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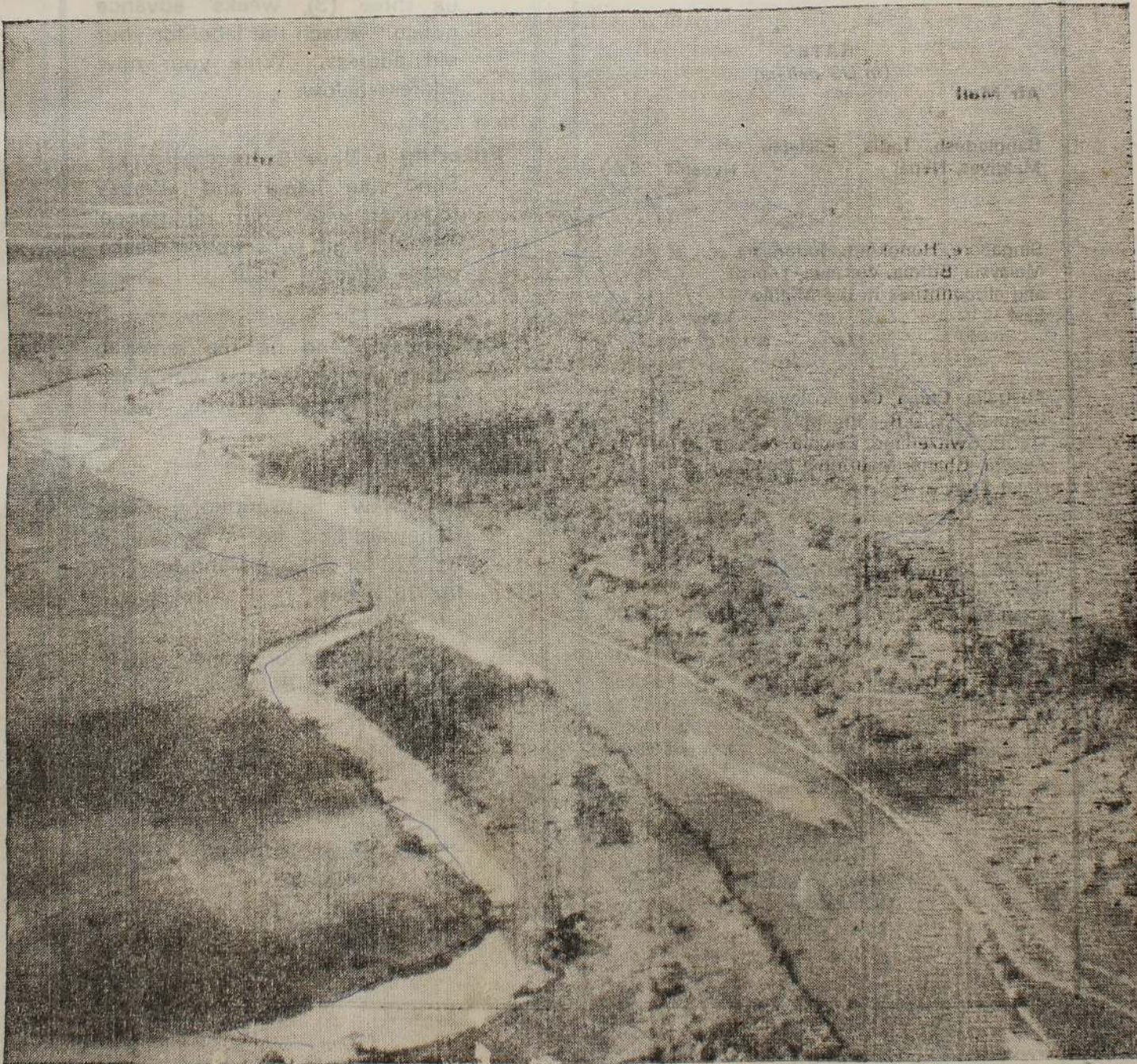
CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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- DEBT TRAP
- SELLING MAIZE
- PLANTERS' ROLE
- **TERRORISM**
- PROCESSING RICE
- TOURISM
- PASSPORTS



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WE HAVE ON THE COVER AN AERIAL VIEW of the Mahaweli in its lower reaches. We revert to Mahaweli because the economic future of the country is tied up with it. The Accelerated Mahaweli programme has made much progress, but it has cost a lot of money mostly in the form of long-term loans. This country has also obtained foreign loans for other developmental work and also for recurrent expenditure. All these loans have to be repaid and unless the investment in the Mahaweli bears fruit in the form of profitable production as early as possible it will be difficult for this country to repay these loans on the scheduled dates. Unless these debts are repaid, Sri Lanka cannot get the best out of higher world prices for our exports and the consequential increase in world incomes. It would be useful to briefly refer to some aspects of this problem on a global perspective. The latest ILO World Labour Report states that in a number of countries income distribution has improved over the past two decades while inequality has widened in others. Developing and developed countries alike have taken steps for a more equitable distribution of income. The world incomes rose by 65 percent but the poorest nations got the least benefit from this growth. The world as a whole, according to the ILO Report witnessed a record 65 percent rise in income per head of population over the 20 years between 1960 and 1980. But the poorest nations got the least benefit from this growth, while the industrialised nations prospered at a faster than average rate, the report says. Nations with an average per capita income of 260 dollars in 1980 for instance, recorded only 1.2 percent increase in per capita income, compared to 3.6 percent in the industrialised countries of the West. The highest rate was a record 6.3 percent for oil-exporting countries. Even with the slow progress in many developing countries, the median rate of growth in per capita income of all countries was about 2.8 percent per year. This represents an increase in per capita income, over the 20-year period of 65 percent. Overall, this has led to significant improvement in what the ILO report describes as the "quality of life". Life expectancy has risen almost everywhere. The improvement is seen most sharply in the low income countries, where life expectancy increased from 42 years in 1960 to 57 years in 1980. Infant mortality has also declined, and there are more doctors and nurses per head of population. Progress in education has been equally dramatic. Over 90 percent of all children of the developing countries now attend primary schools compared to 76 percent 20 years ago. Enrolment ratios in secondary schools have more than tripled and enrolment rates in higher educational institutions have doubled. "The 1960s and 1970s were a period of quite rapid growth, probably unprecedented on a world-wide scale, but a growth which was far from uniform, with some countries lagging far behind", the report notes. For 11 countries with a population totalling 89.1 million, income per head declined between 1960 and 1980. While some 100 states experienced growth in per capita income for their three billion people, this has not meant a rise in living standards for all the people in these countries. Indeed, while disparities in income have been relatively low in Western European countries, among developing countries they were highest in Latin America. They were lowest in Asia and the Pacific region. The report notes that among some of the poorest countries studied by the ILO—Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Tanzania and Sri Lanka—only Nepal recorded high income disparities. Developing and developed countries alike have taken steps for a more equitable distribution of income. Land reform, co-operative urban production units, government expenditure, direct and indirect taxation are among the measures which have been tried. But their impact has not always been uniform and in some cases, has even led to worsening of the income gap.

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Farmer's Selling Problems

We have received a note from Mr. R. Kahawita on some of the problems facing farmers. We reproduce it in this column as we think what he says is opportune, timely and relevant.

