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Religion and Communism

Both Have A Place In The World

APPEAL FOR TOLERANCE AND GOODWILL

ACCORDING to our correspondent both Religion and Communism have a place in the world. To the seeker after the pleasures of life, materialism as a philosophy of life will appeal more than mysticism. To the seeker after the ultimate reality and the supreme inevitable peace and bliss, mysticism is the only thing that will appeal and nothing else. The writer makes an earnest plea to learn to disagree with calmness and goodwill and try to appreciate both points of view.

The Theory and Practice of Communism is entirely based on the Philosophy of Dialectic Materialism. Facts of science form the core of modern materialism. "Philosophical materialism" writes R. L. W. in "The Outlook of Science; Modern Materialism", "is the system of thought which places matter, meaning the physical world or universe, in a primary position, and mind, meaning human thought in general, in a secondary position. The reason for this is that matter, or the physical world, existed long before mind, and even before living things. In this sense, therefore, matter is primary to mind." Lenin writes, "the naive realism of any healthy person, who is not an inmate of an insane asylum or in the school of the socialist philosophers, consists in this, that he believes reality, the environment and the things in it, to exist independently of his perception—independently of his conception of himself in particular, and of his fellow men in general.... The 'naive' belief of mankind is, consciously taken by materialism as the basis of its theory of knowledge" (Materialism and Empiricocriticism, p. 47). In opposition to materialism, the philosophy of spiritual idealism places Spirit primary to matter and regards the physical world as a derivative of Spirit. Philosophy and practice of Religion is based on Spiritual Idealism, as opposed to Communism which is based on Materialism. The Communists consider Religion and all what it stands for is a tool in the hand of the Capitalists to exploit the poor, ignorant masses. According to them, religion only serves the purposes of those who have a vested interest in the world and makes the masses willing to suffer patiently the privations which they think inevitable and

By K. Navaratnam.

to be humble and reverent towards their rulers and exploiters. Religion is said to provide the necessary illusion for such exploitation. This is, no doubt, to a certain extent true. Organised institutional religion, has certainly degraded itself to this condition in modern society throughout the world. But religious institutions are different from Religious Truths. Institutions are only the means through which religious truths are realised. The forms may change, but the Truths never change.

The urge towards religion is a very powerful factor in human life. It transcends the social and economic aspects of life. What had endured down the ages irrespective of social, political and economic cataclysms are the monuments of Art and Religion. Because, they are the products of the spiritual nature of man. "Soon a new generation", writes Prof. John Macmurray, "grown used to the new age, that scientific knowledge has produced, will be more impressed by what science cannot do, than by what it can; and it is highly probable that then they will turn from science to religion as they have now been turning from religion to science." ("This Changing World" p. 253.)

Events in the world have changed too fast for many of us. Dialectical Materialism is one of the doctrines which has come to us as a result of this change. Speaking of Marxism in relation to the philosophy of change which is visible everywhere, Herbert Read observes: "Dialectical Materialism is a philosophy of life. It is a reconciliation of opposites, a synthesis or integration such as our world requires. But it is significant that it is almost exclusively, nowadays, the philosophy of scientists. It is accepted by Professor Baldane and Professor Bernal, by Professor Needham and Professor George Thomson. I know of no philosophers of comparable status who

(Continued on page 4)

Governor-General of India

Rajaji to Succeed Lord Mountbatten

It is understood that Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Governor of West Bengal, will succeed Lord Mountbatten as Governor-General when the latter relinquishes his office in the last week of June.

It is so, however, clear whether the designation "Governor-General" will be changed to that of "President" of the Indian Union before Rajaji takes over, as it will depend on whether the Draft Constitution could be passed by the Constituent Assembly by that date.

The Draft Constitution lays down that the President of the Indian Union shall either be the President of the Constituent Assembly or someone elected by the constituent Assembly. When this provision is brought into force, informed circles consider that Rajaji's name will be proposed for the Presidency by the High Command.

Gandhian Way

Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Exposition

"Indian economics requires to be thought out with special reference to the facts of the Indian situation. No generalisation based on the experience of other countries, no wholesale or indiscriminate application of formulae found suitable elsewhere, is going to solve our problems which are in a sense peculiar and yet universal," says Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Congress President, in his foreword to a brochure entitled "Gandhian Plan Reaffirmed", written by Prof. S. N. Agarwal. The brochure is supplement to the "Gandhian Plan", written by the same author in 1914.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad says that two fundamental facts of modern, rather Western economic, are mechanisation and concentration. "Mahatma Gandhi was an idealist, but he was also a realist and even while he soared high he never lost touch with reality and never allowed the link between kindred points of Heaven and earth to be sundered. Mahatma Gandhi was not opposed to all machines as such, but he would not permit the machine to become the master of man. He is frankly in favour of dispersal as opposed to concentration which is a concomitant of mechanisation."

Supporting the argument in the brochure that India as ever before needs to follow the middle course, Dr. Rajendra Prasad says: "The middle course is the course of Truth and Ahimsa and that is what we have to adopt and thus pave the way for its acceptance by the world in the economic field, as we have tried in our own humble way in the political field with no mean success."

