

TRIBUNE

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- HUMAN KINDNESS
- AGRIBUSINESS
- KENT SHOW
- FOOD EXPORTS
- COCONUTS
- ROADS
- MILKAID

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ON THE COVER we have another UNICEF picture on the question of breast feeding with the caption "a survey of thirty-three comparative studies of breast and bottle feeding in different parts of the world has concluded that the risk of death in infancy is five times greater for babies who are exclusively bottle fed". We have also used this picture to remind our readers that the shadow of Nestle, the multinational with a record that has made the milk of human kindness turn sour hangs over Sri Lanka like a dark and menacing spectre. "The seven-year international boycott against Nestle, the world's principal supplier of infant formula, is over. Sanctions on the Swiss-based company's products imposed by the International Nestle Boycott Committee, comprising labour, religious and health groups in North America, Europe and Australia, are almost certain to be lifted following an accord reached with Nestle over its marketing practices in the Third World. Underlying the boycott has been a campaign against high infant mortality rates in developing countries. Illiteracy and poor sanitation, including a lack of refrigeration and clean water, in these areas can lead to misuse of infant formula, a substitute for breast feeding, causing dietary deficiencies and serious illness. Critics of Nestle have contended that it has been selling formula in poor countries without regard for its proper use. Nestle has now agreed to change its marketing practices to conform with voluntary guidelines of the World Health Organisation, thus swinging the campaigners' decision (although these changes will be strictly monitored before the decision is made permanent). The company has agreed to curtail its promotional supplies of free infant formula to Third World hospitals and health care centres, and to stop favours to doctors in exchange for promoting the formula. In addition, they will place warnings of the hazards of formula feeding both on the packaging and in promotional literature. A study in Sri Lanka sponsored by the Women's Bureau and UNICEF has revealed an alarming fall in breastfeeding among working mothers. The findings were based on interviews with 300 working women with children under five years old from the three employment sectors, public, private and the plantations. For the women on the plantations, breastfeeding is relatively straightforward, since they have easy access to their homes or to a creche... It was within the other two sectors, from which 250 women came that the study indicated a sharp drop in breastfeeding from the second month onwards. This is the moment at which mothers are obliged to return to work at the end of the maternity leave period, which in Sri Lanka is only six weeks long. The working day is often as long as 12 hours, and many women work at considerable distance from their homes. Public transport is too crowded to permit a mother to carry her baby to the work place so that the existence of a creche does not alleviate her problem. Most working mothers leave their baby at home in the care of a family relative, and 60 percent give up breastfeeding entirely upon their return to work. Nutritionists are concerned over the decline in breastfeeding among working women because of its adverse health and nutritional consequences for Sri Lankan infants. Planners are worried about the cost of imported milk substitutes. Most working women cannot afford to dilute them in the proper quantity and this results in malnutrition and disease. *Though every precaution is being taken to ensure that infant milk food formula conform to WHO standards, in Sri Lanka it has become necessary to realise that the milk of human kindness has begun to run dry in many ways. Violence and especially killing, has increased by leaps and bounds. The chicken-and-egg question is not which came first—the terrorist or the trigger happy soldier—but, the fact that life has become cheap and blood has begun to flow freely. This must end. We want more of the milk of human kindness from everybody. Bullets cannot bring peace.*

Agri Multinationals

In the encircling gloom that now prevails in this country with the sky-rocketing prices of foodstuffs, the diminishing value of the Sri Lanka rupee, the unresolved ethnic problem, the continuing terrorist outbursts of militants and the retaliatory acts (often excesses) of the armed forces, an attempt is being made in certain quarters to proclaim that the advent of giant agribusiness multinationals will bring prosperity and plenty to this island. In the field of food we have already had for sometime *Prima* in the flour and *Nestle* in the milk, and now another giant in sugar has come in. Pelwatte Sugar is being hailed by some as a fore-runner of what giant multinationals can do to help to upgrade our agriculture.

Elsewhere in this issue, we have published an article on the impact of multinational strategy on an agriculture-based third world country (vide *Agricultural Digest*). In this note we want to cite an article *in extenso* by David Knapman, an area executive for the Americas with the British Agricultural Export Council. The theme is on what a huge Injection of Cash (mostly foreign) had done to Venezuela. "What's gone wrong in Venezuela? The country had a kind climate, fertile soils and has been pumping investment into the agricultural sector for years. Yet it still needs to import anything up to 70 percent of its food needs. David Knapman suggests that credit has been splashed around too liberally. Like water, much of it has drained away without trace." This is what the article says:

"Most Latin American countries contain dramatic contrasts—between rich city and impoverished countryside, between huge foreign-owned estates growing crops for export and tiny subsistence; lots struggling to support a peasant family—and most suffer from serious agricultural problems of one sort or another. If asked, most Ministers of Agriculture from these countries might well opt to change places with Dr. Jose Luis Zapata, their opposite number in Caracas, simply because he has at his command a vital resource they badly need: money. Would they be right to do so? If Venezuela's recent experience is anything to go by they would not. Even before the Opec-inspired oil boom of the mid-1970s, Venezuela was relatively well off, but was becoming increasingly dependent on imported food. Since then most spectacularly opulent cities, with a sophisticated and demanding population. Other cities such as Maracaibo and Valencia are striving to catch Caracas up and already enjoy many of the advantages without suffering from Caracas' crowded valley siting.

"The chains of modern supermarkets are well supplied with food, much of it of a very high quality.

But too much of it is imported. Even when the label is Venezuelan, the contents may well have been grown elsewhere and imported for local processing. Staple foods like black beans and rice are imported from Colombia and Brazil, sugar comes from the Caribbean and powdered milk is as likely to come from Europe as from the rich dairy farms of Western Venezuela. Critics of government policy cannot agree on the degree of import dependence, but it is certainly at least 40 percent and may be as high as 70 per cent.

"Clearly this is not a situation that has arisen overnight. To understand it, it is necessary to go back many years to the time when Venezuela was a poor and backward country governed by a repressive dictatorship that was many benefits in keeping the population ill-educated and rural. The oil that had been discovered in 1917 made little impact on the rural population for many years, and agriculture remained the most important activity for most people. Coffee and cocoa were important export crops, and Venezuela was self-sufficient in most other foods. Even with the advent of democracy in 1958, things did not improve much in the countryside. A general neglect of agriculture and the benefits of rising real incomes encouraged farm labourers and small farmers to join the drift to the cities, and well before 1974 the national demand for food—in terms of quality as much as quantity—had outstripped the productive capacity of the remaining rural population. This phenomenon had earlier been seen and accepted in many industrialised countries, but in an economy with a relatively small industrial sector it was widely felt to be unhealthy. *The general reaction was to spend more on agricultural development (to boost credit availability, encourage mechanisation, build irrigation systems and agro-industrial processing facilities) while at the same time controlling prices and intervening in the food storage and distribution system. The result was that unexpected bottlenecks appeared all over the place, and much of the expenditure was wasted. Farming systems got hopelessly out of balance, with 100 hp tractors being used to cultivate the soil prior to gangs of labourers moving in to build irrigation channels, plant onions and tomatoes, and then carry out every subsequent operation by hand right up to the harvest. Venezuela learned the hard way that US-style mechanisation cannot be grafted onto farming systems developed in the Canary Islands without severe growing pains.*

"Thus credit policy floundered on the inherent structural weaknesses of the agricultural sector. In the credit boom of the mid-1970s, too much cash went chasing too few sound investments, and what was invested productively went on machinery and cattle rather than on farm improvements such as drainage and fencing. The reason was simple: not many farmers owned firm title to their land, and without this collateral, money was loaned against assets that

could be repossessed and sold. With the uncertainty over land titles has gone a relatively conservative land reform policy which has never matched up to the threatening shadow it throws over farmers. Paradoxically, threats of land invasions have existed for years side by side with a generally acknowledged shortage of adequate farm labour. In the west, in Zulia state, where dairy farming is the main activity, the demand for labour is high because cows are milked by hand as farmers do not want to invest in machines in case their land is expropriated. Only very recently have definite signs begun to emerge of a new generation of cattlemen determined to invest in their farms and make them pay. Much of the labour in Zulia is provided by illegal Colombian immigrants. One characteristic of this labour is its instability: farm jobs are just stepping stones on the well-trodden path to Caracas. Not surprisingly, the practical problems of reconciling high labour turnover with the pressures to produce more food are reinforcing the general move towards mechanisation.

"However, since mechanisation alone is known not to provide all the answers, a greater emphasis is being placed on management. In the absence of any sort of an extension service, the Breeders' Associations and private consultancy firms are filling the gap. Throughout the country management skills, training and extension are the three elements in shortest supply, and this in a country that spends a quarter of its budget on education. A question that Venezuela's poorer neighbours must be asking themselves is what they are supposed to do if such a rich country cannot overcome the know-how gap.

"Further problems arise from the whole system of price control introduced by past governments to control inflation. As well as the obvious squeeze being placed on farmers by their inability to enjoy genuine market prices and the almost legendary incompetence of Corpomercadeo, the nationalised food distribution corporation, farmers suffer because their suppliers are controlled and their development in turn is distorted. Until recently, Venezuela had quite a healthy farm machinery industry providing farmers with harrows, ploughs, trailers and other simple but robust equipment. But then the manufacturers were caught between controlled steel prices and controlled machinery prices. Most put their business on ice or went out of farm machinery altogether, hardly in the best interests of farmers or the country.

"Some years ago the feed compounders reacted to controlled animal feed prices (which were designed to curb their profits to the benefit of poultry farmers) by industry. At one time the most productive rations were only available to their own chickens because it was not economic to sell them to third parties. The result was inevitable—the poultry industry is now totally dominated by feed interests and government

intervention achieved the prices opposite of its stated aims. So there are lessons to be learned, even if they are bit obvious. Do not intervene in markets unless the outcome is clearly predictable and beneficial. Spend cash on training, extension and management rather than injecting it in uncontrolled credit programmes. Stress efficiency rather than absolute price level. And finally, if money is to be applied in liberal doses, apply it like fertiliser rather than water: careful application can lead to real grass-root growth, but if it is splashed on indiscriminately it will just run away without trace."

SRI LANKA is not Venezuela. That is true. But most of our woolly-headed bureaucrats do not know their Sri Lanka to know how it differs from Venezuela. Our technocrats and the experts who proliferate when foreign funds become available pin their faith on feasibility studies provided by foreign consultancy firms. (We will deal with these consultancy firms and services in a separate note later). Agriculture—especially modernisation, upgrading, rationalisation, etcetera, etcetera—has been neglected in Sri Lanka. *The cure is not foreign capital and orient multinationals. We need a home-brew remedy to make our agriculture more productive, more viable and more attractive. We have enough Sri Lankan expertise in our midst. They have to be harnessed and persuaded to give of their best. Even a fraction of the incentives and remuneration presently paid to foreign experts who know little or do less will bring the best from native-born sons of the soil.*

We must guard against those who proclaim that foreign capital, foreign expertise and foreign technology will be a panacea for all our troubles. We need foreign capital, we need foreign expertise and foreign technology—but on our terms. And we can get it if we can eliminate from the Establishment and the Administration the "Kickback Gogia Pashas" and all those who are "influenced" by the cuts and commissions that giant multinationals are willing to pay to get contracts the way they want it.

x x x

LETTERS

Veyangoda

Sir,

Despite the fact that there is a Buddhist Temple adoring a central spot of Veyangoda amidst a number of Buddhist and other religious institutions within a radius of one mile, those who know of other places in this country will feel that this is one of the worst spots in Sri Lanka. Its good name had been spoilt by quite a few drunkards, snatch thieves and others engaged in crime.

During election times their attitude had been despicable. There had been instances where in certain families, half the voters adorned green caps and the other half blue caps and "worked" for their respective parties. But immediately after the results were known, all of them put on the caps of the victorious side and harassed the innocent supporters of the defeated candidate. When the SLFP came to power last time, certain people of Veyangoda had harassed and humiliated the innocent UNP supporters of the adjoining villages who came to the town by forcing them to kneel down and worship photographs of the party leader which they had purposely held in front of themselves. People say that it is the same crowd that harassed and humiliated the innocent SLFP supporters after the UNP victory at the last general election. Even during communal disturbances, not a single respectable person in this area had a hand in any act against their Tamil friends. They always offered their assistance for their protection. It is believed that the damage to shops etc., owned by the Tamils was done by a class of indisciplined people who had no sense of respect for religion, culture, nationality or for any good thing for that matter.

Veyangoda is fast becoming a bad place for good people. Even Government and private doctors practising at Veyangoda have now to lock up their gates after dusk although they have, while serving in many other parts of the country, made their services available to the sick in all medical emergencies at all times of the day or night. They have willingly and without charging any fees, visited patients in their homes when they could not be brought to the dispensary or hospital due to difficulties of transport. Such visits, sometimes necessitated walking through jungles infested with wild animals and up and down hills and valleys. This they have done with a great feeling of satisfaction of having served humanity. They, however, feel that things are quite different today at Veyangoda. They cannot render the same service to the people of Veyangoda and the neighbouring villages due to drunken rowdies and snatch thieves who are a nuisance to all peace-loving respectable residents of the area. Some of the incidents mentioned here will reveal that the doctors too have to keep off intruders at night.

Sometime back when the Government doctor of Veyangoda opened the door to attend to a person who sought treatment as a very sick patient, the pretender brandished a knife and snatched away the gold chain and talisman worn round his neck. The dispenser of another doctor in this same town succumbed to satb injuries alleged to have been caused by a drunkard. Displays of drunken disorderliness are rampant on the public roads. Often many of those who come to the doctors here at night seek treatment for injuries received in drunken brawls or for complications arising from heavy consumption of illicit brews. They almost always display aggressive or unpleasant behaviour.

This situation will result in the innocent people of the area too having to undergo hardships when a serious sickness occurs in the night.

It is time for the peace loving and responsible residents of the area to organise themselves suitably and get these nuisance creators rounded up into the clutches of the law enforcing officers of the state.

Dr. T. G. D. Chandra Perera, J.P.

66, Attanagalla Road,
Veyangoda.
April 3, 1984.

x x x

Refugees

Sir,

FIRSTLY, may I thank the Editor for pin-pointing in your issues of the *Tribune* of 28th January and 11th February some glaring iniquities in the management of funds received by certain local Aid Organisations and Rehabilitation Committees from donor countries abroad. Now the reason for my commending these timely exposures is that they seem to have produced results in some small measure—though for a short period. Various fresh ruses, however, have been resorted to (it is alleged) by the unscrupulous officials of these so-called Aid Centres with the result that the hapless refugees who are often compelled to travel on foot (for want of bus fare) are being pushed from pillar to post, as it were, till they finally give up the wild goose chase, utterly disillusioned!