The 1983/84 Maha rains (N.E. Monsoons) were late, so we decided to cultivate a maize crop while waiting for the onset of the monsoon proper. The seeds were put down in early September and by end of September, we had sown about 60 kg. of seed of four varieties—two of "Ganga" Hybrids from India, two varieties from the States. Germination was good, growth was quite satisfactory; except for parrot damage, there were no cultural problems. Harvesting was started early December. Then the December rains came, harvesting was interrupted and about 50 percent of the crop to be harvested got wet. In addition, the days were dull and hardly any sunlight to dry the harvested corn. These conditions continued to January, February with intermittent heavy rains... In spite of all these difficulties, we were able to harvest over 2,000 kg. of cleaned corn. From a farming point of view, it was quite a satisfactory crop. The expensive item in processing the corn to the market, was the removal of the corn from the cob. Because of the unsatisfactory drying, it was not easy to remove the corn from the cob. Improvising a metal implement to remove the corn from the cob resulted in a fair amount of the parchment around the seed coming off the cob.

There is a hand operated corn sheller in India for small scale farmers... In this country, that kind of implement is simply not heard of, though one could buy "very advanced technological equipment" for many other purposes. But not even a simple thing like a coconut scraper. This is the kind of technology we want to push into the two acre subsistence farmers' life.

... In an "emergency weather condition" like what we experienced in December, January, February there are no simple grain driers to meet the emergency. The market report of A.R.T.I. of 13.3.84, also lamented that the quality of rice coming to the market these days is below par, because of inadequate drying and lack of equipment for artificial drying. Of course, there is a grain drier advertised costing in the region of Rs. 200,000 a piece and as expensive to operate. This is beyond the "small scale operator—miller or grower alike". This is, once again a case of superlative thinking when our vision should not go beyond the two acre farming concept. Listen to our radio and read our mass media to realize the incongruity of what we preach to the masses compared to the reality.

Since we had this large quantity of corn, by our standards, we contacted the P.M.B. in Colombo who

asked us to contact the Regional Manager, PMB, Kurunegala. We did and he said the price was Rs. 3 per kilo and would arrange to confirm their purchase on Monday. True to the promise, a jeep load of officers came to the farm "to inspect the corn"... It may be that this was a rare occasion for them to be able to collect 2,000 kg. at one farming point, or may be they suspected a catch in the offer. Whatever may be the reason, "the group" wanted to inspect the corn. This was done and while each of the group took a handful of corn and munching away; one said, "there is some cheff". "It could be cleaned before delivery", said our man. Another said, "the seeds are not full, because there is a dent at the back of the seed". "It is a variety of corn called 'Dent' from America", said our man. Another said, "there is a fungus growth with black spots". It is also a variety called "pop" which has about 4 percent more moisture at the "seed end" than other varieties, also from the States, but there was a sun drying problem", explained our man. Only thing they did not ask to see the male and female end of a cob, if there is anything like that. Any way, the net result of the inspection was the corn offered was below standard and they were not interested. Our man inquired, "who set the standard". One officer explained that the PMB has a contract with the CARE to purchase corn on their behalf to manufacture a Baby food called Triposa to feed our babies—May be in keeping with the Swiss slogan "Grass for the cow, corn for man", a slogan given publicity in recent months.

If the corn is to feed our babies, and not the hogs as in USA, we must set up a high standard of purity, cleanliness and hygienic handling from the farm to the receptacle to feed the baby. We have to protect our babies. They are our investments for the future. This is laudable. To achieve this, we must educate our farmers and explain to them that the few cobs of corn they grow are to feed our babies and the corn should be processed to a high standard. This is the kind of extension work we need at the farm level. Instead, we tell the farmer how to get into debt season to season. The Agricultural Department etc., in turn must make available to the farmer simple village level implements, within his means to acquire as tools for his farming activities. The Government has to do this because our version of "Free Economy" does not attract the private sector for this kind of merchandise. Televisions, Computers, automatic rice cookers, stereo tape recorders and radio etc. Yet, they are in plenty and our marketing experts will fall over each other to sell these "gadgets" to our farmers when his need is a practical Mammotti.

In the absence of "appropriate farming tools" the farmer and his wife have to depend on their two hands and time available to process the few cobs they have raised. The wife in between suckling the baby—in keeping with another slogan we have coined for our down and under—"Mother's milk is the best for the baby" she has to remove the corn from the cob using

the Manna Katty or the "Giray". With this kind of operation, it is not possible to prepare corn to the specifications set out in the CARE offices in the States. Nevertheless, our officers are told to accept that standard and nothing else. The officers who go round the village areas to purchase corn, do not know that there are varieties of corn with different external characteristics and as many hybrids developed from these types for various "end uses". This was clear from the officers who came to inspect the corn. They were not aware that there are types called "Dent", "pop", "sweet", "flint" etc., each with visible characteristics to distinguish the type. This is the kind of service we offer to our farmers, and also levy a charge for it.

While all this discussion was going on with the jeep load of officers, "the village mason" was nearby doing a repair job to the Store. After they left, he inquired, "What did they say, Sir?" We explained that in their opinion the corn was no good and they were not interested in it. His question was, "To say that, why did five officers come in a Government vehicle all the way from Kurunegala". "Our Gamarala" could have done it. Instead we have to pay for the five men, their transport, their overtime, bata etc. This is why the price of a loaf of bread was raised by 30 cents a few weeks ago. We pay for this kind of "Bootha". The village mason has understood our economic problems better than our experts in their "Ivory towers".

It is now our problem. How to dispose of the corn? We contacted the local mudalali. His price is Rs. 2/25 per kilo. His offer is based on the standard set by the farmer. He knows what the farmer can do, how he does it, and why he does it so. He is not guided by the CARE standard... If the corn is delivered to a Colombo store, the price is Rs. 3/10 per kilo. That is the range of prices available—2/25, 3/00, 3/10. Speaking to the Mudalali, he says he has to clean, do some sun drying and keep in storage till he can collect a lorry load. His profit is around 25 cents per kilo. Cleaning and handling is around 05 cents per kg. and transport charge is around 30 cents per kg. which brings his price to about 2/85. He has to finance from the date of purchase up to the point he delivers to a Colombo stores. His financial charge for six months is about 15 cents, so we have Rs. 3 what the middle man can get for his deal. For the farmer Rs. 2/25 is very attractive, because he can get rid of the crop he has processed according to his understanding and facilities available to him and take the cash home immediately he delivers to the "shop". This is the biggest convenience the farmer has in the middle man whom we have classed as a worm in the village economic life. After our experience he is our saviour and he has a very pertinent role to play in the village economic life, compared to the several Niladarees who roam the country side under the pretext of helping the farmer to procure more. Unfortunately, the farmers

are "gagged today"—they never get a chance to complain so we all think that everything at the farm level is as it should be and believe in the glowing reports given publicity in the mass media. On these reports the officialdom thrives. On our part we collected our 4,500/- though we are down 1,700/- on the deal. That is farming in Sri Lanka and to boost it we are investing millions on Mahaveli development to continue in the same style—a farmer at subsistence level.

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MARGINALIA

Compiled By Scrutator

Terrorism

Foward. 1.5.1984.