"The conflict between individual and individual and between individual and society has to be reconciled. The individual has to subserve the interest of society, but his personality has also to be presented and developed. This is possible only if Truth and Ahimsa are accepted as the final and ultimate principle in human relations. The Gandhian Plan—the Gandhian way of life—accepts these principles and bases its economics and politics on them."

Indian Cabinet Reshuffle

Likely Changes

It is fairly settled that Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, Minister for Industry and Supply in the Indian Cabinet will take over the Ministry of Commerce from Mr. C. H. Dhabha who has resigned.

Another Minister whose resignation also has been practically accepted is Mr. K. C. Negy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, and only the question of the date of his leaving the Cabinet has not yet been decided as he is at present engaged in talks with the Pakistan Government about the properties left behind by refugees in the two Dominions.

There are also reports current that two other Ministers may also seek early opportunity to retire from the Cabinet. If this report comes true, it would give the Prime Minister an opportunity to reduce the size of his Cabinet to 12 and reduce at the same time the number of Ministries by merging them suitably. For instance, it is stated that Commerce and Industry and Supply will be put in charge of one Minister while Transport and Communications could be grouped together. Education and Health, which are by no means heavy Departments, could be placed under one Minister.

It is freely stated that Sardar Patel who is making steady progress may not continue to hold the whole charge of all the three portfolios of Home, State and Information and Broadcasting and that one or two of these may be distributed among other Ministers. While Sir K. Tottenham's suggestion that the Law portfolio need not be continued, may not be considered now, the present Minister for Law, Dr. Ambedkar, who is not overburdened with work, may be given more useful

THE SELF

O Self, thou art deathless, changeless Thou art one with God who is And all exists, who shines and all things shin Thou art all-informing, overruling Spirit Intelligent and compassionate Parent— The source of all creation. Thy power and grace animates all lives Thou pourest nectar on all the worlds All hail to thee, all hail!

- Swami Ravidas.

Saiva Paripalana Maha Sabha Ratnapura

The annual general meeting of the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Ratnapura was held at the Library of the Sivan Kovil, Ratnapura with Dr. R. Nitchingam in the chair. The minutes of the previous general meeting were read and confirmed. The election of office bearers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Patron: Mr. Spencer Rajaratnam. President: Dr. R. Nitchingam. Vice-presidents: Messrs. S. Thillair and A. Thamotherampillai. Hony. Joint Secretaries: Messrs. R. K. Thambayah and V. Thuraiayah. Hony. Treasurer: Mr. V. Panampalam. Hony. Joint-Treasurer: C. S. Paramaniam. Hony. Auditors: Messrs. S. Paramalingam and S. Sivagurusanthar.

Underground Atom Research Station

A new research station where scientists are examining the behaviour of atomic energy has been set up beneath the streets of London. The work is being directed by Dr. George, head of the Cosmic Research Group of Birkbeck College. He has recently completed similar experiments 12,000 feet above sea level on the Jungfrau Mountain (Switzerland).

This team of British experts is devoting particular attention to the hard components of cosmic rays called mesons, which penetrate the earth's known surface. The soft components, known as photons and electrons, are absorbed by the earth's crust, but mesons can penetrate 100 feet or more above the research centre can check the mesons.

They are being detected by special instruments called Geiger counters, whose hourly readings are automatically photographed. It is hoped that these experiments will indicate whether cosmic radiation beneath the earth is affected by the same factors as at sea level. There it varies in intensity according to atmospheric conditions, as well as the magnetic state of the earth and the sun.

RELIGION IN EDUCATION

Comparative Study Urged

"THE beauty of one's own religion can be perceived most when one studies with sympathy and care other religions. The study of the scriptures and the way of life of other people will enable one to follow one's own religion all the better" observed His Excellency Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Governor of West Bengal, speaking at the All-India Old Boys Association dinner last week.

On the subject of religious education in schools, His Excellency said: "Education will have little value if you do not have that background of tradition and culture behind it which we call religion in our schools and give only secular education if our boys and girls could have religion in home life. But especially among the educated, Hinduism the home has not now got that religious life which is necessary for the right upbringing of boys and girls. Family worship is not maintained in educated families. If we have no religious background in the home or in school or college, the younger generation will have no ground"



real cultural background. You cannot make people religious except by example, but we can retain something of the religious background in the school. Hindu boys should read the Ramayan Mahabharat, Gita and other religious books, and similarly, Muslims and Christians should read their religious books. We ought to maintain the religious background in our educational institutions, but it must be a free background."

G. B. S. & Atom Bomb

George Bernard Shaw believed the atom bomb will be outlawed in the next war as poison gas was in the last.

The Evening News diarist writing in his column "Talk of the Day" said: "It appears recent events in Europe have not chilled the warmth of Bernard Shaw as regards Russia."

"A friend of mine asked him the other day if he shared the American view that the U.S.S.R. is bent on aggression. Shaw's reply was:— "This is ignorant nonsense. No European country can afford a war, least of all us. If Stalin countenanced such folly he would be shot or put in a mental home."

"The atom bomb is out of the question just as gas was in the last war. It is too destructive to both sides."

TO BAN RACING

Mr. Montague Jayawickrama M. P. for Weligama has given notice of a motion in the House of Representatives to the effect that horse racing in Ceylon should be abolished from 1950.