For instance, even on calling over punctually at these Aid Centres in response to the very letters sent by their officials, hundreds of refugees (still resident at welfare centres on account of their pitiable lack of financial resources) are not only being refused aid but, at times, being literally "pushed out" bodily by the unsympathetic officials unless the much-harassed victims of many acts of violence, both then and even now are able to produce a document, duly signed by the OIC of the respective welfare centre and testifying to the fact that the Refugee would leave the welfare centre on a particular day.

Now, the refugee's tale of woe is that, even though they are not merely willing but even anxious to leave these so-called, almost uninhabitable, Welfare Centres, at the earliest possible opportunity, no amount of appeals would ever move the callous OIC of these Welfare Centres to grant them such a document. The net result of all this lack of co-ordination between the "tight-fisted" officials of the Aid Institutes and the "couldn't-care-less" OICs of the Welfare Centres is

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that the Refugees are lying "between the Devil and the deep blue sea"—with hardly any hope of receiving the promised aid under the existing iniquitous requirements, arbitrarily imposed by these officials, who obviously have some axe to grind.

WHAT INTRIGUES MOST PERSONS is that these officials are either cussed or turn a blind eye to the pitiable predicament of these refugees, who, for their part, are double anxious to vacate the camps but are unable to do so, for want of financial resources to pay up the large rentals, demanded of them as advance payments by their prospective land-lords. Further, what really was the reason for having double standards—granting as these officials did a modicum of aid—up to around the 15th of March, without imposing such iniquitous and impracticable requirements? It is indeed alleged by persons, associated with these Aid Centres, that the root cause for the arbitrary and sudden imposition of the unwarranted stipulations lies just here; that although aid applications had been submitted by thousands of refugees, not only well ahead of the specified dates but also with the stipulated recommendations (rich, Police or Grama Sevaka report and recommendations from clergy, yet other blue-eyed persons, who had not even submitted such Aid application forms, have suddenly and miraculously (through the use of Palm oil perhaps) won sufficient favour in the sight of these peculiar (or, rather pecuniary-minded) officials to get the better of the genuine refugees—i.e., those legitimately qualified to receive such aid.

A top official of one of these Institutions is reported to have attributed this mess up (to put it rather mildly) in their Aid calculations and the subsequent imposition of the prevailing iniquitous rules to the unofficial granting of unauthorised financial aid by a female official (a clerical hand at the Institute) to some persons, in response to recommendations, sent by her own brother in support of persons who had not even sent in application forms and for whom, therefore no financial aid, had been officially sanctioned much less provided. The question naturally arising in our minds is this: Why was such interference, tantamount to favouritism ever countenanced by the Directors and other executives of this Institute?

NOW, THE INSTITUTES so far referred to, are non-R.C. Aid Centres. But (sad to relate) it is reported that one R.C. organisation too has adopted dilatory tactics in respect of aid distribution. This Institute invited aid applications from "victims of violence of July 83" until the 20th of January this year. Although thousands have applied and constant reminders have been given to the clerical and lay Directors as well as other officials of this Institute both by the desperate refugees and others interested in giving them a fair deal, no tangible aid has yet been released. So much so that a revered Jesuit Father too has remarked as

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follows: "I am really disillusioned by the way things are being handled by this Institute".

Various excuses have been given, one of them being that the funds (which the Directors themselves acknowledged around the 3rd of January this year is being readily available for immediate distribution among the July victims) have been exhausted by being diverted to help other deserving causes. But even if this were correct, would this not tantamount to robbing Peter to pay Paul? Is this not a flagrant violation of social justice?

One final observation. It is socially or morally justifiable that the aid, meant for the rehabilitation of refugees should be unduly delayed, simply because even as it is alledged, one director happens to be pre-occupied with laboratory work and building-construction, while the other director is more interested in globe-trotting excursions? How wonderful the compassion and sense of socio-economic justice pervading these Institutes of different religious persuasions. Lay folk are simply bamboozled by these misdemeanours and their conspicuous lack of compassion or maithriya.

Johannes Thirupillai.

Colombo.

April 5, 1984.

CORRECTION

In the first paragraph of the article entitled "Reflections On History" by Ananda Villavaran in our issue of April 7, 1984 (Vol. 28 No.23) the Indus Valley civilisation was said to date back to 5000 BC. This is a mistake. It should be 3000 BC. The sentence should read; "The next unit was the Indus Valley Civilisation around 3000 BC. at Mohenjodaro in sind and at Harappa in Punjab". The error is regretted

GEORGE KEYT

Reflection In A Painted Mirror

FAR FROM GEORGE KEYT'S VILLAGE of Sirimalwatte I write these notes. Following my fancy, I will set down here some of my reflections on his art over the many years I have known it. I have found in Keyt's art a happy conjunction of his way of life, his subject matter and his own gifts. Unlike some

European artists (for example, Cézanne or Degas) and Keyt's own Sri Lankan contemporary, Justin Deraniyagala and in the tradition of Oriental artists, he proudly accepted his own extraordinary facility. It was as if he really needed was to make just that much effort that was necessary to please himself. His gifts were such that he easily accomplished this. The result was invariably a perfect work. Perfect work looks too simple and everyone thinks he could do just as well what seems so effortless. It is not uncommon for an actor of genius to impress the public less and less than one who is only talented but whose gifts display more contrasts and outstanding moments such as the actor of genius would eventually have eliminated. The latter goes straight to the soul, not the eyes and ears. I believe this has been true of Keyt's art also. It too goes straight to the soul. His canvases are always just right, whether you like them or not.

ONE HAS THE FEELING that Keyt paints easily, quickly, but never hurriedly. He is the skilled Oriental craftsman who exults in the products of his unerring hand. He is not one who defers his enjoyment or creates difficulties in the accomplishment of his task. He does not invite criticism nor is he indulgent of criticism or critical theories. In his world there are no arguments among the muses—they work and, work finished, they perhaps dance, make love. They do not talk. Yet George Keyt the man is an irrepressible talker himself. But he would never talk about his art—except its disposal. His artistic production has continued over the years as if the fulfilment of one series (e.g., the *Nayikas*, *Ragas* and *Raginis*, *Radha Krishnas*, *Nala Damayantis*, *Girl with a Mirror*, and so forth) has engendered the next. For the artist, each series must have brought with it fulfillments, exhilarations, ecstatic states. Hence the 'repetition', improvisations, and variations on a theme within the series so characteristic of Keyt. It is for him nothing but the simple dictate of the pleasure principle, the human desire to repeat a pleasurable act unendingly. Desire, abandon, languor, voluptuousness are the moods portrayed and affirmed with each series through his main subject matter of chastely immodest women. This subject matter has remained unchanged in his work. In Buddhist and Indian art, delirium and frenzy are generally suppressed. Similarly, the eroticism that pervades all Keyt's art is divested of all frenzy and anguish.

KEYT'S SPATIAL REPETITION of motifs or their symmetry produces the strong decorative element in his canvases. The real boldness and precision of Keyt's mind was already ahead of many artists of his generation both in Ceylon and India. He was among the first to 'rebel' against the academicism and weak impressionism of colonial Ceylonese art. It is not an accident that the development of Keyt's art coincided in the 1930s with the injection of European revolutionary ideas into Sri Lankan society which created the general intellectual climate that heralded the *Suriya-mal*

campaign in politics and the 43 Group in art. It was during this period that Keyt discovered his metier in art: his mastery of brush drawing, which was to become his unique achievement. From then on his work had the unity of theme and technique we still see today undiminished. He has perfected his art within the rigour of the limitations he set himself—the strict constraints of subject matter and technique. This very personal art of Keyt has survived the introduction of new materials and the diversity of available aesthetic options and tastes in post-Second World War, twentieth-century art. Like Diego Rivera in Mexico and Balthus in Europe, Keyt survived the West's complete changeover from 'traditional' to experimental standards. He was content with his method, his technique. We see in Keyt the artist as craftsman *par excellence*—conscious, deliberate, prolific. In him we have an example of the most felicitous marriage of facility and artistry.

HIS PRESENT-DAY ADMIRERS AND DETRACTORS who bemoan the vanished richness of his oils of the 1930s or the sombre colours of his *Nayikas* are either repeating the vulgar opinions of journalists who by necessity have to bow to fashion or are those who have understood George Keyt's art only superficially.

Keyt's art is essentially the art of a master draughtsman. Whether the painter himself will admit to this or not, colour in his work is largely complementary—at the service of the masterful, uncompromising drawing. Keyt never uses more than two or three colours in his paintings. In this respect it is interesting to recall that Picasso once said, "Work with three colours—too many colours make impressionism." This self-imposed discipline is an example of Keyt's deliberate attempt to avoid the vulgar 'impressionism' that must have been fashionable in his formative days. Keyt uses colour and the juxtaposition of coloured surfaces as it were to liberate his wonderful drawing. What emerges on his canvases are poetic metaphors made visual: the multiple appearances of beauty-avatars, incarnations, manifestations. In Keyt's work, placid femininity freed from the battle of the sexes (whether expressed as *svakiya* such as *Sita*, *Damayanti* and *Parvati*, or *parakiya* such as *Radha* or the *Gopis*) is depicted as moods from the rages, episodes from lyric poetry, with the stillness of Indian and Buddhist sculpture. Keyt's paintings are not for explicit or literal interpretation but to give birth to a new regenerating experience that repeats itself over and over.

IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING for anyone who has been painting essentially every day for over fifty years to be accused of being repetitious. But one must not forget that 'repetition', perfected by the artist, has always been the very essence of his art. When we choose from his work we choose according to our tastes. I have chosen paintings from Keyt's *Nayika* period and from his women with mirrors in

much the same way as I have chosen to see again and again Leonardo's Ginevra de Benci or the portrait of a girl by Ghirlandaio. That is my individual idiosyncrasy. Keyt cannot help painting as and as much as he does. His detractors will judge and his admirers will, like me, choose according to their tastes. The fact that 'people choose, and have their preferences one way or the other, should not diminish the integrity in the general body of the life work of an artist of the accomplishment of George Keyt. His merest sketch will be imbued with a life derived from the whole.

The Sapumal Foundation's exhibition of the artist's work during the past two years will no doubt provoke the same reactions as earlier exhibitions. If that indeed were the case, Geogre Keyt's art would have received its highest tribute once more.

S. B. Dissanayaka

Korobosea, Papua New Guinea

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of my wife who encouraged me to write this article, and provide the title.

x x x

MORE VITAL THAN EVER

A Negotiated Settlement — CRD

Editorial Policy: The Committee for Rational Development (CRD) welcomes the *island* reproduction of the article entitled "Ominous Presence in Tamil Nadu" from the *India Today* issue of March 31st 1984. CRD has always felt that the present crisis can be overcome only by an honest search for the truth. Such a search requires a free and responsible press which actively encourages investigative reporting.—CRD.

The *India Today* article entitled "Ominous Presence in Tamil Nadu" claims the following: (1) That a political underground army of about 5,000 Sri Lankan Tamil Youth are undergoing training in Tamil Nadu; (2) That tacit support is given to these groups by the Tamil Nadu Government and a blind eye is turned on their activities by the Central Government of India. Since the Government of India has denied this report and CRD has no independent means of verification, we do not seek to confirm or deny the veracity of the *India Today* report. The article has however raised widespread fears and anxieties which need to be addressed in a rational objective manner.

ONE OF THE MORE COMMON RESPONSES one encounters to the *India Today* article is as follows: "India is now Sri Lanka's enemy No. 1. We can stave

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off the Indian threat only by getting military help from a super power." Since India is friendly with the USSR we must counter this by getting American help or by entering into a military pact with the USA. We must forget about non-alignment and find security under an American Umbrella". Since this line of thinking goes against the grain of early thirty years of Sri Lankan foreign policy (*i.e.* post 1956), it is important that we open an informed debate on its implications. The first point to consider is whether such a policy is realistic given our geographical location and the relative size of the two countries. We are an island, 20 miles from the shores of India, 50 times smaller and with 1/48th of its population. Because of our geographical proximity to India and our overwhelming military inferiority, a confrontation with India is unthinkable. Even a foreign policy which adopts confrontation with India as its premise will place our country on a permanent war footing. What will that do to our fragile economy, our democratic institutions and our entire way of life?

The *India Today* article suggests that the threat to Sri Lanka's security comes from emigre forces operating from Tamil Nadu. It would be ridiculous to suppose that Sri Lanka can eliminate this threat by emulating the fated Israeli incursion into Lebanon. The only powers capable of controlling the political underground operating from Tamil Nadu are the Central Government of India and the State Government of Tamil Nadu. *To put ourselves on a collision course with India would be to ensure that there will be no restraint exercised on the activity and dynamism of these underground forces. It has been characteristic of the present government that it has made the mistake of resorting to confrontation as the primary strategy in dealing with opponents within the country. There may be forces within the government which are urging it to pursue a similar strategy in the international arena. Given our size and bargaining power, such a strategy would be suicidal. Non-alignment at the strengthening of relations with India must remain the "front line" of our foreign policy.*

ANOTHER FREQUENTLY HEARD RESPONSE to the *India Today* article goes as follows: "Forget about the All Party Conference. Suspend all negotiations. Let us prepare for war so as to wipe out the terrorist threat". The quest for such a military solution would internally involve the adoption of the methods of what is often called the "dirty war" *e.g.*, the hiring of mercenaries, search and destroy military operations which will often victimise innocent civilians, thus enhancing the support base of the insurgents, suspension of democratic institutions, enormous military expenditure at the expense of economic development and social welfare, and an atmosphere of daily insecurity, fear and perpetual violence. Galtieri's Argentina and El Salvador are extreme reminders of what it means to live under these conditions.

To be Concluded

**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

POST OF ASST. DIRECTOR (LEGAL AFFAIRS) - GRADE IV

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the Post of Assistant Director (Legal Affairs) in the Urban Development Authority. The selected candidate will be attached to the Ratnapura Municipal Council Office.

Salary Scale :— Grade IV - Rs. 1,950 - 10 x 75 - Rs 2,700/- per month. In addition to the Salary, Govt. approved allowances will also be paid.

Age :— Below 45 years.