The Government wants to kill several birds with one stone with its new claim that the "terrorists" of the north want to establish not merely Eelam but also a communist state. This claim is clearly connected with President Jayewardene's impending state visit to the USA. By pretending that what goes on here is not an ethnic dispute but part of an "international communist conspiracy", the government hopes to get from the Reagan administration the same sort of financial support and military back-up that this administration lavishes on the corrupt and despotic military oligarchies that are its puppets in central and South America. But the new slogan has a domestic angle as well. While launching a "limited war" in the north to suppress militarily the demand for self-determination among the Tamils, the government also seeks to isolate and destroy the Left movement and other forms of political opposition in the south by branding them as an adjunct and ally of northern "terrorism". Guided by the humane and scientific teachings of Marx, Engels and Lenin, the Left movement in our country has always opposed racism, insisted that a solution to ethnic problems should be sought through political dialogue and not through state or private terrorism, and upheld the democratic principle that nations have the right to determine their own future. But they differ profoundly from the northern "terrorist" groups whether led by Prabakaran, Uma Maheswaran or anyone else.

Marxism-Leninism has always condemned and repudiated terrorism as a means of revolutionary struggle. Terrorism seeks to substitute isolated adventures by small groups in place of organised mass political action and has thus always proved counter-productive. The great Lenin himself rejected the terrorism that his own brother had mistakenly followed and said: "That is not the way". Unlike the "terrorist" groups, Marxism-Leninism does not seek to separate the different nationalities of Sri Lanka but to unite them

firmly on the basis of equality and friendship. That is why it advocates that self-determination should be voluntarily exercised in such a way as not to disrupt the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, and has proposed regional autonomy for the Tamils in an undivided country. Anyone who reads the proclamations of the "terrorists" groups will see that, notwithstanding their occasional resort to Marxist-Leninist phrases, their essential policy has nothing to do with that great world outlook. Prabhakaran's LTTE, for instance, obliterates class differences among both the Tamils and the Sinhalese, regards the entire Sinhalese people as enemies and oppressors, and sees isolated and sporadic military attacks on the army and the assassination of political opponents as the main form of struggle. Although Uma Maheswaran's group declares that its fundamental aim is not separatism but socialist revolution throughout Sri Lanka, it continues to make Eelam its main political demand and harbours the unrealistic and quixotic notion of a "revolutionary" north liberating a reactionary south by armed forces.

The appeal of both the President and the Minister of National Security to the "terrorist" groups to lay down their arms under promise of an amnesty will only be taken seriously if accompanied by a credible effort on the part of the government to find a political solution to the Tamil problem. Neither the killing of uninvolved civilians in army shoot-outs in the north nor even more draconian amendments to the abominable "Prevention of Terrorism Act" can help to do so. The government should also realise that a "political solution" must be one which reasonable people in all communities will accept, and not merely the grudging, last ditch concession of the most racist section of the majority community.

DO NOT FORGET THE COMMON ENEMY

Saturday Review, April 14-21, 1984.

The dangers of delaying to find a political solution to the National Question were underscored poignantly by the tragic events in Jaffna this week. Many lives were lost, some of them of innocent people, quite a number of others were injured, while considerable damage was caused to property in the space of just three days. We condemn violence in all its manifestations and from all quarters. Violence only adds more misery to a world already filled with misery. But is it not a fact of recent political history that minority groups, or sections of them, resort to violence only as a last resort, when all peaceful and democratic options open to them are exhausted? How far is this true of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority? We leave it to readers to think out the answer for themselves, in the context of the events that have taken place in our country since Independence, and particularly since 1956. Any honest appraisal of the situation could

lead to only one conclusion the same conclusion to which loud expression was given in the United National Party election manifesto of 1977 and repeated thereafter by President Jayewardene—that the Tamils are a community with certain grievances relating to the use of their language, education, employment and land settlement.

Starting from this point, the UNP Government should have gone on quickly to redress these grievances. Instead we as a nation have got embroiled in continued communal conflict. In the process, we seem to have virtually lost sight of and the grip on our common enemy: our pitiable economic under-development and the social tensions generated by it. It has been acknowledged by many people that the violence in the North is partly, if not wholly, rooted in socio-economic causes. With education and job opportunities diminishing every day, a blank wall has begun to loom larger and larger before ever growing numbers of Tamil children.

The Tamil youth can no longer be fobbed off with the excuse that there are similar problems in the South. What sections of them are saying in effect is: "If you (the Sinhalese-dominated Government) cannot solve our problems, then allow us to try to solve them our own way". The Economic Question is the inseparable twin of the National Question. To ignore the one in order to deal with the other is a suicidal policy. Decisive action on the economic front will make the political resolution of the National Question a more feasible proposition. This, and the fact that the "military approach" will never succeed, is the message that the *SATURDAY REVIEW* has been trying to convey since its inception two years ago to the opinion and decision makers in the South. Would that they, even now, wake up to their senses! Thursday and Friday passed off comparatively peacefully, with the security forces called upon to keep a stern eye on curfew violators. Friday, 13th April, incidentally, was the traditional Sinhala and Tamil New Year. While there was gloom in the North. The curfew was relaxed on Thursday—it began operating only at 4 p.m.—to give an opportunity to people to make purchases for the New Year. But most shops remained closed and those that were open had little to sell; most owners had removed their goods for safety. Even people living in "vulnerable areas", like Station Road, shifted to what they believed were more safer areas. "What the hell was going to happen next?" appeared to be the thought in every person's mind as fear and anxiety gripped the town. The New Year came and went. Quite quietly. Not a single cracker burst was heard anywhere in Jaffna. That was the Week That was.

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President's Address

to the Planters at Nuwara Eliya,
April, 19, 1984.

Hon. Ministers, His Worship the Mayor, Chairman of the Janatha Estates Development Board, the Government Agent and Gentlemen. The Hon. Minister said the six year term of this Government begins this year, unless of course we have another successful referendum, which I am not in favour of. We are a practicing and as somebody said, a vibrant democracy. Even to extend the life of Parliament, unlike under the previous Government, you have to get the consent of the people, and they have to vote 50 percent plus one, for the referendum to be successful. We embodied all these safeguards, in the new constitution, so that people who are dictatorship-minded, cannot by a 2/3rd majority, extend the life of the Parliament. If the people wish, they can.

I thought of mentioning that to you because many of the speeches made by the Opposition, seem to say that our Government is tending to a dictatorship, which is completely, wrong. We have freedom of speech, freedom of meeting, freedom to strike, freedom of opposition and all the freedoms that are consistent with working democracy throughout the world. We also intend to have by-elections, to some of the seats that are vacant. Our main problem is however, the existence of terrorism, particularly in the North, and in the East.