Who Is A Karma Yogi ?

One Doing God's Work

Freedom — What It Implies

(By P. NARAYANA MENON B. A., B. L.)

THE necessity to do one's duty is stressed in this contribution by the learned writer.

There are two ways of asking, one is with the head; the other is with the heart. The head would tell him that there is no use of weeping and wasting tears, the moisture of life, and that he and all that he earned and owned should await the inevitable door of death. The head and the heart should therefore exist in man as brothers in affectionate unity. The one will correct the other.

The heart would then step in and say: "Learned idiot, look behind, there is the heart behind, it is that which weeps and it is the weeping that has produced the drop of tears which you define as a chemical compound of water, phosphate of lime, chloride of soda, and mud." An aged man on sick bed may weep and waste his tears on account of his having to leave

and the hand it is that does. The three combined in perfect order make the man wise. The wisest man is the sage. He is engaged in intense activity, all for the uplift of the world. He will be all-engrossed upon it out of pure unselfish love for all, which is also the worship of God for which purpose it is that he is endowed with the three faculties.

The ordinary man asks with his head. Some ask Him with the heart too. The highest that man wants is freedom from the fetters of worldly life. Before that is asked, the individual must prove that the asking is with the head and the heart put together and that he would not shirk the work allotted to him, which is his work itself. Let it not be deemed that the free man is exempted from the responsibilities of life. He must be willing, ready and able to do His work. Freedom from the bondage of worldly life will then be granted. He then is the Jnani, the Bhakta and the Karma-Yogi.

The Minister of Education Mr. E. A. Nugawela has drawn up a comprehensive plan for training 1200 teachers annually from next year.



Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1948.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

THAT CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT is superior to individual effort may be accepted as an axiom. The first Co-operative trading concern in Jaffna appears to be the Jaffna-Malaya Tobacco Cooperative Society; but the consumers for whom this Society caters are men of Malabar and not of Jaffna. It must be stated that this society has been a great blessing to the poor tobacco cultivator who had been in the past victimised by the unscrupulous tendencies of landed proprietors from whom he had to borrow money required for their cultivation. Cooperative societies in the island have managed to exist because of government support. Government was the sole importer of essential food stuffs during the war years and continues to be so. Cooperative Societies get a larger quota of essential foodstuffs from government than private traders. When free trade becomes established and private traders become able to import food as they please it is to be wondered what will become of the numerous cooperative societies. Such societies as are managed by men of character and integrity are bound to flourish unhampered by the competition which they may have to encounter from private traders. It is therefore necessary that the corrupt practices prevalent among those responsible for the management of co-operative stores should be eradicated.

ANIMAL SACRIFICE

We are happy that more people are realising that animal sacrifice in temples should stop. We repeat that this inhuman practice has made a blot on Hinduism which stands for Ahimsa and Love towards all beings. This blot should be eradicated and we endorse the appeal made at a mass meeting of Hindus of Urumpary to enact legislation for the purpose. The State should step in to remove this inhuman practice in this age of enlightenment. We trust the appeal of the Hindus will not fall on deaf ears. The Hindu members in Parliament should take the initiative in this matter. It will be of interest to note that Mr. S. B. Adityan, a Congress Member in the Madras Legislative Council has given notice of a Bill to be introduced to abolish animal sacrifice in the temples of Tamil Nad. Our M. P.'s should study the draft of the Bill and take steps to bring forward a similar Bill in our legislature too. The influence of those who want to preserve this practice of animal sacrifice just to suit their own ends, is on the wane, and their protests should not be heeded.

INDIA AND THE U. N. O.

We think the Indian Government should immediately cry halt to the farce being enacted at the Security Council of the U. N. O. over the Kashmir issue. It is more than three months since this question was submitted to the U. N. O. and so far the procrastinating policy of that august body has not approached even the fringe of the problem. Even as a show the Security Council has become a drab affair. The way in which affairs of an urgent nature are being handled by these Nations in the Council only shows that the Council has neither feelings nor guts. In the circumstances, it would be well for India to cease looking to the

U. N. O. for a just decision. The decision as to whether Kashmir should survive the onslaught of vandalist tribesmen and the fanatic mullahs of Pakistan has to be made in Kashmir itself. The Indian Government should take the most stringent military steps to drive the marauders from the beautiful valley of Kashmir. The future of India is at stake. This is no period for hesitation or vacillation. India should strike and strike hard it must to save its honour from the Pakistani marauders. Nehruji's dream to make the U. N. O. a truly international body to prevent war and strife should of necessity recede to the background at the present moment. As long as the Big Five control the decisions of the U. N. O. and as long as power politics is the guiding principle of these Powers, the U. N. O. cannot and would not be anything more than a farce.

Religious Discourses

Srimathi K. S. Kaanchan-malai Aamali of Mylapora will give three religious discourses at the Jaffna Hindu College Tamil School, Vannarponnai on the 9th, 10th and 11th instant commencing at 6-30 p. m. daily. The discourses will be under the auspices of the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabhai.