Qualifications & Experience :—

- (a) Attorney - At-Law with 4 years experience, preferably in Magistrate Court work.
- (b) Should be proficient in English and Sinhala.

Note:— The selected candidate could be considered for placement on a Salary Point higher than the initial of the salary scale if his or her qualification and experience warrant it.

Applications, stating full particulars relating to qualifications, experience, Present Employment, and Salary, should be sent under registered cover to reach the Director (Administration), Urban Development Authority, No. 27 D. R. Wijewardane Mawatha, Colombo 10, on or before 14th May, 1984.

Applicants in Govt. Departments, and Corporations should forward their applications through the respective Heads of their Institutions.

Director (Administration)
Urban Development Authority.

23rd April, 1984.

March 26 - April 5

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

DN—Daily News; DM—Daily Mirror; DO—Daily Observer; ST—Sunday Times; SO—Sunday Observer; DMN—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLDP—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Jinadina; S—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; DM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RV—Riviresa; DK—inakara; EN—Eelanadu; IS—Island; DI—Divaina; OPID—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, MARCH 26: The Central Bank has asked the four local commercial banks to limit their lendings to 'single borrowers' to 30 percent of the bank's total capital and reserves. French President Francois Mitterrand said today Washington and Moscow should make sacrifices and mutual concessions in order to get a dialogue under way on arms control—DN. There is wide diplomatic speculation doing the rounds in Colombo that Sri Lanka will take its current security situation to the United Nations and also possibly sound Non-aligned Movement governments if the present position deteriorates—DM. Minister of Trade and Shipping M. S. Amarasiri has asked his Secretaries to go into the question of costs of all essential consumer items immediately; the priority items listed by the Minister include milk powder and dried fish—DO. The involvement of a proscribed leftist political party in a series of holdups and robberies of fire arms in areas other than the north and the east during the past year is now being probed by the country's intelligence division. The list of popular schools in Colombo to which children could be admitted outside the two-mile radius limit will be increased from 30 to 40. The Ceylon Worker's Congress does not recognize the negotiations which led to the withdrawal of the Lanka Jathika Estate Workers' Union from the April 1 estate strike, a CWC spokesman said yesterday—SU. The Sri Lanka Federation of Buddhist Associations has appealed to President J. R. Jayewardene to enter into a defence agreement with a country acceptable to the government in view of the situation that has arisen in the country and even threats from abroad being directed at this country. Three army lieutenants were questioned by Police on Friday following the discovery of four smoke bombs in the pavilion of the Saravanamuthu Stadium after a schoolboy at the Ananda-Nalanda cricket match burnt his fingers when one exploded. The government acting under the emergency regulations has prohibited any owners of factories which had been damaged or burnt during the July ethnic violence, from shifting them from their original sites to sites in the Northern or Eastern Provinces—/S. The Secretary General of the TULF Mr. A. Amirthalingam

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said in Madras yesterday that no purpose will be served by the All Party Conference and that his party had no confidence in it—VK.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27: Sri Lanka's domestic sugar industry, which produces about ten percent of the country requirements, is in danger of collapse unless urgent tariff shelters are provided, according to a report now before Government. Members of the main non communist faction of the Kampuchean resistance movement are calling for the formation of a single nationalist force to face their Khmer Rouge "friends" as well as the Vietnamese enemy—DN. Sri Lanka will be compelled to enter the inter-national crude oil spot market for the third time if Iraqi war planes continue to threaten oil shipping lines—DM. Exporters who fail to bring in their export earnings in the specified period between three weeks and three months are liable to be fined and their export licences cancelled, under the new exchange and export policies which became effective yesterday. For the past several months newspapers of Tamilnadu have been carrying on an apparently vituperative campaign against the government of Sri Lanka under the guise of reporting news of the All Party Conference. A motion of no confidence is to be moved against the government by Opposition Leader Anura Bandaranaike and seven other SLFP Members of Parliament. Priceless gold coins used during pre-Christian times have been discovered in the Trincomalee district—SU. The Sri Lanka Navy yesterday seized 500 kilograms of high explosives from a fishing boat three miles off the coast of the Palk Strait a Defence Ministry spokesman said yesterday. A modern private medical hospital now nearing completion has been blessed with a privilege not even conferred upon government medical institutions: the import of equipment worth millions of rupees, duty free. The Canadian government is providing 34 million rupees to the Sri Lankan government as assistance to undertake oil exploration work under an agreement signed yesterday—/S.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28: The UNP yesterday announced that complaints against five party MPs are being investigated both at party disciplinary level and governmental level and that once these inquiries are over "the working committee of the party will determine the course of action to be taken against these members". Egypt is ready to back Iraq militarily in the Gulf war against Iran, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said today; "Egypt stands with Iraq and shall not hesitate to meet anything it requests, including military support", he told a news conference—DN. Over 1.7 million citizens of Colombo and its suburbs who are supplied pipe borne water woke up last morning to a waterless day. With just a trickle of water running from the taps, and in some cases with not a single drop, almost everyone was caught unawares—DM. JVP's leader Rohana Wijeweera heads the list of the country's "most wanted" criminals along with the terrorist

leaders Uma Maheswaran and Velupillai Prabhakaran, the *Observer* understands—*DO*. All police personnel stationed in the north are to be given a package of incentives aimed at alleviating some of the problems faced by them in this difficult area. A massive loss of 55,000 tons of rice, due to bad storage at the Veyangoda, Welisara, Bussa, Narahenpita and Wellawatte grainaries has been detected. Negotiations began between the Janatha Estates Development Board, the State Plantations Corporation and the Ceylon Workers' Congress last morning in a bid to avert the threatened April 1 estate strike, informed sources disclosed yesterday—*SU*. Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel has informed the Government that the Ceylon Cement Corporation has failed to make the payments owed by it due to bad financial planning and had financial management of its expansion projects, and partly to the fact that it has diverted funds to projects such as the construction of a hotel and a pier 'which are not part of its legitimate functions'. TULF leader A. yesterday as saying that "the feeling in Colombo was Amirthalingam was quoted in Madras newspapers that a major offensive being planned against so called terrorists and it was this fear that made Tamil leaders oppose postponement" of the Round Table Conference—*/S*. Police personnel serving in the North will be paid Rs. 500 each in addition to their salaries; the IGP is taking necessary action on this matter—*DP*.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29: Cabinet has decided to raise a National Defence Fund to mobilise the whole nation to collect funds to defend the shores of Sri Lanka "if the question of such defence arises", Minister of State, Anandatissa de Alwis told newsmen yesterday soon after the weekly meeting of the ministers. The moderate Napoleon Duarte was restored to the lead in El Salvador's presidential vote count Tuesday night after right winger Roberto D'Aubuisson had forged ahead due to an erroneous official vote count—*DN*. The nicotine content of cheaper cigarettes sold in Sri Lanka has a danger level nicotine content while the expensive brands are well within safety standards; a study has revealed that only one brand among six has a nicotine content below one milligram per cigarette while all the five other brands have nicotine contents which are excessive—*DM*. The Government has earned Rs. 756.1 million from the revised *ad valorem* duty on tea in the first two months of the year when it only expected Rs. 500 million more for the whole year—*DO*. The conduct of Chief Justice Neville Samarakoon will be probed by a parliamentary select committee which is to be appointed when Parliament meets on April 3, Cabinet decided yesterday. Mount Lavinia Magistrate Tissa Ekanayake said yesterday that the case where the Kaduwela MP Paul Perera is alleged to have abused Dr. B. P. S. Jayasekera could not be compounded since there was no charge made before court. The Cabinet sub-committee on economic affairs is to work out a formula to bring down the cost of living—*SU*. The Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. M. S. Amarasiri blaming the private sector for the rise in the

cost of living said that steps were being taken to arrest the rise within three months by strengthening the state sector. The Sri Lankan High Commission in India has sent only 200 copies of the Indian fortnightly "*India Today*" carrying a controversial feature on "Sri Lankan Tamil terrorist bases in Tamilnadu" to the Information Department which requested one thousand copies—*/S*. The Pettah Police seized Video cassettes valued at Rs. 300,000 at Pannala near Negombo on Sunday; these cassettes were to be smuggled to India—*VK*.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30: The Building Materials Corporation will introduce a new concept in housing when it imports entire housing units from Australia for local house builders. Afghan resistance sources have reported heavy fighting with government troops in the eastern province of Nangarhar bordering Pakistan for the past few days—*DN*. TULF General Secretary Mr. A. Amirthalingam yesterday met Indian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao, Special Envoy Mr. G. Parthasarathi and discussed the Chunnakam shooting incident. All India Radio reported yesterday—*DM*. Prime Minister R. Premadasa yesterday appealed to India to agree to a joint investigation by the two countries into terrorist training camps in Tamil Nadu. The Bar Association of Sri Lanka, the premier body representing the country's lawyers, is to request the government not to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the speech made by Chief Justice Neville Samarakoon and report to Parliament. Refugees in Welfare centres in the outstations are to be transferred to a few large camps to simplify administration and maintenance of these centres an official of the Ministry of Rehabilitation said yesterday. A new tariff structure for 60 products will be submitted for Cabinet approval next week by the Presidential Tariff Commission. More than 22,000 youths are competing to join the Sri Lanka Army's regular force—*SU*. Sri Lanka yesterday delivered a stinging rejoinder to India when the Foreign Ministry issued a strongly worded two paragraph statement noting that New Delhi while expressing profound concern over ten persons who were reported to have been shot dead by Air Force personnel, had not expressed any regret over the violence resorted to by terrorists. A Sri Lanka firm yesterday said that it had offered the CWE to import a variety of onions very similar to red onions which could be marketed around Rs. 6.30 per kilo but their offer had been turned down. Three plantation trade unions have expressed solidarity with the Ceylon Workers' Congress to strike from April 1 for wage increase; the three trade unions are the Democratic Workers' Congress, National Union of Workers and the Lanka Estate Workers Union—*/S*.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31: Sri Lanka's university students are far better off than their counterparts in many other countries, Colombo University's Vice-chancellor Stanley Wijesundera said yesterday. Sri Lanka's biggest ever tourism event opens next Monday, when it hosts the annual conference of the Pacific

Area Travel Association (PATA). French troops withdrew from their last positions in Beirut today and began boarding ship to sail home—*DN*. Doctors attached to government hospitals are not ordering drugs available with the Civil Medical Stores with the result that drugs valued at Rs. 250 million will soon go waste—*DM*. Parliament will make legal provisions to remove persons holding high posts—such as judges of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal, Elections Commissioner, Auditor-General and others holding posts of similar status—when and where it is found necessary. The Iranian Oil Corporation yesterday assured the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation that its supplies of crude oil to Sri Lanka would continue uninterrupted. The United National Party has decided to drop the disciplinary inquiry against Kaduwela MP Paul Perera. The Commissioner of Examinations has received 12,000 rescrutiny applications by yesterday for GCE A Level answer scripts—*SU*. The Indian Government yesterday clarified that the expression of concern voiced by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on Wednesday regarding the incidents of violence committed in Sri Lanka was for all acts of violence committed in Sri Lanka and not just relating to one incident. Lionel Bopage, General Secretary of the proscribed JVP, who was also its founder member along with Rohana Wijeweera, has resigned from the Party. Machinery valued at Rs. 130,000 have been stolen from the Cement Corporation stores at Kankasanturai on Wednesday night. The Minister of Labour, C. P. J. Seneviratne, has gone back on his earlier decision to grant maternity leave to casual workers following representations made by the Ceylon Employees Federation and the Ministry of Janatha Estates Development—*S*.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1: President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that if Sri Lanka was to remain undivided it was essential that every citizen enjoy equal rights and resided wherever he wished to; Sinhala Buddhists should be able to live in Jaffna and Tamils in the other areas. The University Grants Commission has awarded 45 endowed scholarships to students at the admission level; these scholarships were being awarded in addition to the Mahapola scholarships and the bank loans. When Parliament meets on Tuesday, April 3, Prime Minister and Leader of the House Mr. R. Premadasa will move a motion for the appointment of a Parliamentary Select Committee on the speech delivered recently by the Chief Justice, Neville Samarakoon at the Annual Awards Ceremony of the Sinaathurai Commercial Tutor on 14th March. The Committee of the Ceylon Workers' Congress meets today to decide whether to go ahead with the proposed one-day token strike of estate workers scheduled for tomorrow—*SO*. Sri Lanka's coastline and entry points will be made more secure through a joint Indo-Sri Lanka programme which will deploy the Customs, Police and security services of the two countries. The Labour Ministry will conduct a free special training

course for housemaids leaving for jobs in the Middle East. Corpses are piling up at the Medico-Legal Morgue and there is no room for bodies awaiting post-mortem examinations; there are two refrigerators with 24 compartments, but one has been out of order for over eight months. Government has decided to establish the National Defence Fund as soon as the legislation for the purpose is enacted; the fund is being established to mobilise the whole nation in the effort to provide the country with the means to defend Sri Lanka against any threat to it—*ST*. The United National Party has not dropped the disciplinary inquiry against Paul Perera, MP for Kaduwela. Regulations are to be implemented to enable the judges of original courts to sentence offenders to community service in lieu of fines or imprisonment. President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday the Sinhala Buddhists of this country would be supporting separatism, if they did not allow other communities to live among them. The Malaysian Government has assured Sri Lanka that it will immediately expel any Sri Lankan or any other foreigner in Malaysia who is found acting in a manner detrimental to the sovereignty of Sri Lanka—*WK*. Ten days since being appointed Minister of National Security, Lalith Athulathmudali is a man in a hurry; with incidents of violence registering a marked increase last week and with Sinhala civilians being attacked and killed for the first time in the North, the situation is becoming more serious. The Cement Corporation is making determined efforts to dispose of a house purchased by the former Chairman of the Corporation for Rs. 8 lakhs to be used as his residence. Top government sources indicated last week that India's chances of being awarded the leasing rights of the Trincomalee Tank farm are remote; this is because Sri Lanka's government expected "a more conciliatory attitude" by India towards the country's pressing problems—*S*.