TERRORISM is a new phenomenon in the world. Specially after the second World War, terrorism has the means firstly, of political achievement, and secondly as a way of life, has become fashionable. You read in the papers today of terrorists in London, who have killed a young police officer when the Libyan Embassy was attacked. You read of acts by the Irish Republican Army not only in North Ireland, but in London. You read of terrorism in India. The Punjab is today unfortunately, in the throes of a terrorist revolution. So we are not isolated in this matter, and the Government has been trying for the last few years, to contain terrorism and to completely eliminate it. I read in the newspapers that Mrs. Bandaranayake who was Prime Minister of this country for several years has said that if she is given charge of the Government, or if she is made Minister of National Security, she will stop terrorism in a few weeks. That is a very easy thing to say. If she wishes, I will export her to Ireland, or to India. Let us see whether she can curb terrorism in those countries as quickly as she says she can curb it in Sri Lanka. I think responsible leaders should not make statements like that. The whole world is trying to see whether they can do away with terrorism, ton

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only in the countries I mentioned, but in practically every country. I think people should be more careful in what they say.

ONE OF THE LEADERS of the Opposition has said that he will subsidise all essential food stuffs. That is also an impossible task. Today we are spending Rs. 2 Billion a year in providing food stamps. We thought food stamps were a better way of subsidising the essentials that people need, than attaching it to rice or flour, or something else, because the value of that article keeps on changing, and we would then have to increase our subsidies. Rs. 2 Billion we provide to those who earn less than Rs. 300/- a month.—a very small income undoubtedly,—but there are 7 million people in our country, who are entitled to obtain food stamps. So you realise the poverty that exists in our land. 7 Million people who do not earn Rs. 300/- a month, which is a very paltry sum compared to the rising cost of articles that an individual or a family has to buy. I thought I should tell you that the main object of our Government has been, since we formed it in 1977, to see how fast and how wide, we can inaugurate our policies, to create more and more employment. The only way we thought, we could meet the increasing cost of living, is to see that more and more employment. Employment is made available to our youths, both male and female, and that they obtain an adequate salary. Those are two matters in which to some extent, we have been successful. Throughout Europe, and throughout the developed world, unemployment is increasing. In Europe, alone, there are 27 million unemployed, and they do not know how to create more and more employment, but owing to the wealth of those countries, owing to the wealth of all the developed nations, they are able to keep unemployed people happy, because of the Welfare State they have created. In America, sometime ago there were soup kitchens, to feed the unemployed. Unfortunately, our country is a poor country, and we cannot afford either to subsidise essential items of food, nor can we subsidise those who are unemployed. All we can do is to develop our country as in the integrated Mahaweli Scheme to create more and more employment. That has been the main object of our Government.

IT IS ABSURD to say that you must subsidise food stuffs so that the Cost of Living will be brought down. I do not think our Government, or any Government, or a combination of parties forming a Government can bring the Cost of Living down in the present context of the world economy. I need not go into details why the Cost of Living went up, since 1977, but one major factor has been the rise in the cost of oil. It has created repercussions.—Chain reactions throughout the world and because of that, there has been a rise in practically all the items that we import into our country. Because of that, the production of our tea has gone up in price, the production of rice has gone

up in price, the production of all our factories has gone up in price, and no one in the world, with their theories, or combination of theories can reduce that. Therefore, gentlemen, you represent one of the more intellectual aspects of our economy, I think wherever you go, in your clubs, and in your factories and in your estates, kindly talk to people, and say 'There is one thing no Government can do. That is to bring down the Cost of Living'. There is another thing that no Government can do just now. That is to suppress and eliminate terrorism, unless you take a long term plan, as we are trying to do today. *There is another thing that no Government can do. It is to curb to some extent, the rising lawlessness in our country. It is happening throughout the world. If you open a newspaper today in London, if you open a newspaper in America, if you open a newspaper in India, lawlessness is becoming more and more a matter of daily happening. I do not know why it is so. It may be the influence of the television. It may be the influence of unemployed in Europe. It may be that people think differently today. The youth of our country think differently today. I do not know. No body has been able to analyse it.*

THEY ARE STUDYING it in America. They are studying it in England. They are studying it in all the developed nations. I am not talking of developing nations, because they have so much poverty in Africa, so much poverty in South America, in Central America, in Asia, that it may be due to poverty, that people are taking to crime and lawlessness, but in the developed nations, there is no reason why this should take place, but it is taking place and it is spreading to our country. We have an intention to take several measures to try and at least curb the lawlessness that is prevailing here. We have to improve and increase our police services, we must try and find employment for our people. We must try in our educational system to turn out a more educated and law abiding citizens. We must help our various religions, specially the Sangha because they comprise 70 percent of our population—the Buddhists. We must help them to meet and talk and influence our younger generation. We are doing that and I think because of that lawlessness is not keeping pace with lawlessness in several parts of the world, and I do feel if we are able to curb terrorism in the North, and East, a lot of this might die out and completely disappear. When they read in the newspapers that 30 railway stations have been attached and destroyed in the Punjab, it gives ideas to our people. When they read in the newspapers, that a letter bomb was sent to the Prime Minister of England, some time ago, or would be sent, they try to practice it out here. When they read in the newspapers of how people were attacked in the Punjab or in the Assam or in some other part of India, they think why should we not do it here. When they read in the newspapers that a bus was hijacked in Israel, and that appears on the T.V.—we cannot stop it ourselves—they feel 'why should we not do it here

When they read in the newspapers, that a child was kidnapped in some part of the world, they are wondering, 'why should we not do it here'.

YOU CANNOT STOP THIS in the world today. The distribution of news through the newspapers, through the radio, through the television, has become part and parcel of life throughout the world. I think the International Organisations, should meet and discuss how this lawlessness spreading through the world can be curbed and contained and in our own land, as I mention to you, these are some of the steps that we are taking. *We had an outbreak of lawlessness in July last year. It is a tragic event in our lives. I cannot understand why human beings in Colombo should seek to destroy innocent citizens because they are Tamils, and because some people have been attacked and destroyed and killed in Jaffna. It was a blot in the history of our country and throughout the world. They began to criticise the Government, and the Sinhala People and the Buddhists, though those who did it were a very small segment of our society. I hope and trust and everything we can do, we will do, to prevent such an occurrence in the future.*

It happened on your estates, much less this time than previously, and we are taking some steps—you are all aware of them,—to try and see that it does not happen again. We are trying to form—if I may say so,—Volunteer Corps, on the estates, but I do not think that is the proper solution because by the time a Planter gets into his uniform, by the time he cleans and lils his gun, and gets into the field with that rifle, the damage would be done. Villagers, some of whom are criminals, threaten to come into an estate, assault the labourers and steal money, steal some goats or cows, steal some jewellery, and some eggs, and run away with whatever they can find. and the employee on your estate, is by and large, a very timid man. They run away and hide in the jungle and do not come out for several days. Therefore, we thought the best way would be to organise the employees themselves, 200 or 300 people, at the sound of a bell, or alarm, getting together, arming themselves with their normal kitchen utensils, a few stones, with a mamoty, with some other wooden weapons, 200 or 300 of them, would be a formidable foe to meet the terrorists, who come to attack them, and I think they will not come. If you have your alarms, if you have your alerts, and see that you are ready, I do not think a single estate would be attacked in the future.

Please, I would ask you gentlemen, help your employees to get together to arm themselves, not with lethal weapons, not with knives, and with guns and revolvers, but with whatever utensils they have in their houses. 200 or 300 Showing, 'If you come here, we will meet you in the same way that you are going to meet us'. *I do not think they will come and one of the blots in our history and in our civilization will be done*

away with if not a single estate employee is attacked in the future. If they know that, I am sure they will co-operate more fully with you, and I doubt whether they will co-operate with those who want strikes in the future.