A New Dispensary

It is learned that Dr. C. Candiah, retired Divisional Medical Superintendent intends opening a private dispensary at Kondavil - Palaly Road junction next Wednesday (14-4-48).

Sama Samajist Meeting

A mass meeting of the Sama Samajists will be held tomorrow (10-4-48) at the Jaffna esplanade. Dr. N. M. Perera and Mrs. Florence Senuanyake will address the meeting.



Join The UNP And See The World

Mr Pieter Kueneman, the Communist Leader once stated that if anyone wanted to see the world, he should join the U. N. P. How true are his words would be seen from the way in which the U. N. P. Ministers are squandering Ceylon's money on trips abroad. The Burma Mission has cost the country Rs. 50,000. The impending mission to Karachi will also cost a colossal sum. We are told that the Mission to Karachi will consist of Mr. Kotelawala, his Parliamentary Secretary, Permanent Secretary and his Private Secretary. From Karachi the Minister will hop off to London. There too he will be accompanied by all these Secretaries. We do not understand why these Secretaries and especially his Private Secretary should accompany the Minister. Surely the time has come to cry halt to these trips.

Capital Punishment

We are told that 150 members of the British Parliament mostly belonging to the Labour Party have submitted a demand to the British Government for the suspension of death penalty

A Unique Scheme For Better Methods of Governance

Details are now available regarding the staff suggestions scheme which the West Bengal Government under the inspiration of Rajaji is reported to have introduced in all its departments and districts.

The principal feature of the scheme is that employees of Government would be encouraged to put up suggestions for improvement in methods operated in Government organisations for better efficiency. Provision has been made for rewards for adopted suggestions and for the annual character reports to be suitably endorsed where a member of the staff shows ingenuity with his suggestions.

Departments and districts of West Bengal have their own Suggestions Scheme Committees to examine in the first instance the suggestions submitted by their respective staff.

A central Suggestion Scheme Committee has been formed at Headquarters with high-ranking officials or members to co-ordinate and guide the activities of the District Committees and to assess the awards to be made.

The scheme is intended to create enthusiasm among the employees of Government to think constructively on the work done by them.

Cut Your Own Hair

Cut your own hair seems to be the advice of an American inventor who has received a government patent on a combination comb and hair-cutting blade.

Patent 2,431,270, was awarded to Glenn C. Mitchell of Aurora, Illinois, on this device.

It is simple gadget—a blade looking like a safety razor type is held on the back of the comb by tiny screws. The cutting edge projects halfway over the teeth. Position of the blade can be changed, or a new one inserted, by means of the screws.



Join The UNP And See The World

in Britain. There is every possibility of the demand being accepted. There will be an experimental period of five years and during this period life imprisonment would be substituted for death sentence. We believe the experiment is worth trying in Ceylon too so that we can see its effect on Society.

Dog Fight!

Comrade Reggie Perera has characterised what is said to be a political controversy between Col. Kotelawala and Mr. Bandaranaike, as a dog fight. From the antecedents of Mr. Bandaranaike and his colleague in the Cabinet on such controversies, we are not inclined to disagree with Comrade Perera's description. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Col. Kotelawala and his kinsman in the Cabinet, if they have the real welfare of the people at heart as they profess, should stop these tickering and cease playing to the gallery. They should do the needful to ameliorate the condition of the masses without much ado.

Abolish Horse Racing

The motion to abolish horse racing in Ceylon to be sponsored by Mr. Montague

CAUSE OF NATION'S ILLS

Our Marriage System

PLEA FOR ABOLITION OF DOWRY

A PLEA to abolish the Dowry System is made by the "UNP" in its latest editorial. The cause of the present national degeneration can be traced to this pernicious system, and the "UNP" appeals to the younger generation to scrap it lock stock and barrel.

One of the causes for the inequitable distribution of wealth in this country is our dowry system in marriage. Among the Tamils and Sinhalese, as in India, marriage has always been an affair of the head than of the heart and our young men have been bought and our girls sold in the open market within certain prescribed groups. The origin of this practice does not matter, the practice itself has had its somewhat doubtful usage and it should no longer be tolerated in our enlightened age.

It is true that in our conservative upbringing consequent upon insular instincts it has had its limited advantages but the resultant harm, to the nation, of such a narrow outlook upon life has certainly outweighed the superficial and selfish benefits reaped by the comparative few. Our communal, caste, clan and religious groups have lived apart for centuries and further considerations of wealth within the groups themselves have further estranged us to such an extent that leaving alone the beneficial results to the nation as a whole, the country has always been and will remain an easy victim to exploitation.

Further, as a result of this rigid restriction of choice in marriage for centuries, we find to our cost that each successive generation of Tamils and Sinhalese have been more and more susceptible to disease and that our high rate of infant mortality is not by any means a result of malnutrition alone.

We have to face facts if we are to find the remedy. Are we surprised that we are no longer a nation of brains, brawn or brawn? Should we wonder that as a nation we are diseased mentally and physically? Just as birth control is slowly leading Western nations to extinction, our marriage system has already brought us to very much worse. We must begin somewhere to stem this rot unless we resign ourselves to be a permanently diseased nation and a happy hunting ground for further exploitation.