MONDAY, APRIL 2: An unprecedented job boom is expected in Oman this year, a country which today employs over 200,000 expatriates ranging from consultants to unskilled labourers. The Indian government offered to amend the constitution in a surprise bid to counter plans by military Sikhs to step up agitation against what they say is discrimination against their minority sect—*DN*. Sri Lanka will lay it out thick when it hosts the prestigious five-day PATA conference beginning today which will be inaugurated by a speech by President J. R. Jayewardene who was responsible for putting Lanka on the international tourist map—*DM*. Sri Lanka is to set up a diplomatic mission in South Korea soon; a decision to this effect was taken last week by Government and is described as "very significant" specially in view of President Jayewardene's scheduled state visit to South Korea in May this year. Some of the world's leading travel industry experts meet at a summit today to reassess the tourism industry and explore ways of moving business again, as it emerges from one of the worst

recessions. Around 600,000 workers of the Ceylon Workers' Congress and the Joint Plantation Trade Union Committee will go on strike today until the government brings about a settlement with regard to their demands—*SU*. Bribery Commissioner Mr. Noel Wijenayake has proposed the re-appointment of Special Bribery Tribunals to hear bribery cases exclusively. The Posts and Telecommunication Ministry's move to hand over the telecommunication system in the island's metropolitan area and the international telecommunication system to an American Firm would be a threat to the national security, states the Union of Postal and Telecommunication Officers' Union in a letter addressed to President J. R. Jayewardene—*S*.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3: Castrol, the well-known British lubricant manufacturer has finalised a deal with the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation under which the CPC will produce lubricants under the Castrol brand at its Kolonnawa blending plant; base oil imported from China will be used for the blending, CPC said. The leader of the main Sikh political party, Harchand Singh Longowal, appealed yesterday for further concessions after the government offered to consider amending the Indian constitution in line with Sikh demands—*DN*. The office of the Commissioner of Essential Services was a mass of humanity yesterday; these were displaced persons affected by the July disturbances gathering in their thousands to obtain the grants offered by the government—*DM*. A resolution is to be moved in Parliament today for the appointment of a Select Committee to probe and report on certain statements made by Chief Justice Neville Samarakoon at a prize giving of a commercial turoty in Colombo. Around 600,000 plantation workers struck work yesterday in a move that could cripple the country's economy; they are demanding higher wages. More than 125,000 sterilisations have been carried out in Sri Lanka during 1983, the highest recorded since the inception of the programme in the mid-sixties according to the Ministry of Plan Implementation—*SU*. The Peradeniya Police last week arrested five under-graduates of the Peradeniya University for the possession of narcotics. The Government yesterday reduced the Business Turnover Tax on hotels from 10 percent to 5 percent. A series of rules to regulate certain types of tourist services will come into force shortly, a press release of the Ministry of State said yesterday. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation has changed the time of its night news bulletin from 9.15 to 9 p.m. with effect from yesterday—*S*. It is understood that the Government has decided to pay an additional sum of Rs. 102/- as cost of living allowance to government servants as the cost of living rising daily—*DP*. If the present strike by plantation workers continues beyond five days it would have a crippling effect on the tea trade, Director, Tea of Forbes and Walker Chrisantha Perera told the *Observer* this morning—*DO*.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4: The motion to appoint a select committee to probe the speech made by Chief

Justice Neville Samarakoon was passed in Parliament last night, 120 voting for and six against. Parliamentarians from 90 countries refused Iranian requests today to debate and condemn alleged use of chemical weapons by Iraq in the Gulf War and the presence of United States, British and French warships in the area—*DN*. The CWC led plantation strike in which it claims more than half a million estate workers are involved is crippling the national economy by as much as Rs. 55 million a day of which Sri Lanka loses Rs. 46 million as Foreign Exchange; total foreign exchange losses till yesterday reached nearly Rs. 140 million—*DM*. The proposed Foreign Employment Bureau is likely to start its own programme of sending Sri Lankan women to West Asia as housemaids; a decision in this regard will be taken by the Ministry of Labour which is now looking into the matter. President J. R. Jayewardene told government MPs yesterday that if the government were to agree to the demands of the plantation sector trade unions whose members have gone on strike, it would cost an additional Rs. 2,000 million and would be disastrous in the present economic situation. President J. R. Jayewardene has directed Justice Minister Nissanka Wijeyaratne to draw up appropriate legislation to ban films, video films and television shows depicting violence and vice—*SU*. The Civil Rights Movement in a telegram to the Prime Minister has said that the proposal to appoint a Select Committee of Parliament to investigate reports of a speech made by the Chief Justice is unconstitutional as it violates the concept of the independence of the judiciary which is part of the basis structure of our constitution. India and Sri Lanka are to come together to carry joint research into tea; both countries have agreed to "institutionalise" their relationship on matters pertaining to tea for improved follow-up action—*S*. President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that as a result of the plantation strike the country was losing Rs. 6 million per day and requested the workers to give up the strike and to return to work—*VK*.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5: Exhibitors of pirated video films, mostly showing sex and violence are desecrating the neighbourhood of the popular St. Anthony's Church, Kochchikade; these video shows are common in this area and the vicinity of the Grandpass market. As many as 70 Vietnamese may have been killed in clashes on Thai soil over the last 12 days, sources in the military command were reported today as Thai forces continued to comb the area near the border with Kampuchea—*DN*. A major breakthrough is on the cards today in the Tea and Rubber plantation workers strike which all but crippled the plantation industry, Minister of Plantation Industries Montague Jayawickrema will be meeting with officials of the JEDB and the SPC and Treasury officials today and then hold discussions with the CWC, the largest Union involved in the strike, and the Lanka Jathika Estate Workers Union today—*DM*. Government authorities today said that if negotiations are to be held on the

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demands of the striking plantation workers they must go back to work immediately—*DO*. Government is expected to get a second expert opinion in regard to a series of recommendations made by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in regard to Sri Lanka's economy. Parliament yesterday amended the standing orders to provide for a procedure for the removal of judges of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal or other high officials including the Secretary General of Parliament, Commissioner of Elections, Auditor General or Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. Chief Justice Neveille Samarakoon's application to import a duty-free car was approved by Cabinet yesterday on the recommendation of Justice Minister, Nissanka Wijeyeratne—*SU*. The Cabinet yesterday approved the implementation of the master plan for the rehabilitation of an estimated 29,500 families affected by the July disturbance; the Plan was presented to the Cabinet by President Jayewardene. Minister of Industries Cyril Mathew will make a full statement to Parliament on the decision of the Cabinet regarding the oil tank farm in Trincomalee. Forbes and Walker, the tea broking firm, said yesterday that a prolonged strike of over five days in the plantation sector would mean a loss of foreign exchange earnings of around Rs. 2p million to Rs. 25 million per day at current tea price levels—*S*. The deadline set for the displaced government and corporation employees affected by the July 83 disturbances, to resume duties has been further extended; they have been granted time till the 30th of April to report for work—*DP*.

policies of the West European Economic Community, precludes socialist planning. But the point of his argument seized on by his opponents was his criticism of the absolute power and the unlimited patronage in the hands of the Prime Minister and the reserve powers vested in the Monarchy which had been criticized recently. The tactic of both the Conservative and Social Democratic Parties is to paint the Labour Party as an organisation dominated by left-wing extremists, with Mr. Benn as their chosen "bogeysmen". The tactic is not new. But today the press is in much more unscrupulous hands and TV and Radio exert an influence undreamed of in earlier times. And the Labour Party has no significant press to counter these attacks.

BUT, ONE SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMME was shown by the Commercial Television Channel immediately after Mr. Benn's victory. It analysed the role played by the *Sun*, the mass circulation tabloid daily owned by Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper tycoon. The programme described how the *Sun* set out, from the moment the election campaign began, to discredit Benn finally on polling day portraying him as a "mental case". It attacked him with such epithets as dotty, loony, red menace, phoney, cranky, the sick voice of Bennism. It announced that it had submitted details about Mr. Benn to an eminent American psychiatrist. The TV programme reported that it had talked to the American psychiatrist, who said he had only a short telephone talk with the *Sun* and had been completely misquoted, that he did not have enough information to give an opinion and that his trust "had been blown to hell". The programme also interviewed prominent people who worked with Benn as a Government Minister, and all paid tribute to his ability, fair mindedness and sincerity. The programme ended with an extract from a press conference after the election when the *Sun* reporter attempted to ask Benn a question. Benn replied "I am sorry for you having to work for a paper like the *Sun*. If you can find another job, I advise you to take it". Then he added the warning, "If the media went on depending for success on the ignorance of the public, faith in the democratic process would be destroyed". I talked to Benn shortly before the by-election. He said he had learned a lot during his period outside parliament. He had visited the USSR, US and Japan. He no longer had any doubts as to where the responsibility for the arms race lies—with the US.

THIS IS WHERE THE BATTLE within the Labour Party will be fought. The Government's only argument for its arms programme, which is the main reason for the attacks on the social services, is the "Russian threat". It ignores the peace proposals and the repeated offers for agreements on measures of disarmament put forward by USSR. It hides from public knowledge, its record at UN where the British representative has either opposed or abstained on most disarmament proposals, in defiance of world opinion. It produces



BRITAIN

Tony Benn

By Gordon Schafter

London. No sooner was Tony Benn elected for the Labour Party at Chesterfield in north of England than the media came out with a "revelation" about a pamphlet, he was about to publish, which they said proved his intention to split the party. This bombshell proved to be a damp squib. Benn had repeated arguments based on his experience in the Government, showing the way an elected Government could be fettered by what we broadly call the "establishment". He had told how the IMF dictated terms to Labour Governments which destroyed their hopes for a planned economy and for social progress. He had warned that the Treaty of Rome, which dictates the

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propaganda about Soviet armaments, the demand for removal of US bases and abandonment of nuclear arms by Britain is denounced as a plan to leave the country defenceless in the face of the alleged "Russian threat".

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, has said without equivocation that as Prime Minister, he would never press the nuclear button, but he has yet to come forward with a serious programme to end the arms race and to build friendship with the Socialist countries. He has tended to join the right-wing of the party who accept the "Russian threat" and talk of replacing nuclear weapons with more conventional ones. The inescapable fact is that no Government can solve the problems facing Britain, if it continues to carry the present burden of arms expenditure. The struggle of the Left, with its hoped powerful support from Tony Benn, is to secure agreement by the Labour Party on a peace policy, which says plainly that the Soviet Union is not the enemy and which refuses to be drawn into the military adventures of the US. With the massive increase in support for the peace struggle, that policy could hope to defeat the attacks and distortions of the media.

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FTZ's

Profits Take Priority

Rome. Free trade zones (FTZs), once promoted as an effective means of boosting foreign investment, export earnings and local employment, are bastions of degrading working conditions and miserable salaries, according to an international union leader. Operators in these zones of privileged exemption from tariffs and taxes also enjoy a beneficial ignorance of internationally accepted labour laws, says Charles Ford, Secretary-General of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation. His study draws its findings from extended on-location research in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and the Philippines and earlier investigations by the UN system and International Labour Organisations in South Korea, Indonesia and other countries. Ford's research and analysis is published in the March-April 'dossier' of the Switzerland based International Foundation for Development Alternatives (IFDA). Governments, still believing in FTZs as a source of development and industrial expansion, are told they should take a closer look at the way they oversee wage policies in the zones. They are used to also review critically the revenues remitted to the governments by transnational textile, electronics and other corporations operating in the free trade zones. Since the wages received by workers are usually the only substantial element of the value added in the free trade zones that remains in countries hosting the zones, they are crucial to their success.

Ford maintains. But long hours and low wages are the rule in most of the cases examined, the study concludes, because in the FTZs profits take a clear priority over people.

THE QUESTION that must be asked, says the union leader, is if the jobs the governments want the FTZs to create would be endangered by more agreeable wages, normal working hours and less exploitation of the mostly young people working in them. Wages can run as low as one US dollar a day. But the value added in the zones surpasses total labour costs by far, Ford says, and this is usually remitted as profits. The typical FTZ, as presented in the ITGLW Secretary General's study has a labour force consisting primarily of young girls and women aged 16 to 25-years, who are thoroughly exploited through excessive and compulsory overtime. While they produce at rates of productivity at least as high as in industrialized countries, he contends, their wages are 'very low' compared to minimum standards there and established human needs. Based on observation and inquiries made in textile and electronics plants in FTZs, Ford says he found the workers usually are subjected to an intense work pace, stiff discipline and even sometimes humiliating punishment or dismissal when they object. And they work 'without adequate legal protection from exploitation by domestic or international companies, and sometimes within a legal framework that prevents their defending themselves by striking. The ITGWU Secretary General says that in some countries hosting FTZs, industrial action is fully banned.—/PS.

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F R G

Minister on Corruption Charge

By Ramesh Jaura

Bonn. For the first time in the 34-year history of West Germany, a key member of the Federal Government in Bonn is facing court proceedings for alleged corruption. He is the Minister of Economic Affairs. His name is Dr. Otto Friedrich Wilhelm von der Venge Graf Lambsdorff. He is charged with having taken bribes from the Dyesseldorf-based Friedrich Flick Industrieverwaltung, West Germany's largest family-owned industrial concern. Generally acknowledged as a man of sharp wit and fine irony, the Liberal FDP's major leader Count Otto Lambsdorff has refused to step down pleading his total innocence of any wrong doing. Chancellor Kohl of conservative CDU has refrained from sacking him on the plea that even a Minister is to be regarded innocent until the contrary is proved. Whether or not the Count is guilty will be known only after the Bonn District Court decides to

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either follow up or drop the public prosecutors' recommendations to proceed against the Economics Minister. The court decision may not be forthcoming before autumn. However, if the Count is put into the dock, Chancellor Kohl will have no alternative to saying goodbye to him.

Whatever emerges, the issue popularly known as the Flick Affair raises questions about all the established political parties in the country and had led to some soul-searching in West Germany. Initially representatives of the CDU-CSU, FDP and SPD were involved, though indictment was handed out early December last only to five at the centre of the Flick Affair. Altogether 10 leading public figures are alleged to have accepted under-the-counter payments to party funds from the Flick industrial group. Underlying the entire affair are claims that the company made clandestine political contributions to secure favourable tax treatment of capital gains arising from its sale of a 29 per cent interest in Dalimer Benz to the Deutsche Bank in 1975. Party financing is indeed a problem that has long been recognised. The parties represented in parliament receives subsidies according to the DM 800 million worth share of W.R. Grace the American chemicals concern. In doing so, they are alleged to have been influenced by payments from Flick of an order of DM 135,000 and DM 375,000 respectively. At a packed press conference in Bonn on 29 November last, the public prosecutor Dr. Franzbruno Eulencamp said there was no evidence that money was "for their own use."