THOSE ARE SOME of the things I thought I might speak to you today, you gentlemen who have come from the Central Province, from the Uva Province, except the Matale District, you are, I think, the back bone of our Tea Industry. About 10 years ago, our estates were nationalised,—a very important and crucial step in our development. We have today in the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation and the Janatha Estates Development Board, two of the biggest multi-nationals in the world. Please remember that. They, I think, have a turn out of about Rs. 10 Billion a year, which is equal to any of the great multi-nationals in the world. They have an employment figure of 500,000. I do not think a single multi-national in the world has even half that. They have an acreage of about 500,000 acres, in tea, rubber and coconut, which they manage. This small island, Sri Lanka, therefore, has two of the biggest multi-nationals in the world. They are, I think, the way they are conducted today, the way they are managed today, are an example and a credit to our people. I am proud to be the Head of a Government, which owns on behalf of the people these two multi-nationals, and I do feel that unless the estates were nationalised, not in the way they were done, they may have been done differently, a lot of the estates under private ownership, with the cost of production going up, would not have been able to function for long. They would have had to close down as is happening today in many parts of Sri Lanka. Therefore, nationalisation, whether it was for that purpose or not, it, so started, was something that was helpful to our economy, and you are today the mainstay of our Budget.

The Minister of Finance takes, I think, 80 percent of what we earn. Fortunately, because the price of tea has gone up, and rubber has gone up, and coconut also went up sometime ago, we have sufficient for rehabilitation, and with the help of the world bank, we will be starting possibly the biggest rehabilitation scheme that these estates had in the last 125 years. 125 Years ago, tea was introduced into this country. It was sometime later, that rubber was introduced. Tea, rubber and coconut are the mainstay of our country. We export them and earn our foreign exchange. Therefore, we must realise that during the 125 years, specially after nationalisation, conditions have changed to a vast extent. We cannot even imagine, how conditions have changed. They are going to change even more so in the future, in the years to come. The relationship between the employer and employee, as the Minister pointed out,—I am not going to talk of Trade Unions because I am meeting the workers in the evening, the relationship between the employer and

the employees, I can see, is greatly changing, and the two Unions that are acting on behalf of the employees the Union headed by Mr. Thondaman, and the Union, headed by Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, have been very co-operative with the employer and have been very co-operative to the United National Party, to which I belong, because I think, the majority of them voted for us, and they are also very much opposed to Eelam, and the separation of this country into segments. We are grateful for that, and I hope whether they are Sinhalese or Tamils, or Muslims, they will keep that way, and support the Government of the day in the future to come.

Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad I have had the chance of speaking to you these few words, I wish you would express yourselves now, and ask us any questions that are bothering you or worrying you or which you like to ask from the Government of the day. When I came here I was told that there are in addition to the tea, rubber and coconut industries in this country, in this town of Nuwara Eliya, other industries which the Minister has started. One of them is making eye-lashes. I have seen some very attractive eye-lashes in the Flower Show that the Mayor organised, and I thought that they were from this factory, but the Government Agent says that all eye-lashes made here are exported. I think they should change that and allow the people of Nuwara Eliya, the women, to buy these eye-lashes and I would recommend to the District Minister, Mrs. Renuka She does not need them that some of the eye-lashes,—at least the bad ones, should be allowed to be purchased by the ladies of Nuwara Eliya. So gentlemen, we have come to a very important stage in our development I do feel, that very soon we will be able to curb and stop terrorism.

I do feel that the Indian Government, the Central Government of India, is sympathetic to us in the sense that they are not for terrorism, they are not for separation of this country into two or three segments and they are for the Government of Sri Lanka because it is a democracy, and any disturbance of our freedom would mean elimination of democracy and the letting loose of anarchism in our country. I do not think certainly Mrs. Gandhi would advocate or help in such an endeavour. I am happy that I have been able to pay this tribute to the Central Government of India, particularly Mrs. Gandhi, who was met by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, the Minister of National Security, a few days ago, and his message conveyed to us—and I think he will make a statement in Parliament,—is that the Central Government of India,—I cannot say the same of some of these State Governments,—the Central Government of India, is sympathetic and friendly to the Government of our country, and to the people of our country, This tribute I would like to pay to her.

I would not talk much longer but to say that your Member of Parliament Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, and your District Minister, Mrs. Renuka Ranaweera, and your Government Agent, are people who are interested in the welfare of Nuwara Eliya, and whatever we can do to improve the conditions of people living in this part of the island, and I have been to Nuwara Eliya, since I was eight months old, longer than any one of you, in 1907, and I have paid regular visits with my parents in the holiday season, so no one can say that I am unused to Nuwara Eliya, a large portion of which used to belong to members of my family, which does not happen now, it belongs to Mr. Gamini Dissanayake now, as the Member of the area, so Nuwara Eliya is not strange to me. It occupies a place in my heart and I wish that you gentlemen who come from Nuwara Eliya, and from the surrounding hill country, will do your duty, as I have no doubt you will have done in the past, for the welfare of our people, the welfare of our plantations, and for the welfare of the people who are working on our estates.

Thank you for coming here in such numbers and I wish you well now, and in the future.

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MORE VITAL THAN EVER

A Negotiated Settlement — C R D

It is therefore apparent to all members of CRD and we hope, the public at large, that the only way in which we can avert a national disaster is through a negotiated political solution. The spectre that is haunting Sri Lanka especially since the publication of the India Today article, makes it more imperative than ever before that such a political solution be reached. Such a solution should be acceptable to moderate opinion among both Sinhalese and Tamils and which would therefore be more likely to be endorsed by the Government of India. It is our belief that Annexure "C" (re the 14 points amounting to regional autonomy) presented by the President to the All Party Conference provides the framework for a solution of this nature. It is only after such a solution has been negotiated that other issues relating to national and regional security can be resolved. It is also CRD'S contention that we should not take for granted that the Sinhala and Tamil people are incapable of accepting new solutions to Ethnic conflict. It is our belief that if the political, social and educational resources of the State, religious institutions, the media and NGO's are mobilised in support of a political solution, the task of convincing popular opinion can be successfully accomplished. What is needed is the realisation by policy-makers and intellectuals of the enormity of the

crisis we are facing and courageous and farsighted and imaginative political leadership.

OUR PAST COMMITMENT to non-alignment has given us international prestige all the more remarkable because we are a small country. Non alignment was also the foreign policy which allowed Sri Lanka to maximize its independence. Sri Lanka's strong commitment to non-alignment ensured that the Indian Government did not perceive a threat to security on her Southern flank. Any foreign policy which heightens India's threat perception will only increase our own insecurity and our national vulnerabilities. In addition, in 1971 our commitment to non-alignment helped secure aid and assistance from diverse countries and also ensured that rebel forces would not receive assistance from any major power-bloc. By treading the "Middle Path", we were able to contain our national conflict without international implications. "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Trincomalee"—alignment does not pay.