When we divide the population of Ceylon under the various communal, caste, religious and wealth groups we find that each group consists of no more than a few thousand. People in each group had therefore restricted marriage within their own limited circle for centuries. Nowhere in the world do we find a parallel to such organised national suicide except in India where the state of the nation is incomparably more horrible than our own as a result of this vicious system.

The Western nations have done exactly the opposite. Within the very broad group generally termed "White" marriage is unrestricted with results we know they are more brainy, brawnier and of bigger bone than we are. They have no wealth restriction. It is more diffused, the rigidity of marriage into poor families and vice versa. Our poor even within each group live and die poorer with each successive generation, for the rich in each group marry among themselves alone. The tragedy does not end there. Even the rich become less and less rich as property within the group is divided with the increase of the population.

The whole system must be scrapped lock stock and barrel. So long as our elders continue to think and act in terms of the nineteenth century, the reinsay lies in the hands of our younger generation.

DEATH SENTENCE

The first trial at the Northern Assizes before Mr. Justice A. R. H. Caneeratte which began on Monday concluded on Wednesday when the Jury returned a verdict of guilty by 6 to 1 against Sinnathamby Veerapathiran of Ketzpilly, who stood charged with the murder of Sadriyan Sinnathamby of Palavy by shooting him with a gun. The Judge passed sentence of death on the prisoner.

Ceylon and U. N. O.

Ceylon's application for membership in the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation was deferred on Tuesday as the application was not received in time for the necessary 30 days notice to be given to the members.

At the instance of South Africa, this rule was suspended and a vote on Ceylon's application will be taken when the Conference of the Organisation reconvenes early next week.

Turkey became the fifty-sixth member of the Organisation by a unanimous vote and immediately took her seat at the Conference table.

Crystal Physics

Sir C.V. Raman On His Researches

Sir C. V. Raman, the famous Indian scientist has been invited to the Scientific Conference at Bordeaux, on his way to France, Sir C. V. Raman stopped at Bombay where he explained his mission.

Asked to elucidate the nature of the contribution he intended to bring to the Scientific Conference at Bordeaux, Sir C. V. Raman said: A great deal of research, both theoretical and experimental, had been accomplished at Bangalore on this topic of Raman Effect. The data obtained with crystals in particular and the results have thrown fresh light on the fundamental problems of the solid state of matter.

Sir C. V. Raman continued: 'Indeed, something in the nature of a revolution in the ideas of solid behaviour has been shown to be necessary by the Bangalore studies. Many of the physical phenomena observed with crystals, besides the Raman Effect, including especially the X-ray patterns exhibited by them, have been successfully linked up with the new ideas.'

Sir C. V. Raman stated that he "intends to give a reasoned exposition of the new theory of solid behaviour which has been engaged in developing and to show how it enables a great range of crystal physics to be readily understood."

It appears that the Rockefeller Foundation had, on the initiative of French scientists, agreed to make it possible for the investigation of the working on the Raman Effect and allied topics in different countries and discuss outstanding topics in this field of research. The Raman Effect data, obtained with crystals in particular, figure very prominently in the agenda of the Conference.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Commission to be appointed by the Governor-General to go into the question of amending the Order-in-Council are:

1. Reviewing those provisions of the Ceylon (Constitution) Order-in-Council, 1946, which prescribe the disqualifications of membership of the Senate or the House of Representatives.
2. Reviewing particularly the provisions whereby a person who has completed the serving of a sentence of imprisonment is disqualified for a period of seven years thereafter.
3. To make recommendations as to the nature and form of the amendments, if any, which may be desirable in the public interest to make in any of the provisions of the Order.

The Chairman of the Commission will be Dr. L. A. Rajapakse, Minister for Justice.

Flour Rationing

Wheat flour is likely to be taken off the ration altogether if its consumption decreases steadily as present trends indicate.

Mr. K. Alvapillai, Commissioner of Food Supplies, told a press reporter that since the relaxation of the controls pertaining to country rice, the consumption of flour has fallen by 30 per cent.

Consumption of flour has previously averaged 17,000 tons per month.

No reply has yet been received from the Australian Government to the representations made to the Minister of Food, Mr. A. Ratnayake, requesting a reduction in the price of Australian flour.

During the course of this month Ceylon is expected to receive 40,000 tons of rice from Burma.

The total number of motor vehicles registered in Ceylon last February was 847. The United Kingdom headed the list with 511 vehicles.

Ceylon Leftists Appeal to Nehru

TO STOP "REPRESSION" ECHO OF ANTI-COMMUNIST DRIVE IN INDIA

LEFTIST M.P.'s of Ceylon are collecting signatures for an appeal to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of the Dominion of India, asking him to intervene in order to halt and reverse "the alarming trend of developments" taking place in India, writes the Political Correspondent of the "Times of Ceylon"

They express their grave concern at "the rapidly deteriorating position of civil liberties" in India at the hands of the Provincial Governments.

The prime movers in respect of this appeal are members of the B. L. P. group in Parliament and the appeal is likely to be signed by almost all members of the Opposition. The text of the appeal reads:

"We, the undersigned members of the Ceylon Parliament, wish to express our grave concern at the rapidly deteriorating position of civil liberties in India at the hands of the Provincial Governments."