The two former social democrat Finance Ministers who also approved the deal—Hans Matthoefler and Manfred Lahnstein—have not been charged since investigations did not yield any adequate evidence. Investigations have also been dropped against the concern's senior partner Karl Flick and two other politicians. However, two former Flick officials, Eberhard von Brauchitsch and Manfred Nemitz and a former Economics Minister of the state of North-Rhein Westfalia, Horst Ludwig Riemer, have been charged. Mr. Riemer is charged with having been influenced in the approval of state research funds to the company by cash payments of DM 145,000. The approval of last stage tax waivers occurred in August 1981 at a time when all parties were toying with a idea of a change in the party financing law to provide an amnesty for tax offenders. This would have had the effect of ruling out any of the charges which have surfaced now.

The plans for a "general amnesty" to tax offenders were revealed by the Hamburg news magazine, *Der Spiegel*, which had been fearlessly investigating the entire case. According to its editor-in-chief and publisher Rudolf Augstein, the revelations in the news magazine forced the liberal justice Minister and the SPD parliamentary group in November 1981—the socialist liberal coalition was still in power then to

have second thoughts on amnesty. In fact, on 4 November, 1981, a group of four men from the Bonn prosecutor's office and the local tax authorities entered the Duesse.dorf headquarters of the Flick concern. Apparently, they were interested in payments made by the firm to a Catholic charity organisation in the Bonn suburb of Sankt Augustin. But in the vortex of West German politics the liberal FDP have a special place. But for the liberals, the social democrats headed by Willy Brandt would not have been in a position to wrest power in Bonn in 1969. But for the FDP, the CDU-CSU would not have been able to topple the socialist-liberal coalition headed by Helmut Schmidt. And, but for the liberals, Chancellor Kohl would neither have a comfortable majority in parliament nor would a turnabout a la Franz Josef Strauss would have been averted. Together with foreign Minister and FDP Chairman Hans Dietrich Genscher, Count Lambsdorff played a pivotal role in enabling CDU head Helmut Kohl become the Chancellor, for the first time in October 1982. That is reason enough for Mr. Kohl to retain the Count in Cabinet. But it sounds better to public ears to proclaim that the Chancellor does not leave his friends in the lurch. In fact since long, Mr. Kohl has based his concept of government on his personal friendships. This has been widened meanwhile to keep the Bavarian leader Strauss away from Bonn.



EXPORTING FOOD AND

Increasing Hunger

By Mike Orme

Poor countries export commodities and import staples. This emphasis on exports contributes to world hunger says Mike Orme in a critical look at international agribusiness. The world system is being integrated into the international industrial economy with agriculture set to become a product line created by the global factory.

THE FRENCH HISTORIAN Jules Michelet said over a hundred years ago that until someone wrote the history of hunger no one would understand the history of the nineteenth century. The statement is even more apt in our century. More food is being produced today than ever before—two pounds of grain a day (enough to provide three thousand calories) for every man, woman and child on earth. There have been dramatic increases in yields. But around the world a middle class is increasing in numbers as it is eating better. For instance, Japan and Western Europe, newcomers to the age of hamburger and steak, are devoting increasing amounts of grain to finishing off beef and in so doing are becoming more dependent on the international grain market. This tendency, coupled with the internationalisation and industrialisation of agriculture, explains why hunger is increasing in the midst of superficial plenty. These inexorable processes in agriculture are probably responsible for more hungry people than either cruel or unusual whims of nature or acts of war. *The cost of land, the cost of fertiliser, the mechanisation of agriculture and a credit system that encourages agribusiness and big farms at the expense of the small farmer are making an increasing proportion of the world peasant population 'marginal'—a polite economist's expression for being reduced to some form of peonage. The world-wide food production and distribution system is coming more and more under the control of a relatively small number of multinational corporations. Five corporations effectively control the world traffic in wheat, corn, barley and soy. Two farm machinery companies control 60 percent of the US farm machinery market and also have decisive roles in the world market. A small number of grain and chemical companies now control the world seed market.*

THE INDUSTRIALISATION OF AGRICULTURE is a process of substituting fossil fuels for human energy in the quest for mass production and high yields. On today's standard definition of farm efficiency, petrochemical fertilisers are assumed to be cheaper than people. True, 'wonder seeds' of the so-called Green Revolution, which call for substantial use of fertilisers, have dramatically increased yields in some places, but have had all manner of deleterious side effects beyond the ecological. High-technology agriculture has led to an increasing concentration of land ownership, an increasing dependence on imported seeds and fertilisers, and an increasing use of cash crops to maintain the economies of under developed countries. As land becomes more valuable marginal farmers must sell their land and either work as sharecroppers or migrate to already overcrowded cities. One obvious reason is that mechanised agriculture calls for increased credit and wealthier farmers are preferred risks for loans to buy machinery or imported seeds and fertilisers. *Hence, the gap between the rich and the poor increases within countries and not just between the North and South of the world.* Numerous studies in Mexico, China, Taiwan and elsewhere show that where land is

more equitably shared, production is higher because the incentive to produce is also higher. Where the poor farmer has his decision made for him by the moneylender or the landowner the less able he is to control what he grows and provide for himself and his family.

A major culprit in the rise of hunger amidst superficial cornucopia is the rise of cash cropping with the onslaught of agribusiness. In a critical period between the mid-fifties and the mid-sixties the growing of the principal cash crops—coffee, tea, bananas, cotton—in the developing world increased more than twice as fast as the rest of the agricultural economy. Coffee production in Africa has increased more than 400 percent in the past twenty years. *Because export crops are so profitable, or comparatively profitable, they crowd out noncommercial crops on which millions of poor people once subsisted. In Brazil, land that was used to grow black beans—the staple of the poor in that country—has been converted to soy beans for cattle feed. Black beans must therefore be imported, and the price of imported beans is prohibitively expensive for the poor. The third world is rife with similar examples.* When a country turns its agriculture over to high-technology export crops, the benefits are distributed unevenly, to pit it mildly. American sales of seed supplies and fertilisers are highly profitable. The consumers of coffee, bananas and strawberries around the world benefit from more productive farming, and the plantation owners often (usually) foreigners derive large profits.

THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS why high-technology export crops increases hunger. For one thing, as noted above, land, credit, water and technology are pre-empted for the export market. For another, the corporations that control more and more of global agriculture are not interested in investing their earnings in such a way as to keep people working and eating and they have no interest in feeding hungry people with no money. For instance, a study of contract farmers attached to multinational export operations in Guatemala by Professor Ray Goldberg of the Harvard Business School reports that 70 percent of the country's cucumber pickers are children under fifteen; while in one operation 'sorting and grading for exports was done by 27 women who were paid \$0.80 per day, writes Goldberg. The net result is that rich and generally well-fed countries are now importing more and more of their food from countries with high rates of malnutrition. Most of the imported food is inessential—cocoa, coffee and strawberries. Poor countries, for their part, import staples from the United States—chiefly wheat, corn and rice. This perverse division of labour and trade contributes directly to hunger in the poor countries, because the producers of the export crops are paid so little—at the least count a cocoa farmer in Ghana got about 16 percent of the export price of his cocoa beans—that they cannot afford to pay the high price of the imports grain or rice.

Moreover, a dependence on exporting food makes poor countries extremely insecure as well, because they depend on a volatile world market they cannot control and which has not proved susceptible to international price stabilisation agreements. As one forlorn African delegate to last year's North-South summit at Cancun put it, 'If your main export is a bag of coffee, and it costs \$10 today, \$20 tomorrow and may be \$5 the day after how can you set your economic goals and priorities for your country?' And it is not just volatility, as if that wasn't enough. The prices of even the best cash crops have tended to rise much less fast over the long haul, (in fact, in real terms they've fallen) than those of manufactured goods and high-technology farm inputs. The general point was made powerfully some years ago by Julius Nyerere to an American university audience. 'In 1965, I could buy a tractor by selling 17.25 tons of sisal,' he said 'The price of the same model now needs 42 tons of sisal.' That happened in less than a decade and the index has worsened considerably since. A possible way out, say some pundits, is for the primary producers to process as well as produce the food they grow. But this avoids the fact that this end of the business is even more powerfully controlled by a few multinationals than food-growing. Take cocoa, for instance; apart from Ecuador, cocoa grinding in Latin America is almost totally in the hands of foreign-owned multinationals. In Brazil, the world's second largest cocoa producer, grinding and intermediate product marketing is controlled by such companies as Gill and Duffus, Nestle and Hersheys. Meanwhile, the world's largest bean producer, the Ivory Coast, grinds less than 30 percent of its own beans and the French company, Cacao Barry, controls the intermediate product marketing.

INCREASINGLY, THE WORLD FOOD SYSTEM is being integrated into the international industrial economy, and agriculture promised to become yet another product line created by the global factory. This internationalisation of Food production and distribution is aggravating world hunger. Modernisation and development are the official goals of the elite in virtually every poor country. As these goals are conventionally understood, they are strategies for replicating the economic history of the industrial world by shifting local economies from agriculture to industry and commerce. More and more of the world's food is passing into international commerce, and fewer and fewer farmers are producing for larger and larger numbers of eaters. Consequently, around the world, food self sufficiency is declining. People who used to feed themselves and their families no longer can. At least fifteen of the world's poorest countries now devote more acres to growing cash crops for export than to staples that could feed their own hungry people.

And yet, even now, only 12 percent or so of the world's food is exported, and because of declining

self-sufficiency in both the industrial and under developed world, the international food distribution system, controlled by a handful of corporations, now plays a critical role. Arguably, apart from nuclear weapons, it is the most important and damaging development of the postwar world. The small family farm has been one of the traditional pieties in many different cultures and climes. Although large farms do yield a larger gross income per acre than small farms, small farms often show a better net return, because their costs for such expensive supplies as fertilisers and machines are less. There is now considerable literature from underdeveloped countries which suggest that productivity per acre declines as farms expand. Moreover, simply moving food around a country, whether industrialised or underdeveloped, costs a rising proportion of total food costs. Even before the surge in oil prices in 1973, shipping fruit and vegetables around most countries cost at least 10 percent of the retail price.

Unless or until it becomes more profitable to conserve energy and to produce moderately priced nutritious food than to market expensive processed foods, the world food system will continue to be biased against the consumer—especially the third world consumer—and against the small farmer—especially the third world small farmer. The real revolution needed in much of the world is to have land tilled by local people who make the basic decisions about it and are rewarded for what they decide to do. This would serve the interests of consumers, rich and poor alike, much better than land that functions primarily as a corporate asset in a kind of integrated world food factory.

—With acknowledgments to *International Agricultural Development*.

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LETTER

Coconut Trading

Sir,

We refer to your two articles entitled "Coconut Mystery" and "More About Coconuts" in your issues of 10th February and 17th March 1984 respectively. We welcome rules governing trading in coconuts and coconut products, if they achieve the undernoted objectives, (1) they clearly define the respective rights and duties of buyers, sellers, brokers and auctioneers; (2) they can be effectively, efficiently, speedily and cheaply enforced and administered; (3) they deviate from established trade practices only to achieve objectives 1 and 2 above.

There are now not ONE but FOUR set of Draft Rules—NONE OF WHICH IS IN EFFECT—as follows: 1. Draft Copra Auction Rules—Committee 1; 2. Draft Copra

Auction Rules—Committee 2; 3. Draft Fresh Coconut Auction Rules—Committee 2; 4. Draft Coconut and Coconut Products Conditions of Sale—Committee 3. The history of these four sets of Rules is briefly as follows:

1. Draft Copra Auction Rules—Committee 1:

The Coconut Development Authority (CDA) in January 1982 appointed a Committee comprising Messrs R. I. Fernandopulle (Chairman; Chairman, Coconut Cultivation Board), S. H. de Silva (Colombo Brokers' Association), M. M. Razik (Sri Lanka Coconut Oil Millers Association), A. S. Nadarajah (Ministry of Trade and Shipping; Deputy Director of Commerce), R. H. de Mel (LCPA) and M. H. G. A. Brito-Mutunayagam (Alternate to Mr. R. H. de Mel; Hony. Secretary, LCPA). The committee signed its Report (to which Draft Rules were annexed) in November 1982. In September 1982, the LCPA learnt that the CDA was revising the Draft Rules, without even consulting the Organisations represented on the Committee. At the instance of the LCPA the Committee was re-convened; and it signed its Supplementary Report (to which Revised Draft Rules were annexed) on 24th January 1983.

2. Draft Copra Auction Rules—Committee 2:

3. Draft Fresh Coconut Auction Rules—Committee 3:

On 6th May, 1984 the CDA appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs L. W. A. Fernando (Chairman; Member, CDA), S. B. Silva (Member CDA), R. I. Fernandopulle (Chairman, CCB), K. I. de Silva (Observer Member, CDA; Competent Authority of the GOBU of B.C.C. Ltd.), P. Ray Wijewardene (Member, CDA) and Mr. J. Edirisinghe (Director/Marketing, CDA) to revise the Copra Auction Rules for a second time, and to frame Rules for Fresh Coconut Auctions. The committee signed its Report (to which Draft Copra Auction Rules and Draft Fresh Coconut Auction Rules were annexed) on 9th January 1983.

4. Draft Coconut and Coconut Products Conditions of Sale:

We understand that these Draft Conditions were mainly framed at the instance of the JEDB. The Hon. Minister for Coconut Industries is also the Deputy Minister for the JEDB. At the instance of the LCPA a Committee was appointed (?) to scrutinise these Draft Conditions, though the CDA wrote to the LCPA inviting the LCPA to send a Representative, we later learnt that the Committee had not been appointed by the CDA. The Committee comprised Messrs L. W. A. Fernando (Chairman; Member CDA), J. Wijayaratanam, P. V. C. Watson, M. M. Razik, L. Senanayake, H. M. A. B. Fernando (Chairman, LCPA) and M. H. G. A. Brito Mutunayagam (Alternate to Mr. H. M. A. B. Fernando; Hony. Secretary, LCPA).

After attending the Meeting of the Committee on 14th March 1983 the LCPA wrote its letter of that date (reproduced in your article of 17th March 1984): We repeat below our principal objections to the Draft Conditions: 1. they were so detailed as to eliminate almost any negotiations between buyers and sellers; 2. they were not framed with reference to, and some even directly contradicted, statutory and other legal provisions; 3. some of them were contrary to long-established trade practices;

We reproduce below an extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the LCPA Coconut Committee held on 27th March 1984: "It was evident, 1. that the small amounts of copra and coconut oil available for export were not sufficient for regular Copra Auctions; and 2. that dealers/millers/shippers would only be interested in the large quantities of coconuts that could be offered at Fresh Coconut Auctions by the State Corporations; and 3. that hence only Rules for the sale of coconuts/copra by private treaty from growers to dealers/millers/shippers could protect growers against defaults by buyers; and that there would be great difficulty in effectively, efficiently, speedily and cheaply enforcing such Rules".