BUT WILL THE AMERICANS COME? Of what vital interest is Sri Lanka to the United States that it would be willing to antagonize the second largest nation in Asia? Since Vietnam, the US has been treading warily as regards military commitment even in its backyard in Central America and in the regions such as the Middle East where its strategic interests are intimately involved. Whether from New York to Colombo or from Los Angeles to Colombo, Sri Lanka remains one of the furthest points. Even President Reagan, who represents some of the most hawkish elements in American foreign policy, has been compelled to pull Marines out of Lebanon and to refrain from all-out involvement in Central America because of the pressures of powerful sections of Congress and of American public opinion. It is therefore inconceivable that the reliance on American security commitment should be the basis of our defence or our foreign policy. Further, we must also ask ourselves whether a sudden leap into the American camp will not lead the government into an identification with foreign interests that contributed to the downfall of the Shah of Iran, Anwar Sadat in Egypt and is undermining Marcos in the Philippines. It is fair to assume that there remain strong nationalist elements which would find an American alliance unacceptable as an erosion of national sovereignty and would therefore reject it even as a defence against India. The short-term benefits of large-scale military aid (even if it were forthcoming) may in the long run lead to disaster what is being called "the Khomeini Syndrome". The American embrace may quickly turn into the "kiss of death" delegitimizing rulers and alienating them from the people.

Concluded

TRIBUNE, MAY 12, 1984

April 6- 15

**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.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6: The cost of living index in March has registered an increase of 8.5 points, moving up to 542.1 from 533.6 a month earlier, the Director of Census and Statistics announced. The Senate refused today to ban the sending of US combat forces to El Salvador but Democrats expressed concern that troops could be used there before Congress was consulted—*DN*. As the plantation strike continues, negotiations to settle the strike which runs into the sixth day today took a new turn late last evening when the striking unions suggested an interim formula to call off the strike—*DM*. For the first time in the history of the nation the Mahaweli waters will be impounded when the Victoria Dam at Teldeniya is sealed in a ceremony tomorrow; President Jayewardene will participate in tomorrow's ceremonies on the invitation of Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister in charge of Mahaweli development—*DO*. The intensity of the estate strike which commenced on April 2 is diminishing gradually as more and more estate workers report to work each day. A three-nation international consortium and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation will enter into a joint venture to rehabilitate the China Bay Tank Farm and upgrade it as an International Storage complex, it was officially announced yesterday—*SU*. The Lok Sabha in New Delhi will have a special discussion today on the reported decision of the Sri Lanka Government to impose military rule in Jaffna and the renewed spate of killings of Tamilians of Indian origin there, All India Radio announced last night. The TULF Secretary-General Mr. A. Amirthalingam today urged the Indian Government to take "some initiative" to avert the impending disaster facing the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., (Lake House) has recorded a drop in circulation of their daily newspaper and five of the eight periodicals in 1982; the annual report of the ANCL for 1982 states that "although the value of sales had increased as a result of the increase in selling prices, the volume of sales in respect of the newspapers and five out of the eight periodicals in circulation during the current year has decreased as compared to the previous year"—*S*. The refugees in the Welfare Centres in Colombo are

undergoing hardships as a result of the doctors who were there have since been withdrawn; thirty refugees who developed small pox have been admitted to the Angoda Hospital—*VK*.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7: Reports reaching the tea trade in Colombo indicated an improved turn-out of workers in the strike bound plantation areas yesterday, but the strike itself was continuing. Syria and Lebanon are planning summit talks next week to seek a Lebanese political settlement that eluded the country's warring factions at a reconciliation conference in Europe—*DN*. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning proposed the setting up of a joint committee for economic co-operation between Sri Lanka and China to further strengthen and broaden the scope of present economic relations between the two countries in talks with Mr. Wang Bingqian, Minister of Finance of China—*DM*. Further wage increases to plantation workers would be examined by a committee which will include members of trade unions, government announced yesterday. Agricultural Insurance Board Chairman Harry Guneratne said yesterday that around 75 percent of the farmers who have insured against crop damage will be granted insurance before the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. Armed men attacked prison officers and forcibly opened a court remand cell in Jaffna, where 10 prisoners were being kept and freed some of them around 8.45 a.m. yesterday. The waters of the Mahaweli will be impounded today in a historic ceremony where the Victoria dam at Teldeniya will be closed—*SU*. Further negotiations towards a settlement of the six-day old Plantation workers strike will be held between representatives of Trade Unions and the Plantation Boards of Management in Colombo on Monday. The plantation workers strike will not result in a great deal of damage to Sri Lanka's tea crop for the month of April, according to Colombo's tea trade. A joint request by the General Secretary of the TULF Mr. A. Amirthalingam and General Secretary of the ACTC Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam has been made to President Jayewardene to convene the All Party Conference immediately in view of the uncertain situation in the country at present—*VK*.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8: The Minister of Agriculture Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya said that the Ministry is stepping up all programmes to increase rice production in the coming Yala season this year. Sri Lanka has made a request to India to have a joint probe into the news report in the *India Today* on the question of terrorist training camps in Tamil Nadu but has received no response yet, according to Government authorities. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday requested the opposition parties not only to talk of the wrong things done by the government but also pay heed to the good work done by it—*SO*. The government will launch a major crack-down on the smuggling into the country of video cassettes some of which made in South India depict the terrorists as heroes. The government has firmly told plantation workers unions that no further

discussions will be held till the workers on strike resumed work—*ST*. In a personal message sent to President J. R. Jayewardene, the Indian Premier, Mrs. Indira Gandhi has emphasised her assertion that the Government of India firmly stood for the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka; the letter was handed over to President Jayewardene on Thursday by India's High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Sri S. J. S. Chatwal. The Sri Lanka Navy had detained eight Indian fishing vessels in Lanka's territorial waters of which four have been released following the intervention of the Indian High Commissioner. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is expected to sign the joint venture agreement for the China Bay Tank Farm with a three nation international consortium on Tuesday. Sri Lanka's ambassador to the UAE has urged more physiological training for housemaids coming there for employment to enable them to adapt themselves to the change in environment—*WK*. Angered Sri Lankans living in Britain and Europe were scheduled to stage a massive protest before the Sri Lanka High Commission in London yesterday and today in protest against the High Commission's failure to take any form of action to counter the vicious vilification campaign that has been launched against Sri Lanka in Britain. Geuda irradiators continue to ruin the Hospital by night; but the authorities at the hospital appear to be incapable of moving against these miscreants for fear of reprisals. A series of amendments to widen the scope of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, including the mandatory provision of making the armed services hand over persons arrested by them to the Police within 24 hours are to be moved by Parliament shortly—*/S*.