"Not only the frequent use by these Governments of their powers to detain people (including popularly elected M.L.A.'s, without trial and the widening still further of these powers in 'Bombay Province' but the recent banning of the Communist Party in India by the Government of West Bengal, the country-wide arrest and detention of Communist Party leaders and the sealing up of their newspapers and party offices, as well as the offices of trade unions under their influence, constitute a very serious violation of civil liberties in India."

"Such measures, we would point out, would not only lead to the destruction of civil liberties and democratic rights but will inevitably strengthen reactionary and anti-democratic forces in neighbouring Asiatic countries, which are bound to be affected by developments in India."

"You, therefore, as Prime Minister of India, bear a responsibility not to India alone, but also to her Asiatic neighbours, whose eyes are focused on India, and whose democratic pattern of life must ultimately depend in large measure on political developments in India."

"We address this appeal to you however, not only as Prime Minister of India, but also as one who has protested under the British regime against the muzzling of the press and the deprivation of civil liberties, to intervene in order to halt and reverse the alarming trend of developments to which we have referred to above."

One Killed and Three Injured

People passing along the Jaffna-Chunnakam road on Monday morning were shocked to see four men lying in pools of blood on the roadside, about half a mile away from the Chunnakam Police Station.

The Police were informed and the men, Ponnau Sinnadnan, Palan Sellappan and Rajalingam, were despatched to the Jaffna Civil Hospital, where Ponnau was found to be dead.

It is alleged that the day prior to the incident, Ponnau had assaulted Kanthan, father of Sellappan and Rajalingam. Ponnau was on his way to the Police Station, accompanied by Sinnadnan, when Sellappan and Rajalingam set upon them with knives.

In the course of the affray, Ponnau was killed, while the others were seriously injured. Further inquiry is proceeding.

Hyderabad Impasse

Nizam's Counter-Charge

The Hyderabad Government's reply to the "Diplomatic Note" presented to them by Mr. K. M. Munshi, Indian Agent-General in Hyderabad, on behalf of the Union Government on March 26 has been sent, it is learnt through Nawab Yusuf Jar Jung Bahadur, Hyderabad's Deputy Agent-General in Delhi who left for New Delhi on Tuesday last.

The Hyderabad Government in their reply are reported to have listed counter-charges against the Government of India on the latter's alleged lapses in working the Standstill Agreement.

The India Government are accused of not affording facilities to Hyderabad for the import of medical stores, chemicals, iron, steel, automobiles and lorries. The India Government are charged with failure to provide arms and ammunition urgently needed for Hyderabad's military and police for the maintenance of internal peace and security. Also the Government of India it is alleged, has not provided Hyderabad with any sterling credits.

The note is also said to contain a suggestion for the reference of all differences between the two Governments to arbitration as provided for in the Standstill Agreement.

Sir Walter Monckton, Constitutional Adviser to the Nizam, left on Wednesday for New Delhi by air. He will have meetings with Lord Mountbatten Governor-General of India, Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, and officials of the States Ministry today on Hyderabad's reply to the Government of India's Diplomatic Note. Mr. K. M. Munshi, India's Agent-General in Hyderabad will go to Delhi today for discussions there on the same subjects.

STOP ANIMAL SACRIFICE

Mass Meeting Appeals to M. P.'S

THAT the Hindu M. P.'S should take immediate steps to bring in legislation to stop animal sacrifice in temples was a resolution adopted unanimously at a mass meeting of Hindus held at Urumpary on Monday last.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. R. C. Manmatharayan, Vice Chairman, U. C. Jaffna.

Mr. Manmatharayan in his introductory address dwelt on the great blot to Hinduism made by this inhuman practice on the part of some ignorant folk. He was himself bringing forward a motion in the Jaffna Urban Council to stop animal sacrifice in Hindu temples within the U. C. area. The motion itself, said Mr. Manmatharayan would not be of any use, unless the people themselves determined to root out this evil. He appealed to the Hindus in the name of their great religion not to rest until this barbaric practice was abolished.

Vidvan S. Arumugam who spoke next said that animal sacrifice was against Faal Culture. Tamil sages and seers were all against it. It was a practice im-

India's War Academy To Be Established

The Government of India have decided to establish a National War Academy at Kharakvasla near Poona, announces a Defence Ministry Communique.

The Communique says: The Government of India have given careful consideration to the report of the Committee that was appointed in May 1945 to prepare a scheme for the establishment of a Military Academy to train future officers of the R. I. N., the Indian Army and the R. I. A. F., and have accepted the recommendations of the Committee to establish a National War Academy at Kharakvasla near Poona.

Candidates between the ages of 15 to 15 years will be eligible for admission to the Academy which will be solely on the basis of merit. The course at the Academy will be common for the three services in the first three years, at the end of which Naval and Air Force cadets will leave the Academy for specialised training, while the Army cadets will continue to complete their fourth years' training.

Pending the construction of the Academy, it is proposed to start from the beginning of next year an Inter-Service Academy at Dehra Dun. There will be a common inter-service course for two years, which will be followed by further training for two years in the particular arm which a candidate wishes to join.