The Low Country Products Association of Ceylon,
9, de Fonseka Road,
Colombo 5.
2nd April 1984.

M. H. G. A. Brito-Mutunayagam,
Hony. Secretary.

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PHILIPPINES

United Coconut Planters Bank

(a) *Brief History of UCPB.* United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) was created out of the Philippine coconut industry's need for financing. In response to the coconut farmers' appeal conveyed in a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation (a private organization of the majority of the Philippines' coconut farmers) dated May 17, 1975, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), the government body in charge of the industry, ascertained that ownership by coconut farmers of a commercial bank offered a permanent solution to their perennial credit problems. The First United Bank (FUB), a private commercial bank, was chosen as the instrument for the undertaking. The First United Bank (FUB) was established in 1963 with a paid-up capital of P\$10 million. The capital was later increased to P\$20 million. In the early 70's the Philippine Central Bank

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required all commercial banks to have a paid-up capital of at least P\$100 million. A reconstruction of the banking sector ensued, resulting in mergers and in affiliations with foreign financial institutions. With the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 755, the coconut farmers through the PCA acquired the majority interest in FUB and injected P\$80 million to the bank's paid up capital to meet the minimum paid-up capital requirement of P\$100 million. In recognition of its majority stockholders, FUB was renamed the United Coconut Planters Bank.

(b) *UCPB's Business and Activities.* UCPB operates as an ordinary private commercial bank. As such, it provides a wide array of services which include, among other, accepting drafts and issuing letters of credit; buying and selling foreign exchange and gold or silver bullion, receiving deposits; investing in equity; acquiring readily marketable bonds and other debt securities; receiving in custody funds, documents, and valuable objects, and renting safety deposit boxes for safeguarding such effects. In 1977, UCPB was among the first few domestic banks granted authority to operate an expanded Foreign Currency Deposit Unit (FCDU). And in February 1981, UCPB became the first private commercial bank to be given a universal banking license. Universal banking in the Philippines is a combination of commercial banking operations (full domestic and international banking) with the activities of an investment house (underwriting, securities dealership, and equity investment). As a unibank, UCPB is authorized to own up to 100 per cent of the total subscribed capital stock of allied undertakings, non-financial and financial, other than a commercial bank, or a bank authorized to perform commercial banking services (wherein it can only control up to 30 per cent of the voting stock). UCPB is also permitted to own up to 35 percent of the total subscribed capital stock of non-allied undertakings.

Today, Cocobank has engaged in allied and non-allied undertakings allowed under the universal banking law. It has now 15 rural and thrift bank subsidiaries, a real estate company, computer and chemical firm. A listing of the Bank's subsidiaries and affiliates is given in Exhibit 1. As a bank for the coconut industry, UCPB provides credit at preferential rates to coconut farmers and acts as the administrator of the CIIF (Coconut Industry Investment Fund) and the CIDF (Coconut Industry Development Fund). As CIDF administrator, UCPB finances a hybrid coconut seedfarm; purchases all the seednuts of the hybrid coconut seedfarm for distribution to coconut farmers; defrays the cost of implementing the nationwide replanting program; and finances extension services, model plantations and other activities. As CIIF administrator, UCPB makes investments in the form of shares of stock in corporations organized for the purpose of engaging in the establishment and the operation of industries and commercial activities, and other allied business undertakings relating to the coconut and other palm oil industry in all its aspects.

(c) *Financial Performance.* Having commenced operations only in July 1975, UCPB exhibited remarkable growth. It became the first private universal bank in 1981, only six years after the coconut farmers acquired controlling interests in FUB. From an asset base of P\$706.5 million in 1975, total resources reached P\$6,507.1 million in 1982, ranking fifth among the country's private domestic banks. As of September end 1983, UCPB moved up to first place with assets totalling P\$10,339.4 million. The bank's capital funds also grew from P\$120.0 million in 1975 to an industry high of P\$754.4 million in 1982 and P\$869.9 million as of the third quarter of 1983. Loans and deposits likewise considerably expanded. From P\$311.6 million in 1975, loans reached P\$2,255.9 million in 1982 and in September 1983, ranked first with P\$6,364.3 million. In terms of deposits, UCPB currently ranks third with P\$6,936.0 million during the third quarter of 1983 from P\$3,986.0 million in 1982 and P\$421.9 million in 1975.

Consistent with its huge volume of transactions, the bank's branch network widened from the 13 inherited branches in 1975 to 70 branches scattered strategically throughout the country. It has also established foreign branches in Paris, France and Singapore. Soon, it will set up offices in the Middle East.

THE VILLAGE and THE NATION

ROADS — 2

How to Get it Done

By R. Kahawita

WHILE PUSHING the fourth amendment, various reasons have been given for the present deplorable state of our roads. Today, the conditions of the roads are so bad, it has become not a maintenance job, but re-construction, which involves a lot more money than maintenance. It may be the hope of the Government to get from International Lending Agencies another loan scheme for maintenance. Some of the *ad hoc* reasons given for the deterioration of the roads are: heavymotor vehicles, so there is a proposal for an additional charge for such vehicles, another is the loads that these vehicles transport—therefore, a special levy to be collected from the operators of such vehicles. This kind of accusation and finding some one to blame, goes on at Parliamentary Debates, Political Meetings, etc., while the roads go from bad to worse. As regards heavy trucks and over loading, no one has suggested check points and means of weighing a loaded vehicle at these check points. Also, no one has said so far that money allocated in the budget for repair and

maintenance of roads, is totally inadequate by today's cost of materials, and labour wages. No one has admitted that the various changes made to the road administration has failed, due to not having an efficient system to assess the conditions of the roads annually, as was during the Overseer system. No one has said that abolishing of the V.C. and Town Council Organisations, has thrown the grass root administration into chaos. The new institutions set up in their place do not meet the needs of the village or the semi-urban areas.

THE NEW INSTITUTIONS are more politically involved than ever before at the village level. Without political patronage, membership to the new institutions may not be possible, as there are no elections to these Institutions by a popular vote. Under the earlier Village Committee system, there was a "Ward Member" whose neck could be squeezed by the Villagers, who voted him into the Council, if things went bad in the village. The individual to whom they can complain, is not in the village now. A District Minister has no link in the village, except through his stooges. Such are not interested in village welfare. They have other interests to be in touch with the D.M. How can a D.M. living in the South, help the people in the North? *These are the glaring mistakes we have made in trying to put old wine into new bottles, as the saying goes. And we have not the courage to admit that the new system has failed.*

If maintenance were to be neglected for a few weeks even, deterioration is fast. This is the case today with all our Public Works. We have the case of major irrigation schemes, where we are asking millions "to correct irrigation systems" from the Aid Consortiums. We got such aids for the major works in Anuradhapura district last year; today we have Gal Oya and Walawe on the list. The money is required to catch up the back-log of maintenance, but we call it modernization to obtain the aid. The foreign organisations have become our masters. They give money for development, they give money for maintenance: they initiate studies to our social and economic problems, etc., so why should they not dictate to us? The roads too are in a similar plight today. After the District Ministers were asked to "look into the maintenance work", we see a lot of activity on our roads. Various methods are used. Some dump a handful of earth and stamp it down with the palm of the hand, some fill the pot holes with various sizes of road metal and press them down with the foot, some pour bitumen over and screed with sand. Some use a handy size mechanical stamper before treating with bitumen, some use hand stampers. Some fill the pot holes with "premix" and stamp down with vibrating rollers. Yet others use 20 Ton Rollers to play skittle on the road from one pot hole to another. So the repairs are being attended to today after the last directive of the P.M. to the D.M.M. These may last a day, couple of weeks till the next shower of rain strikes the area. These are

surface patch work. But the real maintenance work listed earlier is not touched at all. The funds available to the Engineer for road maintenance, we understand, have been transferred to the Dm.M., who will decide where and what to do. We read in the Press that one D.M. decided to widen a section of the road, when the need was to re-surface the road? If a ten foot road surface cannot be maintained, we cannot understand how a widened road can be maintained.

To us, none of these alternatives are the solution to the problem. Maintenance of roads, is a specialized job, requiring experienced men, like a mason, a carpenter to repair a house. That is why the Overseer system, with the road maintenance gangs were built up. They were an asset to the Government to maintain their capital works at a reasonable cost annually. The Britisher was conscious of the obligation. That is why he experimented, tried and handed over an efficient system of administration and for the maintenance of public works. He was not concerned with the talk of bribery and corruption, etc., which we on the other side of the fence spoke of them. Today, we also speak of corruption, bribery, nepotism, etc. In high places. Just because of these irresponsible gossip, we are not going to change our systems of Government, administration, etc. what we have to do is to take corrective measures—Don't throw the baby with the bath water.

The Overseer system worked well. From the Overseer's angle, if he wanted to stay in business, he had to maintain his works to acceptable standards set out by his superiors. If he is to earn a living, he must keep the works going, so he ever alert to find defects, report to his superiors and get approval to rectify the defect. He can save on his estimates, if he maintains a trained and efficient "Gang of Road labour". If the gang knew the job, he stood to gain, so it is to his advantage to treat his men well and keep them with him.

He may draw his men from the locality or recruit from outside. It is his choice, because it is his responsibility to maintain the roads at the standards set to him by the Engineers. If there were short-comings and leakage of funds, there are remedies. "Leakage of Funds" is an accepted operation today in our public like. There are much bigger holes in the money bag today than ever before. So let us brush aside all these accusations in the erstwhile P.W.D. System and re-establish it to save the public works from gross negligence. May they be buildings, roads, irrigation works, factories, playgrounds, stadiums, etc., they are all moving fast to "Junk Heaps". There is no politics in this. It is an operation to save our Nation's assets. That is why we have voted the present party in to power. "The previous Government was no good".

In the old system, the road net work was divided into sections—"X" miles of Class I Roads, "Y" miles

of Class I Roads, "Y" miles of Class III Roads, according to the importance, density of traffic, type of traffic frequently using the roads, the type of communities served by the roads, etc. in a section. Each such section was placed in charge of an Overseer with the task of improving, repairing and maintaining the roads to a pre-planned cycle of operations, during a financial year. In this scheme, some roads were improved, some were re-surfaced, some attended to as "running repairs, etc., including adjunct works to maintain a road in good condition as explained earlier. Each operation is covered by a Work Estimate. It is an all the year round operation. To do this, the Overseer had to have a trained labour force, equipment, materials and transport facilities—All these were his responsibilities and had to be on the alert to push through the work, according to his estimate, and the priorities set to him by the Engineer. In this system, there were frequent inspections of the roads by the Overseer, by the District Engineer, by the Superintending Engineer and the members of the public, like the Provincial Road Committees, District Road Committees and the Village Councils. The system worked well and the roads never got into the condition, we experience today. There was nothing wrong in this system, except the suspicion that the overseers were "making money with the connivance of the Superiors". Today who is not making money—particularly in the Public Sector with massive expenditure budgets? This cannot be prevented. So, let us restore "the Overseer System", with modifications, if need be, to meet the post Independence "stresses and strains". With the present day facilities available for transport, procurement of materials, maintenance equipment and machinery, the quantum of mileage per overseer unit can be increased and also a cycle of maintenance, etc. got through faster than during the bullock cart era. We commend these proposals to the Government.

Since we gave some thought to the state of our roads, four things have happened (1) according to a news item, the P.M. is to negotiate a World Bank Loan to maintain and repair our road system. Yes they will give to retrieve what the Bank has spent on us so far. Ultimately, we have to pay back from our plate of rice. (2) Maintenance of the roads, is to be handed over to the Gramodaya Mandalayas—changing the pillow for a headache. More money for them to waste. Let them first maintain the "village cart tracks" before they bite a larger piece of the enriched cake. (3) We went on inspection tour of some of the roads in Kandy area. The main highway from Kurunegala to Kandy via Galagedera passis in a deplorable condition. It took us almost three hours to cover the 26 miles. There are no visible roadside drains, as the road has become the drain. We can now quite appreciate why our M.P.P. want new Mercedes cars to do their official work. No car will last a year on our roads today. However, expensive a car will be, it will be reduced to junk in an year. (4) We happen to chance meet a contemporary P.W.D. Overseer, who is in charge of

the roads in one electorate in Western Province. He has to cover 72 miles of roads and he has 12 permanent labourers—remnants of the old regime. He earns Rs. 1,016/- per month and an allowance of Rs. 250/- a month for travelling. The 12 labourers collect about Rs. 34/50 a day. He can employ casual labour, in addition, if required, at Rs. 22/20 a day. All his requirements like transport, material, equipment, etc. he has to obtain from a Central Depot in competition with the other Overseers, served by that Depot. "I take the line of least resistance—If I get what I require to maintain my section I do. If not, I wait for another day". One could see the result of this waiting for another day from the condition of the road Island wide. This conversation with the man responsible for doing the work is a very good argument to get back to the Overseer system created by the Colonialists and which had served the country well.

Concluded.

x x x

MAHASUPINA JATAKA — 3

The Finale

"Methought, sir, in my **fifteenth dream** I saw a village crow, in which dwelt the whole of the Ten Vices, escorted by a retinue of those birds which, because of their golden sheen, are called Royal Golden Mallards. What shall come of it?"

"This dream too shall not have its fulfilment till the future, till the reign of weakling kings. In days to come kings shall arise who shall know nothing about elephants or other arts, and shall be cowards in the field. Fearing to be deposed and cast from their royal estate, they shall raise to power not their peers but their footmen, bath-attendants, barbers, and such like. Thus, shut out from royal favour and unable to support themselves, the nobles shall be reduced to dancing attendants on the upstairs—as when the crow had Royal Golden Mallards for a retinue. Howbeit, you have nothing to fear therefrom. Tell me your *sixteenth dream*?"

"Heretofore, sir, it always used to be panthers that preyed on goats; but methought I saw goats chasing panthers and devouring them—munch, munch, munch—whilst at bare sight of the goats afar off, terror-stricken wolves fled quanking with fear and hid themselves in their fastnesses in the thicket. Such was my **sixteenth dream**. What shall come of it?"