MONDAY, APR/L 9: The tea price boom has catalysed an alarming increase in Sri Lanka's money supply with a money growth rate of 24 percent now recorded. Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel told the *Daily News* before his departure for China. Sustained fighting in and around Beirut has wrecked a fragile ceasefire and dealt a blow to hopes for political agreement between Lebanon's warring Christian and Moslem factions—*DN*. Indifference and downright carelessness by personnel attached to two key Sri Lankan missions abroad is allegedly undoing all the image-building the Government has achieved following last July's disturbances; cables, letters, telephone calls are besieging Colombo from patriotic Sri Lankans living in Paris and London that Sri Lanka's image is once again on the downward trend with little or nothing being done to avert the situation by promptly correcting adverse media publicity—*DM*. The Marketing Department will provide adequate stocks of dry provisions inclusive of Masoor Dhal and Bombay Onions, vegetable and coconuts to consumers through its 243 outlets in view of the Sinhala and Hindu New Year—*DO*. The Executive Committee of the Ceylon Mercantile Union which considered the strike of plantation workers which began on 2nd April 1984, has decided to express its solidarity with the workers on strike. The Government in a bid to strengthen Parliamentary control over Public Finance is expected to adopt a series of new

measures giving more teeth to the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Public Enterprises—*/S*. A co-ordinated masterplan for the improvement of road and rail transport is to be drawn up by a special committee appointed by Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed. As the plantation strike entered its second week, the Ceylon Workers' Congress, the major participant reiterated its threat to continue the agitation until its demands were met. The Labour Ministry is to draw up a plan to re-employ more than 3,000 employees of 95 factories affected by the ethnic violence of July 1983, after conducting a study to ascertain the action being taken to commence production—*SU*. Three left parties are to join the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party of former Minister T. B. Illangaratne (President) and actor Vijaya Kumaranatunge, (General Secretary) in celebrating May Day this year—*VK*. An agreement between Sri Lanka and Russia for the exchange of cultural and scientific affairs was signed today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—*DP*.

TUESDAY, APR/L 10: The government has taken a policy decision not to lease out any islands within Sri Lanka's territorial waters, the Land Commissioner has told the GA Trincomalee. Peking remained silent today about a Chinese attacking force reported by Hanoi to have struck across the border into Vietnam on Friday, but the Vietnamese said the invading troops were repulsed with heavy losses—*DN*. People through out the country who are getting ready to enjoy the Sinhala New Year time are highly perturbed over the prevailing scarcities and soaring prices of essential consumer items at the Co-operatives and CWE retail outlets—*DM*. Saudi Arabia has agreed to employ more Sri Lankans in its ports. The Ministry of National Security is now making arrangements to send Sri Lankans for employment in Saudi Arabia; selections will be made from among those already working at the Sri Lanka Ports Authority; nearly 2,000 employees will be sent out in the first batch—*DO*. A safe containing more than Rs. 239,000 was robbed from the Salu Sala branch in Kandy on Saturday night by armed men. Prevention of Terrorism hitherto handled by the Minister of Defence has been made the exclusive function of the Minister of National Security under Article 44 of the Constitution. The Janatha Estate Development Board and the State Plantations Corporation estates have reported a steady improvement in the numbers of workers reporting to work, even as the Ceylon Workers' Congress stood by its decision to continue the strike until its demands were met—*SU*. Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel is to impose several tough measures to bring about a 20 percent cut in the capital expenditure budget of 1984. The Minister of National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday that seven soldiers sustained injuries when an Army Patrol of 25 soldiers were ambushed by terrorists in Jaffna at 2 p.m. yesterday. If the proscription on the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna is lifted, its leaders would offer themselves for interrogation to the CID, leader of the JVP Rohana Wijeweera has said in a letter purported to have been sent to the Prime Minister—*/S*. President J. R. Jayewardene is

expected to send Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of National Security to New Delhi as Sri Lanka's special envoy; he is expected to leave for New Delhi after the New Year—VK.

WEDNESDAY, APR/L 11: Coconut production in January dropped by 32 million nuts—a decline of 18 percent as against the same period last year, Central Bank news survey reveals. Vietnam today levelled new charges denied by Peking—that Chinese troops had entered its territory on the weekend, while western diplomats in Hanoi linked the reported clashes on the two countries' common border with current fighting in nearby Kampuchea—DN. Foreigners found to be in possession of narcotics will henceforth be held in the Slave Island detention camp, their passports confiscated, Interpol informed and their country and relations alerted; this was revealed by reliable sources—DM. There were no incidents reported in the North during the curfew hours which were in operation from noon yesterday till 6 a.m. today; when the curfew was lifted buses piled and people resumed work—DO. Armed terrorists yesterday robbed more than 1.2 million rupees in cash from the Jaffna, Stanley Road branch of the Bank of Ceylon, before setting fire to a section of the bank. Government is considering a proposal for the setting up of an independent commission to handle disciplinary matters and transfers of police officers. The ten-day-old estate strike which commenced on April 2 was called off yesterday when the government announced a wage increase of two rupees per day for men and women employed on the plantations—SU. Several international organisations assisting the Northern terrorists would not stop at merely setting up an Eelam State but they would go all out to create a communist state here, said President J. R. Jayewardene at a UNP rally at Borella. A three member committee has been appointed to inquire and report on the alleged complaints against five Parliamentary Members of the United National Party—/S.

THURSDAY, APR/L 12: Although the actual loss to the economy caused by the nine-day strike on the plantations has not been quantified as yet, official sources estimated that the loss per day would be close to the Rs. 30 million mark. Non-oil-exporting developing countries will have to pay five to six billion dollars more interest on their debts during 1984 even without counting arrears from past years, the OECD said yesterday—DN. A special surveillance zone covering a huge area of the north western and north eastern coasts has been established effective midnight yesterday and any vessel operating outside the zone will be subject to attack by Sri Lanka's naval and military forces—DM. Three cabinet ministers made an on-the-spot check on the Department of Immigration and Emigration yesterday to ascertain for themselves the state of this key institution which has been the subject of seething public discontent and criticism recently. The aim of terrorist action in the north is to stage a communist revolution and overthrow the democratic form of Government, Cabinet spokesman and State Minister, Anandatissa de Alwis said yesterday. As thousands of estate workers

returned to work yesterday morning, tea prices also picked up with an all time record price being obtained by the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation at Tuesday's auctions in Colombo. Nomination day for the Kundasale by-election has been postponed through a gazette notification issued by President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday—SU. 35 More terrorists were killed when an attack was made on the Naga Vihara yesterday, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told *The Island* when contacted last night; he said that the army fired at terrorists who attacked the temple with bombs and 35 had died, bringing the total of terrorists killed so far this week to 57. The Tamil United Liberation Front has expressed its shock over the escalation of violence in the North and have called upon all parties concerned to exercise restraint. The Democratic Workers' Congress is not happy at the settlement because on the question of quantum of wage increase, the proposal of the Wages Board for a change in the cost of living allowance system has not been co-related, states a press release of the DWC—/S.

FR/DA, APR/L 13: The talk of American involvement in the Trincomalee tank farm deal was dismissed by Industries Minister Cyril Mathew as a red herring interested parties had drawn to block the development of the Trincomalee port. Vietnamese tanks and heavy artillery have rolled close to an Anti-Hanoi resistance base on the Kampuchean-Thai border; high-ranking Thai military sources confirmed today, as the Khmer Rouge claimed they recently briefly occupied a town in western Kampuchea—DN. Sri Lanka will arm its fleet of fishing trawlers to secure the surveillance zone established on Tuesday midnight to supplement a fleet of heavily armed gunboats; a number of GPMGs will be the type of heavy calibre guns to arm selected fishing trawlers—DM. National Security Affairs Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, President J. R. Jayewardene's special envoy to India meets Indian Premier Indira Gandhi in New Delhi today for crucial talks intended to clear misunderstandings between the two countries. The Sri Lanka Tea Board has been taken to task by the Parliamentary Committee on Public Enterprises for over-expenditure and avoidable losses—SU. Authoritative Government sources said yesterday that Minister of National Security, Lalith Athulathmudali, is expected to raise a number of pertinent question in India; Mr. Athulathmudali who left for New Delhi yesterday morning will meet Mrs. Indira Gandhi and senior Government Ministers, including Mr. G. Parthasarathi during his visit there. The United May Day rally of the four parties—the LSSP, the CP, the MEP and the SLMP will be held at Campbell Park while the SLFP and the UNP rallies will be held at Hyde Park and Galle Face Green respectively. Industries and Scientific Affairs Minister Cyril Mathew said yesterday that the development of the Trincomalee oil tank farm had been delayed for the past six years because of political opposition—/S. For the third day yesterday curfew was imposed in the Municipal area of Jaffna; however four hours had been reduced in the curfew—DP.