Candidates, who are matriculates or possess equivalent qualification and are between the ages of 15 to 19 years will be eligible to compete for admission to the first course which is expected to commence in January 1949. Admission will be solely on the basis of merit. The age of admission to subsequent courses will be announced later.

WANTED

Wanted Agents to supply paddy to the Government Rice Mill at Pooneryn. The paddy should be free from chaff and grit, and dead grain content should not exceed 10%. Each bushel should weigh not less than 46 lbs. State price per bushel delivered at mill and approximate quantity which can be supplied. Reply by letter to Commissioner for Development of Marketing, Chatham Street, Colombo 1.

E. H. R. TENISON, Commissioner for Development of Marketing, Colombo, 5-4-48 (G. I. 9)

Co-op. Rogues 'ALL BUNKUM'

They Should Be Eliminated

"Sridharan" writes:-

The Food Minister of Ceylon Mr. E. A. Nugawela made some thrusts at those who for satisfying their own ends named the Co-operative Stores, when he presided at the provincial rally of coops, at Badulla on Tuesday last. He said that he had frequently heard but some Co-operative Societies were administered by rogues. A few black sheep were sufficient to bring disgrace to any society and therefore members should occasionally probe into the affairs of their respective societies. The Minister added that dishonest men employed in Co-operative Stores were mainly responsible for creating a black market in essential foods. Such goods were made available to the black market by members being deprived of their due share. Mr. Ratnayake only voiced the sentiments of a large section of the public when he made these remarks. In spite of all patronage and help granted by the Government, many coops have failed to rise to the occasion and to help the public in their hour of need, for the simple reason that crooks and vagabonds were at the helm of affairs in these coops. These human parasites have brought not only untold hardships to the public but also brought disrepute to the co-operative movement. I think that laxity and undue kindness on the part of the Co-operative Department towards such offenders are the causes of their behaviour. The co-operative movement has a definite part to play in the future affairs of Free Lanka and to make it as it should be, the black sheep should be removed forthwith. It is no use having a large number of co-op. undertakings without honesty and fair play permeating in their get-up. One good undertaking with a whole basis is sufficient for a whole town. The Co-operative department is, unfortunately unmindful of this aspect, but is keen on multiplying the number of Co-op. Stores without paying any regard to the character and ability of those charged with their running. It is high time the authorities concentrate their attention on quality rather on quantity of these Co-op. Stores.

New Civil Servants

Ten candidates out of 55 who sat, have, it is learned, been successful at the recent Civil Service Examination conducted for the first time by the Public Services Commission.

The selected candidates according to order of merit are: Messrs. A. J. Joseph, B. Mendis, A. St. V. Wijenanne, A. Edward, S. B. Senanayake, E. M. Wijenaike, R. J. G. de Mel, P. Kasilingam, O. R. Wright, and N. P. Wijeratne.

In 1947 the Civil Service examination had to be postponed owing to the new Constitution.

The examination was held in January at the Maradana Central School.

Strict security measures were taken in the matter of printing the examination papers.

The Siamer Cabinet has resigned.

Says Sama Samajist

The supposed difference between Mr. Bandaranaike and the U. N. P. is all bunkum said Mr. Reggie Perera the Sama Samajist M. P. for Dehiwatta at the fifth annual general meeting of the North Ceylon Bus Workers' Union held at the Jaffna Esplanade.

Mr. C. Tharmakulasingham presided.

Mr. Reggie Perera said that he brought to them that evening greetings from the organised working classes of the South. The bus workers of Jaffna would, he had no doubt, join with the workers of the South in defeating the Senanayake-Kotelawala-Surenderalingam Government. The defeat of that Government was both imperative and urgent.

Tamil Congress Position

Speaking further, Mr. Perera said he would like as a Scientific Socialist to analyse the present position of the Tamil Congress and its leader, Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam. Mr. Ponnambalam's politics in the past presupposed the presence of a third party—British Imperialism. There was no third party now and Mr. Ponnambalam had one of three courses open to him. One was to enter the Cabinet; the other to get out of politics altogether; and the third to bring about a radical change in his politics, which he would not do.

The speaker then went on to deal with what he termed the dog-fight within the U. N. P., and said that it was all bunkum. When God created the necessary organs except the back bone. He showed fight; but never fought. He also criticised Messrs D. S. Senanayake and J. L. Kotelawala, whom he described as enemies of the working classes.

The U. N. P. was facing the question whether it should surrender the power it enjoyed. That was why the gallant colonel was being put forward to play the role of a Hitler or a Mussolini in Ceylon.

Mr. Bandaranaike was being b.p. passed and was kicking up a row.

Before concluding, Mr. Perera said that the vital issue before the country was not whether they should be under the Lion Flag or a Tamil Flag. The question before them was one of food and clothing. Only a workers' and peasants' government could bring happiness to the people.

Resolutions Passed

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted: That this Union urges the immediate removal of the ban on political offenders contesting seats in Parliament.

That this Union demands the immediate withdrawal of the Public Security Bill and the Police Amending Ordinance.

That this Union urges the recognition of Trade Union rights of Public Servants.

It was also resolved that there should be no discrimination against those who took part in the 1947 strikes.

The Union further resolved to request the lowering of the price of flour which was the food of the poor and to press for the nationalisation of the bus services.

