanka held at the Sugathadasa Inddor Stadium yesterday. Victory Sports Club retained the YRM Yassen Trophy for the second year when they beat Saunders Sports Club by one goal to nil at the finals placed at the Dugathadasa Stadium under floodlight yesterday.



Govt



Notice

Notice Under Section 9 of the Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act. No. 28 of 1964.

Reference No. ATH 17/509

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 270/8 of 08.11.83.

SCHEDULE

D. R. O's Division : Nugegoda.
Situation : Pallepattu.
Village : Thalathpitiya
Name of Land : Ketakelagahawatta
No, 367 Negombo Road
Lot No. : 01.
Plan No. P. P. Co. : 6074

H. C. Gunawardane
District Land Officer,
Colombo District.

The Kachcheri,
Colombo.
Date :- 1983. 10. 31.

TENDER NOTICE

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

Tenders for construction of Water Supply Scheme for Police Station at Padukka will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board/Superintending Engineer's Office, Department of Buildings, Ratnapura upto 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 14.12.1983.

02. Tender forms could be obtained from District Engineer/Avissawella before 4.15 p. m. on 09.12.83 by registered Contractors and "Trial Letter" holders of Department registered for Rs. 250,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo, or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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

K. C. Samaraweera.
Director of Buildings.

**DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
P. O. BOX 504,
COLOMBO 1, 1983.10.25**

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Fertiliser Conundrum

IS IT NOT TRUE that the fertiliser world in Sri Lanka is today in a ferment? That apart from the (long overdue) shutting down of the White elephant of a Urea plant at Sapugaskande, the affairs of the National Fertiliser Corporation and its Secretariat are said to be caught up in a maelstrom of internal and external contradictions? That it will be recalled that *Tribune* has long ago, drawn attention to the fact that the losses of the local urea plant were being passed on to the consumer and that the plantations and farmers were being penalised by being charged higher prices for the products not only of the Fertiliser Corporation but also of all other private and public organisations that were in the fertiliser business? That for some years now, the users of fertilisers have helped to subsidise the Urea plant? That one result was that owing to the high prices of fertilisers, less and less was used—and the fatal consequences are today seen in the coconut industry? That we will revert to the question of fertilisers and the coconut industry in a subsequent note, but we are presently concerned with some interesting revelations that have surfaced in two reports of the Fertiliser Corporation? That *Tribune* has received from one of its Investigators two documents (i) the "Review of the Fertiliser Year 1982" prepared by Frans Hesse, Consultant and Teamleader of the National Fertiliser Secretariat (NFS), and K. A. K. Jayatileke, Assistant Director NFS, and dated April 1983; and (ii) The formal Report issued under the same name and title by the National Fertiliser Secretariat in August 1983?

IS IT NOT A FACT that the "official" report of the NFS is a sorry attempt to make the earlier Review of the Fertiliser Year 1982 appear palatable to the vested interests (official and otherwise) in the business? That numerous changes—deletions, re-phrasing and amendments—have been made in the original report negating, neutralising and glossing-over the brutal candour with which the fertiliser scene in Sri Lanka in 1982 had been dealt with? That in Chapter One the "Introduction," the last three paragraphs of the original report have been rewritten reducing the impact of what was stated therein? That in Chapter II (an "Overview of the Fertiliser Section in Sri Lanka") many sections have been deleted except for the tables thus denying the reader the overviews originally projected, particularly the critical analysis of performance in key areas? That in Chapter IV (Salient Features) the text has been entirely changed and modified to remove all references that have obviously been regarded as "unpalatable" to some person or persons unknown (for the moment)? That in this chapter table 6 and part of table 4 have been deleted? That the original report had made a critical analysis

of Urea production and the subsidies paid thereof? That in Chapter V (Import and Production of Fertiliser) whilst the tables remain all the same there has been substantial rephrasing of sentences and rewriting of comments thereby eliminating the point and purpose of the original chapter? That the revised version is an apology for the original and that it is no more than a sorry attempt to by-pass the sensitive issues in regard to matters such as production capacities, actual costs of production and export prices? That in Chapter VII (Distribution of Fertiliser) only a minor change has been made? That Chapter VIII (Aspects of Cost Evaluation) is undoubtedly the most important section of the original report? That this chapter makes a critical financial analysis of Public Sector Producers and Wholesalers of Fertilisers? That the entire chapter has been deleted in the August 1983 report? That a supplementary section 2.7 in the Revised Report deals with the implementation of recommendations made in the "Review of the Fertiliser Year 1981" and seeks to convey the impression that progress has been made and that all was well on the fertiliser front? That the changes made in Chapter IX in the revised report clearly reveal the conceptual difference in the two reports? That we have summarised the basic and fundamental difference between the original and revised version of the Review of the Fertiliser Year 1982?

IS IT NOT ALSO A FACT that the original report has a section on *Urea Price Structure*? (vide Table 6 et seq. pp 10/11)? That the subsidy for Urea in 1982 was 58% and that in 1983 (budget) 61%? That after setting out the details in Table 6 and in footnote (3), the original report went on say: "Converting the above SFMC selling prices into dollars gives \$ 292 and 254 using a rate of exchange of 20 in 1982 and 23 in 1983. The \$ 292 price in 1982 compares rather unfavourably with a 1982 average f.o.b. price of \$ 150 and an average 1982 c & f price of \$ 180. This means that SFMC selling price in 1982 has been almost double as high as the competitive f.o.b. price and \$ 112 or 40% above the comparable c & f price. The higher domestic price of \$ 112 means that the effective subsidy on urea in 1982 has neither been 65% or 50% but some 20% and only 10% when compared to the average 1982 f.o.b. price. . . . Under these circumstances it appears that the urea factory in 1982 has received a production subsidy of approximately Rs. 400 million equivalent to 45% of the total subsidy expenditure, intended solely to benefit users of fertiliser. The magnitude alone of this amount should concern our policy makers. Besides, from an income distribution point of view it is alarming that producer- and user-subsidies are being mixed together?" That in the *Revised Review all these references to the Urea price structure and subsidies there to have been deleted? That instead we have more blah blah about how much the government was spending on subsidies for fertilisers?*

TRIBUNE, NOVEMBER 26, 1983

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