"This dream too shall not have its fulfilment till the future, till the reign of unrighteous kings. In those days the low born shall be raised to lordship and be made royal favourites, whilst the nobles shall sink into obscurity and distress. Gaining influence in the courts of law because of their favour with the king, these upstarts shall claim perforce ancestral estates, the

raiment, and all the property of the old nobility. And when these latter plead their rights before the courts, then shall the king's minions have them cudgelled and bastinadoed and taken by the throat and cast out with words of scorn, such as, 'Know your place, fools. What? do you dispute with us? The king shall know of your insolence, and we will have your hands and feet chopped off and other correctives applied!' Hereupon the terrified nobles shall affirm that their own belongings really belong to the overbearing upstarts, and will tell the favourites to accept them. And they shall hie them home and there cower in an agony of fear. Likewise, evil Brethren shall harry at pleasure good and worthy Brethren, till these latter, finding none to help them, shall flee to the jungle. And this oppression of the nobles and of the good Brethren by the low-born and by the evil brethren, shall be like the scaring of wolves by goats. Howbeit, you have nothing to fear therefrom. For this dream too has reference to future times only. It was not truth, it was not love for you, that prompted the brahmins to prophesy as they did. No, it was greed of gain, and the insight that is bred of covetousness, that shapped all their self-seeking utterances."

THUS DID THE MASTER EXPOUND the import of these sixteen great dreams, adding, "You, sire, are not the first to have these dreams; they were dreamed by kings of bygone days also; and, then as now, the brahmins found in them a pretext for sacrifices; whereupon, at the instance of the wise and good, the Bodhisatta was consulted, and the dreams were expounded by them of old time in just the same manner as they have now been expounded." *And so saying, at the king's request, he told this story of the past.*

Once on a time when Brahmadata was reigning in Benares, the Bodhisatta was born a brahmin in the North country. When he came to years of discretion he renounced the world for a hermit's life; he won the higher Knowledge and the Attainments, and dwelt in the Himalaya country in the bliss that comes from Insight. In those days, in just the same manner, Brahmadata dreamed these dreams at Benares, and enquired of the brahmins concerning them. And the brahmins, then as now, set to work at sacrifices. Amongst them was a young brahmin of learning and wisdom, a pupil of the king's chaplain, who addressed his master thus, "Master, you have taught me the Three Vedas. Is there not therein a text that says, 'The slaying of one creature giveth not life to another?' 'My son, this means money to us, a great deal of money. You only seem anxious to spare the king's treasury'. 'Do as you will, master," said the young brahmin; "As for me, to what end shall I tarry longer here with you". And so saying, he left him, and betook himself to the royal pleasance.

That selfsame day the Bodhisatta, knowing all this, thought to himself, "If I visit today the haunts of men, I shall work the deliverance of a great multitude from

their bondage". So, passing through the air, he alighted in the royal pleasance and seated himself, radiant as a statue of gold, upon the Ceremonial Stone. The young brahmin drew near and with due obeisance seated himself by the Bodhisatta in all friendliness. Sweet converse passed; and the Bodhisatta asked whether the young brahmin thought the king ruled righteously. "Sir," answered the young man, "the king is righteous himself; but the brahmins make him side with evil. Being consulted by the king as to sixteen dreams which he had dreamed, the brahmins clutched at the opportunity for sacrifices and set to work thereon. Oh, sir, would it not be good thing that you should offer to make known to the king the real import of his dreams and so deliver great numbers of creatures from their dread?", "But, my son, I do not know the king, nor he me. Still, if he should come here and ask me, I will tell him." "I will bring the king, sir" said the young brahmin; "if you will only be so good as to wait here a minute till I come back". And having gained the Bodhisatta's consent, he went before the king and said that there had alighted in the royal pleasance an air-travelling ascetic, who said he would expound the king's dreams; would not his majesty relate them to this ascetic?

When the king heard this, he repaired at once to the pleasance with a large retinue. Saluting the ascetic, he sat down by the holy man's side and asked whether it was true that he knew what would come of his dreams. "Certainly, sire," said the Bodhisatta; "but first let me hear the dreams as you dreamed them". "Readily, sir," answeret the king; and he began as follows:

*Bulls first, and trees, and cows, and calves,
Horse, dish, she-jackal, waterpot,
A pond, raw rice, and sandal-wood,
And gourds that sank, and stones that swam
and so forth, ending up with
And wolves in panic-fear of goats.*

And his majesty went on to tell his dreams in just the same manner as that in which King Pasenadi had described them.

"Enough", said the Great Being, "you have nothing to fear or dread from all this". Having thus reassured the king, and having freed a great multitude from bondage, the Bodhisatta again took up his position in mid air, whence he exhorted the king and established him in the Five Commandments, ending with these words, "Henceforth, O king, join not with the brahmins in slaughtering animals for sacrifice". His teaching ended, the Bodhisatta passed straight through the air to his own abode. And the king, remaining steadfast in the teaching he had heard, passed away after a life of alms-giving and other good works to fare according to his deserts.

His lesson ended, the Master said, "You have nothing to fear from these dreams; away with the

sacrifice". Having had the sacrifice removed, and having saved the lives of a multitude of creatures, he shewed the connexion and identified the Birth by saying, "Ananda was the king of those days, Sariputta the young Brahmin, and I the ascetic."

Concluded.



SPOTLIGHT

By Allrounder.

* Sharjah

April 5, 1984: Soon after the departure of the New Zealand cricketers, the Sri Lanka team took wing to **Sharjah** to play in the Inaugural Asian Cup Cricket tourney to be staged there for over ten days. The Sri Lanka team is without allrounder Asantha de Mel who had to cry off owing to injury. Roy Dias, the Vice Captain and the most stylish bat in the squad also accompanied the team, although earlier, there were fears that he would not be able to make the trip because of an injured hand which required three stitches. He suffered this injury in the Final Test against the Kiwis. Had Dias also not gone, Sri Lanka's batting would certainly have lacked depth. But it will be interesting to see whether Dias will play. The Cricket Board Selectors included a couple of youngsters for this tour—Aravinda de Silva and Uvais Karnain—and later brought in another promising youngster Ishak Shabdeen when de Mel said he was not available. This would have been an ideal opportunity for the selectors to have thrown in more promising youngsters. But then the selectors would have thought of the big money that is involved in this tourney. The winning team stands to gain over a million rupees, the runners up three quarters of that and the team finishing third half a million rupees. Individually too, a lot of money is on offer to be won.

But what is intriguing in this whole episode is why is this tourney being staged in Sharjah a Middle East country? Pakistan and India are wooing every cricketing quarter to stage the next World Cup Cricket Tourney. By this tourney being staged in Sharjah, the Pakistanis and the Indians are only telling the world that they do not have the resources to stage the World Cup. Sharjah or any of the other Middle East countries have nothing to do with International Cricket Confer-

ence or the Asian Cricket Conference. Then why is this tourney being staged in Sharjah?

It will be interesting to know who or what made this tourney to be staged in Sharjah. From reports reaching us there is one man behind the scene who has manipulated the whole thing. In fact he has been offering incentives to many and even taken the initiative of inviting cricketing personalities to be involved in the tourney. Up to now no one seems to know who the sponsors of this tourney are. If there are sponsors, surely they would also be having their agents in Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka and they could have requested any one of these countries to stage the tourney!

If we remember right, when the Asian Cricket Conference was first formed and it was suggested to have this tourney outside the three Asian countries, there was a lot of big talk here that Sri Lanka would do everything possible to stall the tourney from being held outside Pakistan, India or Sri Lanka. Then what made us change our minds and agree to participate in the tourney to be staged in Sharjah? Obviously again it is the lure of big money. No wonder then that cricketers sell their profession to filthy South African rands. It would be interesting to read the answers to these questions.

However it is hoped that Sri Lanka will do something to resurrect its cricketing morale which has dropped to the very depths after the thrashing by the New Zealanders. Pakistan and India are fielding new faces in this tourney and Sri Lanka with many of their cricketers who toured England for the World Cup in their squad should be able to cause an upset and come back with the trophy and the big prize money. Again a lot will depend on skipper Duleep Mendis. Mendis' potential is well known to the Indians and the Pakistanis. The Indians will of course not forget the twin hundred he made against them in a Test match. Gavaskar, the Indian skipper, who is leading them also played in that Test. The experienced Siddat Wettimuny, Roy Dias, Ranjan Madugalle, D. S. de Silva and Guy de Alwis must come good with the bat and pacemen Vinodhan John, Ravi Ratnayake, Uvais Karnain and Ishak Shabdeen with the ball if Sri Lanka is to hold their hands high. We here on the sports desk of *Tribune* are confident that Mendis will come good on this tour after his dismal failures against the New Zealanders. With no home crowd to hoot him, he is sure to be his natural self and hammer the Pakistani and Indian attacks out of sight. After Sri Lanka's defeat in the Tests as well as the One-day games against the New Zealanders there is talk doing the rounds that Mendis would be chopped as captain after the tour of Sharjah. It will indeed be unfortunate if that happens. Today there is a lot of politics involved in the game and it won't come as a surprise to us if Mendis is dropped from the captaincy.

MOST OF THE BIG INTER-SCHOOL MATCHES have all been completed and the finale to the inter-school cricket season was the 50 Over cricket tourney conducted by the *Daily Mirror* and sponsored by Pure Beverages Ltd., for the Coca Cola Bottlers Trophy. The *Daily Mirror* are the pioneers of this type of cricket for schools and every year it has evoked tremendous interest among the players, the schools and their supporters. The sponsors this year, Pure Beverages spent a lot of money to see to the successful conclusion of this tourney. Before this tourney was staged the "Battle of the Maroons" between the two leadint Buddhist institutions in the country—Ananda and Nalanda. There was the usual merry-making that mark all big matches. This game was incident-free and all who came to witness the match went away having enjoyed two days of good cricket although the game failed to end in a decision. The outstanding player in this big clash was **Roshan Mahanama**, the Nalanda skipper.

In an innings of 145 not out he established five new records in the series. The records he set up were; the fifth Nalandian to score a century after skipper P. M. Jayatileke (111 not out) in 1928; highest individual score made by a Nalandian beating the previous 118 not out by Bandula Warnapura in 1972; the eighth centurian in the series—Ananda three and Nalanda five; the highest individual score in the series beating the previous 126 in 1978 by Prasanna Amarasinghe in 1978; the second Nalanda captain to score a century following the 111 not out by P. M. Jayatileke. Mahanama had a successful tour of Australia with the Under-19 cricketers and with this innings proved that he is the most promising material in the cricket scene today. Mahanama is a solid right hand batsman. His technique is very sound and he is always in line with the ball before playing his strokes. In addition, he is blessed with a good eye and twinkling footwork. Mahanama should be heard of in the years to come. It is surprising that he was not picked for the Asian Cup in Sharjah. Had he been it would have been a tremendous experience for him and would have done his game a great deal of good.

STILL ON CRICKET and this time it is the foreign scene and England after the dismal tours of Pakistan and New Zealand by the England cricketers led by **Bob Willis**. With England losing both test series it is fairly certain that skipper Willis has had his last fling as captain. A fast bowler who has served England well, he is sure to be stripped as captain and it is likely that the dashing left hander **David Gower** will take over. The England cricketers under Willis on their tours of New Zealand and Pakistan failed to live up to expectations and nothing came right their way. Here are views from some of the Correspondents who accompanied the England team on their disastrous tours.

John Woodcock in *The Times* said he found it hard to summon any opinion, saying, "The truth of the matter is that England is desperately short of available

cricketers of authentic, or even potential Test class". Woodcock however is of the view that David Gower should retain the captaincy which he took over for the last two Tests against Pakistan when regular skipper Willis returned home. Woodcock was more guarded than most: "Gover's start as the next incumbent has been interesting and up to a point promising". Peter Laker of the *Daily Mirror* was more representative of the general tone. "I believe that there is no longer a shadow of doubt that the clear-thinking, 26-year old Gower will succeed Willis full-time for this summer's demanding home series against the West Indies." Laker quoted Gower as saying that he now wanted the captaincy. "For two weeks (in Pakistan) I've done it better than I ever thought I could". Steve Whiting of the *Sun* was also impressed with Gower's captaincy in the two Tests against Pakistan and described it as a revelation. Peter Smith of the *Daily Mail*: "David Gower is ready now to assume full command of England's cricket team and, hopefully, lead the game from its darkest winter on to an exciting new era".

April 12, 1984: SRI LANKA'S EUPHORIA of winning the first game against Pakistan in the inaugural Asia Cup Cricket Tourney in Sharjah was short lived. Limited over World Champions India put paid to any hopes Sri Lanka had of winning against India by beating them by 10 wickets. Victory for India against Pakistan will mean that they will be the first to inscribe their name on this glittering Asia Cup. However, it must be said that Sri Lanka's win over Pakistan was memorable. The Pakistanis are well versed when it comes to this type of game and have in their ranks some of the finest exponents of this type of game. Their skipper Zaheer Abbas, Javed Miandad, Mudazzar Nazar, Mohsin Khan and Sarfraz Nawaz have played this type of game for years. This victory where Sri Lanka conceded 187 runs to the Pakistanis in 46 overs and then scored 190 in 43.3 overs really shook all and sundry in Sharjah. We hear there was tremendous merry-making and dancing after this victory. Justifiably so. In this game we performed excellently. Our bowlers were on line and length all the time our fielders holding on to some marvellous catches and our batsmen doing all that was expected of them. In fact it was a superb team effort that brought this victory. Again it was the mercurial Roy Dias who fashioned this win. He struck form with the bat and this prompted all other batsmen to follow suit and each and every one of them put their heads down and obtained the runs until victory was achieved. All Sri Lanka batsmen entered double figures with only Ranjan Madugalle making the lowest—four runs. Dias top-scored with 57 and was rightly adjudged the "Man of the match". Of the bowlers Ranatunge in addition to his splendid batting had the best figures with 3 for 28 and D. S. de Silva 2 for 50.

According to reports, Duleep Mendis had handled his team well and effected some clever bowling changes.