The union unanimously pledged its support to the candidature of Mr. Ilangaratne for the Kandy seat in Parliament and of Mrs. Philip Gunawardene for the Avissawella seat.

Over 700 persons were provided with jobs by the Central Employment exchange, Colombo during March 1948.

An up-to-date broadcasting house incorporating the latest developments in broadcasting and providing for eight modern studios is in the course of construction on the site of the original broadcasting station buildings at Torrington Square, Colombo.

Women in S. China

VAST REFORMS MADE

WE owe to Edgar Snow a very graphic account of the life of women in Soviet China. Some of the very remarkable facts gleaned from his writings which bespeak the progress made by women in what was not many decades ago known as the land of the opium eaters are as follows:

The following authoritative information ought to make our young educated girls feel, not only envious of their sisters in China, but devote themselves to the urgent and sacred task of raising the status of their own sisters not by blindly imitating the latest western fad of dressing in slacks, bobbing the hair, painting the lips and trying to rub shoulders with men in the mad emulation of finding careers for themselves and neglecting their home, but by learning to be good wives, good mothers and, above all, good citizens by lending help and inspiration to men from their own place at home.

- 1 That the marriage laws have been changed entirely to stress the recognition of women as the social equal of man.
- 2 That prostitution has been abolished.
- 3 That children can no longer be sold as slaves, nor women as wives or concubines.
- 4 That marriages cannot be arranged without the willing consent of the two people concerned.
- 5 That to ask for a dowry is a criminal offence.
- 6 That men cannot remarry while their wives are living with them.
- 7 That women must not bind their feet (because, as until almost the other day, it was considered a mark of high birth and respectability in a woman to have small feet).
- 8 That binding of feet to arrest their growth is an offence punishable by the law of the land.
- 9 That Soviet China is stern towards women who commit infanticide.
- 10 That a penal provision has recently been included in the new law against the tyranny of the mother-in-law.
- 11 That marriages can only take place by mutual consent.
- 12 That a girl below the age of eighteen cannot marry.
- 13 That a boy below the age of twenty cannot marry.
- 14 That marriages are registered free.
- 15 That divorces can be granted free of any legal charges, on the insistent demand of one of the married couple.
- 16 That men and women who live together without marriage are considered as married.
- 17 That children born out of such marriages are accepted by the State as legitimate.
- 18 That there are no illegitimate children in Soviet China.
- 19 That Property is divided equally between the man and woman, and both the parents must share the expense of bringing up children.
- 20 That education is free for both girls and boys.

Irregular Resignation

Commission Warning

The Public Service Commission has decided to clarify the position with regard to resignations of public officers. This is because cases have recently arisen where public officers, who have not attained the age for retirement, have resigned their appointments under the Crown without the consent of the Head of the Department.

The Commission now wants to ensure that there will not be any more instances of "irregular" resignations. The Commission has pointed out to all Permanent Secretaries that a Public officer may resign his appointment under the Crown without the consent of the Head of the Department except where he is forbidden to do so by statute, as, for instance, in the case of Police Officers or Excise Officers.

Subject to this even where a public officer has agreed to serve for a specified period or to give notice of a specified period before he is prevented by law from resigning or leaving the service contrary to such agreement, subject to the liabilities that he may incur for breach of contract.

If the Head of the Department does not approve of the officer resigning, he should so inform the officer and state that if the officer persists in resigning, then, apart from any liability in damages, his action may have incurred, his action will cause him to forfeit any pension or gratuity that he might otherwise be granted, and also that his name will be included in the list of persons not to be re-employed under Government.

Where disciplinary proceedings against a public officer are contemplated or pending, the Head of the Department should not consent to the officer resigning until those proceedings are terminated.

Move to Film Gandhiji's Life

Film-actor J. Carrol Naish of Hollywood said on Tuesday last that he had been approached by an unnamed "wealthy British oil man" to play the part of Mahatma Gandhiji in a motion picture of Gandhiji's life.

Mr. Naish said the deal was still "strictly in the talking stage", and refused to disclose the name of the Britisher.

Discussion started at a Hollywood party two weeks ago, where he met the "oil man". During conversations on philosophic subjects the Britisher suddenly said "You talk like Gandhiji".

Mr. Naish declared he was deeply interested in Mahatma Gandhiji's philosophy of life, and said he would bear a close resemblance to the Indian leader "if I could lose about 40 pounds". The Britisher said he planned to make "a couple of pictures" with "unlimited backing". Mr. Naish said the Britisher promised to investigate the rights on Gandhiji's biographies, including the picture rights, and report back to Mr. Naish soon. The Britisher is now said to be in New York.

The 13th Annual Conference and general meeting of the Association of Urban Councils of Ceylon will be held at Trincomalee today and tomorrow.

Dr. M. U. Mascarene was elected Mayor of Bombay on the Congress Party's nomination defeating Socialist supported Mrs. Alice Alvares by 54 votes.

The circular issued by Mr. T. D. Perera, Deputy Secretary to the Treasury on March 18, requesting Heads of Departments to incorporate the recommendations of the Cadre Commission in their draft estimates for 1948-49 has now been withdrawn.