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It was apparent even during the New Zealand tour that his captaincy had improved by leaps and bounds. Though his batting has failed he has improved in his captaincy and this should stand him in good stead for the tour of England later in the year. After the euphoria in winning the first game it was indeed galling to the Sri Lanka cricketers and their vast following in Sharjah to lose the second game to India. Incidentally the first win against Pakistan did not come as a surprise to us. Cricket in Pakistan has been in turmoil in recent times and the Pakistani cricketers are not playing as a team. All their troubles stem from the captaincy. There was a camp that worked against Javed Miandad when he was captain and he was ousted. Imran Khan took over and could not be at the helm for long owing to injury problems. Then the Pakistani cricket Board officials were removed after their disastrous tour of Australia. Now Abbas is at the helm and some of the cricketers think that Miandad should be brought back. Another problem in the Pakistani side is Sarfraz Nawaz. Fast bowlers are all temperamental as they come and Nawaz is an exception. Cricket fans in Sri Lanka will remember Nawaz well. When he toured here he had a brush with some of our umpires and was recalled by the Cricket authorities in Pakistan. Nawaz has the knack of talking out of turn after each tour and upsetting team spirit. What is surprising is that after doing all the damage, he apologises and is again back in the squad. It is time that the Pakistani cricket authorities changed their attitude where Nawaz is concerned.

IN THE SECOND GAME AGAINST INDIA, the Sri Lankan batsmen had no answer to the pace bowling of school boys Prabakhat and Chetan Sharma and veteran Madan Lal and were bowled out for a paltry 97 runs and it took India just over 20 overs to obtain these runs without losing a wicket. Opener Khanna scored 51 and this also won for him the "Man of the Match" award. The final game is between India and Pakistan. On form the Indians led by Sunil Gavaskar should have no difficulty whatsoever in defeating Pakistan and engraving their names on the Cup. If this happens India in addition to being World Cup champions will also be Asian Champions. A proud record indeed.

THE RUGGER SEASON in Sri Lanka is fast approaching and there was no better way for the game to get off to a start than by our ruggerites who toured Hong Kong for the rugby sevens winning the Bowl Championships. Sri Lanka failed in the tournament proper but ran out winners in the newly created Bowl Championships. The Sri Lankans were trailing Thailand for a better part of the game, but fought back gallantly to finally emerge winners by 16 points to 10. The Sri Lankans scored a try and a goal to win the Championships. Fiji once again showed their potential in the game by thrashing New Zealand by 26 points

to nil to take the Hong Kong Invitation International Rugby Seven-a-side Championships. It is said that the Fijians, runners up in the last tourney, outmanoeuvred and out-ran the Kiwis after an easy win over the fancied French Barbarians. In Sri Lanka rugby clubs are having all their ruggerites hard at training and the coming inter-club season should see some finest rugby. This year most of the clubs seem to be infusing young blood and this augurs well for the game and its progress. The CH & FC who emerged champions last year and made a successful tour of Singapore are bubbling with enthusiasm. With a lot of promising players signing up with them they are confident of retaining the title again this year. Last year's runners-up the Police Sports Club are also hard at training. They have yet to get their full squad going as some of them are stationed in far away places. The Havelocks and the CR & FC big names in Sri Lanka rugby in years gone by are doing everything possible to attract the cream of schoolboy talent. In the past a meeting between these teams was also a big social event. But in recent times these teams have rarely met. It is hoped that this year these two teams will play some of the brand rugby they are well known for and make this coming season one of the best.

TABLE TENNIS which has been given a hell of a facelift by the new Table Tennis Board headed by its President Chandrakant Vasa is going great guns with several tourneys being worked off in several centres. In the Mercantile Services Table Tennis knockout tournament which was sponsored by Lever Brothers, Hayleys won the Men's A team event and Lake House took the Women's team event. In the Men's event Hayleys had to fight hard for victory against Lake House. The standard of table tennis was good at this tourney and several promising players were on show. Sports promoters, Stanley Jayewardene, Chairman of Lever Brothers was the Chief Guest and Mrs. Jayewardene distributed the awards.

The slicer game too is on the up and up and a team of carrom players will leave soon to participate in Carrom Tests against India. The local team has been invited by the All India Carrom Federation. The locals will be on a four-week tour and will play five Tests in Delhi, Kanpur, Nagpur, Hyderabad and Kerala. In the meantime, the Sri Lanka Carrom Federation re-elected M. Kesawarajah and Nihal Dissanayake as President and Secretary respectively. This tour of India should serve our slicers very well and help them to gain by this experience. The standard of slicing in India, it is said is very high. However our carrom players have it in them to cause a few upsets and even come out winners in the Test series.

A *Reuter* report has it that an entire Brazilian soccer team was taken into Police custody and at least two team members would be charged with murder after an end of the match melee where a football fan died.

The game was between Remo and Uberlandiafo Minas Herais State which ended in a draw. According to Police, Remo supporter Emanuel Silva in his early forties, kicked one of the Uberlandia players who retaliated with help from a team-mate. Silva then had a heart attack and died in hospital.



SPORTS CHRONICLE

March 26 - April 4

MONDAY, MARCH 26: John Reid and Martin Crowe shared a third wicket century stand to push New Zealand towards a big total in the Third and Final Bristol Cricket Test against Sri Lanka at the CCC grounds yesterday: Sri Lanka first innings 256 and New Zealand first innings 135 for 3 wkts at close. Nalanda's Captain Roshan Mahanama's record-breaking mission was the feature of the 55th Battle of the Maroons against Ananda which ended in a tame draw at the P. Saravanamuthu Stadium yesterday: Ananda 1st innings 230 for 7 declared and Nalanda 1st innings 227 for 7 dec.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27: John Reid gave a marathon batting performance at the CCC grounds yesterday to put New Zealand in a strong position in the Third and Final Bristol Cricket Test against Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka 1st innings 256 and New Zealand 1st innings 322 for 5 at close. Rain at 3.40 p.m. ruined the match between the Bank of Oman and the Kandy District Cricket Association team played at Asgiriya on Sunday: Bank of Oman 271 for 8 declared and KDCA XI 57 for 4.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28: Opening batsman Steve Smith and skipper Kim Hughes scored 66 and 65 respectively, as the Australian cricketers, in their second innings, today notched 243 for 4 against Barbados and established an over lead of 273; but with the match ending tomorrow, a draw seems almost inevitable: Australia 1st innings 332 for 6 declared and Barbados 1st innings 302. Bens Sports Club beat Saunders Sports Club 3-1 to win the U. W. Sumathipala Memorial Trophy, conducted by Saunders Sports Club at the Sugathadasa Stadium yesterday; the half time score was one all

THURSDAY, MARCH 29: The Four-day cricket match between Barbados and Australia, the tourists' last fixture before the Third Test, ended in a draw, the Kensington Oval pitch proving too good for any other result to be possible: Australians first innings 332 for 6 declared and Barbados first innings 3p2: Australians second innings 356 for 4 declared and Barbados second innings 233 for 5. Sri Lanka were placed in a precarious position on the penultimate day of the Third and Final Bristol Cricket Test against New Zealand at the CCC grounds yesterday: Sri Lanka first innings 256 and New Zealand 1st innings 459.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30: Sri Lanka suffered another inglorious defeat in their short history as a Test Nation when they were thrashed by an innings and 61 runs by New Zealand at the CCC grounds yesterday: Sri Lanka 1st innings 256 and New Zealand 1st innings 459: Sri Lanka second innings 142. E.T.F. beat JEDB by 5 wickets in a Nationalised Services D Division limited over match at the BRC grounds yesterday: veteran bowler Sylvester Dias captured 5 for 42: E.T.F. 128 for 5 in 31 overs and JEDB 122 in 29.1 overs.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31: Sri Sumangala declared at 190 for 8 had St. John's Panadura on 32 for 2 when rain stopped play at 5.20 p.m. in their annual cricket match for the "Janalal Rodrigo Challenge Trophy" played at the Panadura Esplanade. Kalutara Vidyalaya are well placed in their Big Match against Tissa Maha Vidyalaya which began yesterday at the Kalutara Esplanade: Tissa MMV first innings 80 and Kalutara Vidyalaya first innings 58 for 3 at close. Bad light and rain limited play to 250 minutes on the opening day of the 26th Battle of the Babes between St. Sylvesters and Vidyartha at Police Grounds yesterday: St. Sylvesters 1st innings 102 and Vidyartha 1st innings 9 for 2 at close.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1: St. Thomas' Matara made 178 for 8 wickets declared in their first innings in their big match against St. Servatius Matara at the Uyanwatte Esplanade yesterday; at close of play St. Servatius made 24 for no wickets. The day belonged to two of the youngest members in the Sri Lanka side; 22 year old Uvaisul Karmain and twenty year old Arjuna Ranatunge together brought Sri Lanka glory when they helped Sri Lanka beat New Zealand by 41 runs in the second one-day International at the Tryone Fernando Stadium yesterday: Sri Lanka 157 for 8 in 40 overs and New Zealand 116 in 34 overs.

MONDAY, APRIL 2: New Zealand came back strongly to beat Sri Lanka by 86 runs in the Third and Final One-day International and take the Series—and the Anchor Trophy by two matches to one at the Saravanamuthu Stadium yesterday: New Zealand scored 201 for 8 off 44 overs and dismissed Sri Lanka for 115 off 38.1 overs. Wayne Phillips played West Indies with a brilliant 120 which boosted Australia to 429 all out in their first innings in the Third Cricket Test at Kensington Oval, Bridgetown yesterday: Australia 1st innings 429 and West Indies first innings 57.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3: A disciplined and chanceless 145 by opener Desmond Haynes and his successive century partnership with Gordon Greenidge and Riche Richardson ensured a strong West Indies reply to Australia's first innings total of 429 on the third day of Third Cricket Test match at Bridgetown: Australia first innings 429 and West Indies first innings 301 for 3. Fiji slaughtered New Zealand to take the Hong Kong

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Invitation International Rugby Seven-a-Side Championships at Hong Kong yesterday scoring 26-0 in a one-sided Final.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4: The Kalutara Aquatic Club took the Overall Championship and won their own trophy, the K.A.C. President's Challenge Cup the One-Mile Sea Swim conducted by the Kalutara Aquatic Club and held at Kalutara recently; Kalutara got 95 points with Panadura Aquatic Club second with 33 points. Maris Stella College, Negombo won the Gampaha District Soccer Title when they beat De Mazonod, Kandana by 4 goals to 1 in the Final of the tournament conducted by the SLSFA.

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Nestle's Milkaid?

IS IT NOT TRUE that the *Daily Mirror* in its issue of April 24 had a front page box under the heading **OUR CONDENSED MILK COSTLIEST IN THE WORLD?** That the report read: "Householders have complained to the Government that condensed milk in Sri Lanka is the costliest in the world. The local price of Rs. 15.70 per tin, they state, is almost Rs. 9 more than the price of a tin in most developed countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Holland and even India. Furthermore complaints were made that the multinational that had been given the condensery at Polonnaruwa to produce "Perakum" and their own brand product had systematically phased out "Perakum" by increasing the price ever since they took over from Rs. 8 upwards till it was sold at the price of their own brand product. Many importers were able to import the same brand from Britain and sell it, after heavy freight charges, at Rs. 14 per tin. 'How could a tin of condensed milk be sold at Rs. 14 after meeting heavy freight costs unless the local manufacturer is making unconscionable profits at the expense of the consumer?' asked an irate householder. Many consumers were perturbed that the Presidential Tariff Commission was trying to safeguard the multinational's interests by raising the import duty on condensed milk from 25 percent to 40 percent so that the price of a tin of condensed milk will be sold at over Rs. 17. 'This will not be in the interests of the poor consumers who find they have to pay much more daily for the cup of tea that cheers no longer', means a city worker. Householders feel that the government-controlled Milk Board should take over the production of 'Perakum' condensed milk so that the interests of the consumer will be better served. 'What we want is our national products to be promoted and not some foreign brand name which appears to be strangling a captive consumer market', said a disgruntled housewife." That the *Daily Mirror* story is a belated and dramatised version from a "householder's" angle of what *Tribune* has been saying for several months? That this matter has been dealt with in this column as well as by Sherlock Holmes?

IS IT ALSO NOT TRUE that the Tariff Commission has given local producers of milk foods, e.g., Nestle's mainly a high tariff protective barrier of 60 percent for condensed milk? That the correctness of this move is being questioned by many who have the interests of the livestock industry and the country at heart? That those who wanted this protection had asserted that "the nascent milk industry moved over the past three years on the path of self-sufficiency" and that it was essential to prevent dumping from countries which subsidised their dairy industries? That though it is true that nearly all developed countries in the Americas,

Europe and Australia give subsidies to dairy exports, there is no evidence at all that Sri Lanka is reaching up to self-sufficiency in milk? That there are "whispers" that statistics reveal that milk collections have declined in the last three years? That it was true that Sri Lanka was collecting more milk earlier? That cynics have begun to quip that our dairy industry is being moved towards extinction and that self-sufficiency in a Nestle era is a mirage? That it is also pointed out that the condensary at Polonnaruwa had become a casualty? That it was at one time doing extremely well? That questions are now being raised as to what is the production per month now and what it was earlier? What was the price per tin when the NMB ran it and what is the price today: what did the farmer get for the milk when the NMB handed over and what does the farmer get today? That it is also being pointed out that the condensary enjoyed an enviable 80 percent of the local market? That last week it had already dropped to 50 percent and was dropping still further? That this is a tragic state of affairs for a multi-national joint venture? That the government-run Corporation had been accused of inefficiency and incompetence and for that reason the condensary had been handed over to Nestle on a 60/40 capital holding basis? That inspired stories in captive (advertisement) newspapers had proclaimed that Nestle was trying to pay a better price to the farmers and that they could not do this as they could not pay a price higher than what has been sanctioned by Cabinet? That if the price paid to the farmer goes up, (as it should), then the tin from Polonnaruwa might go up to Rs. 20, whilst the imported product will remain at 60 percent off this price. Why can't the milk collections in the Dry Zone be diverted to fresh milk as echoed under battle-cry "of a pint of milk per day"?

IS IT NOT A FRIGHTENING THOUGHT that Nestle was able to push through a 60 percent duty on condensed milk? That opposition circles are getting ready to wage a campaign on the power of this 60/40 multinational on our Tariff Commission? That the activities of Nestle is likely to be a major election issue in the run up to the next General Elections (whenever that comes)? That incidentally another matter that has begun to figure prominently is the Nestle boast that several farmers in the Anuradhapura were each earning over Rs. 4,000 a month by the sale of milk to Nestle? That so far Nestle has not published the names of such farmers; and their excuse, it is alleged, for this non-disclosure is that "these farmers would fall into the tax 'net'"? That if this is true it betrays a sorry state of tax evasion? That the sooner Nestle publishes this list of over Rs. 4,000 a month farmers the better for Nestle as well as the dairy industry?

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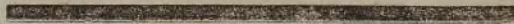
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