SUNDAY, APR/L 15. Sri Lanka President J. R. Jayewardene has accused India of bullying and warned New Delhi to end support for the island's main Tamil political party. Despite the spate of incidents in the Jaffna peninsula last week, the government was successfully able to contain the situation and prevent countrywide outbursts of violence. Yesterday's *Time* informed millions of its readers in Britain and the world over that there seems to be very little chance that a Tamil Eelam army—even if trained in India—could hold off the regular government forces—*SO*. National Security Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali said that the Government has given him a "free hand" to negotiate, discuss and clear up matters with the Indian political leadership with regard to happenings in Sri Lanka during the past few weeks. All Sri Lanka Passport holders who travel to the Saudi Kingdom will have to fly only on Airlanka or Saudi Airlines in future; this is a sequel to Saudi Airlines commencing its weekly service to Sri Lanka from last Friday—*ST*. The Trincomalee tank farm has been leased out purely for commercial activity and the agreement entered into with the foreign consortium specifically prohibits the supply of oil to any customer who may use it for military purposes, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Chairman Daham Wimalasena told *Weekend*. President J. R. Jayewardene has accepted in principle the appointment of a National Salaries Commission to review the salaries of corporation and public sector employees—*WK*. Minister of Agricultural Development and Research Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya has warned the government that the proposed 4 per cent expenditure cut in the agricultural ministry would seriously disorganise the functioning of the all-important Department of Agriculture, according to informed sources. An Assistant Director of the Land Reforms Commission who was produced before the Colombo Magistrate last week on a bribery charge was remanded. Assistant Government Agents and Grama Sevakas in the Vavuniya district have been directed to keep close watch on the student population there who have left their homes on various pretexts during the school vacation—*/S*.



EEC ASKED TO ENSURE

Aid Flow to Developing Countries

Brussels. The EEC has been urged by an European Parliament resolution to adopt a comprehensive "programme for European economic recovery". Al-

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though a large part of the programme analyses the EEC's internal economic dynamics and its relation with industrialized market economies, policy options towards developing countries are also considered in depth. The programme, drawn up by Belgian Euro-MP Fernand Herman, points to the effects of the recession in developing countries and concludes that preventing further deterioration in their trading and financial position is of "vital importance" to the EEC's own recovery. The programme calls for a sufficient flow of resources to developing countries, notably in the form of public development aids, and open frontiers on the part of the EEC, if required through the extension of specialized tariffs. The resolution, authored by Sir Fred Warner, a British Euro-MP, supports strengthening the trading capacity of developing countries through the international credit system and welcomes closer co-operation between commercial banks, GATT, the IMF and the World Bank.

A study should be made of means to improve the flow of direct equity investment to the Third World, while safeguarding their interests and economic independence. The resolution also calls for a further analysis of the investment balance between developing and industrialized countries. According to the resolution, a fall in interest rates is of paramount importance to the recovery of Third World creditworthiness. EEC member states need to renew their efforts to convince the US about this. The Warner report, which is to be submitted to the European Commission, the IMF, the World Bank and other international institutions, calls for stabilizing exchange rate movements through limited, co-ordinated intervention, and by promoting monetary convergence.

Meanwhile, there is an urgent need for increasing developing country's energy production. The best way to this is an international financing and guarantee system to cover investors. The programme recommends that the European Investment Bank, the EEC's soft loan bank for long term finance lend towards the energy and "suitable technologies" sector in the Third World. Side by side, the EEC should step up efforts for stabilizing export earnings of developing countries. The programme calls for a common EEC approach for increasing SDR allocation from the IMF and says that global financial reform ought to be accompanied by augmenting the resources of both the IMF and the World Bank. Another resolution adopted at the same session, urges EEC member governments to support the World Bank and the IMF, and to consider direct bilateral support to debtor countries when IMF lending criteria clash with political factors—*PTI*.

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PERSPECTIVES ON

Central America

By George D. Moffett

Washington. Whatever may be said of the substantive contribution of the Kissinger commission to the debate

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over Central America policy, it has left two *political* problems unresolved. There is evidence that the report has failed to produce a desired consensus in Congress. More importantly, if recent public opinion polls on Nicaragua and El Salvador are any indication, the absence of a public consensus on the issue could be a major obstacle to the recommendation of more military and economic aid. Polls by Roper, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, and CBS/New York Times hint that the "bold action" called for by the Kissinger commission could be the casualty of an ambivalent public mood. According to recent soundings, Americans agree with President Reagan that Central America is important to US security. Most, as Roper notes, want the USSR to understand that "we will resist attempts to take over non-communist nations". Among "informed" Americans, CBS says that over 80 percent comprehend the threat posed by falling dominoes in the region. Most Americans agree that Salvador would be worse off now had the US not become involved in the region.

THE PROBLEM is that not much of what has been proposed as solutions in Central America has been met with public favour. The only measure with public support is the stationing of American advisers to train Salvadorean forces. Polls show plurality or majority opposition to ongoing joint military exercises in Honduras to increased sales of military equipment to Salvador, to measures to overthrow the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, to steps taken to interdict the flow of supplies to leftist guerrillas in Salvador. Americans oppose major increases in economic aid although unrest is attributed to poverty and not to outside communist subversion. While the public agrees with the threat it disagrees with nearly every proposal to contain it. Roper says, Americans worry more about the danger of becoming "too entangled" in Central America than about the spread of communism "because the US doesn't do enough to stop it". For most the cure is as bad as the malady. To the extent the President has advocated strong cures, public approval of his Central America policy has languished.

The recent action in Grenada has not rescued Reagan from this dilemma. Increases in his popularity recorded after the invasion have not translated into a mandate for more decisive action in Central America. The wide margin of support for the invasion is matched only by the percentage opposed to the use of ground forces in Salvador, even as a last resort to prevent a communist takeover. The President will have to convince Americans the alternative to letting Central America "slowly bleed to death" is quantum increases in economic and military aid, not some form of negotiations. The lukewarm public response to Reagan's attempt last April to build support for Central America policy suggests the limits of even his persuasive powers. With Lebanon as a daily reminder of the hazards of direct involvement, the task of building a public constituency behind the Kissinger commission recommendations may be all but impossible—US/S.

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F-20

Too Good For India

Washington, The *New York Times* carried a report that the Reagan administration refused permission to Northrop to sell F-20 aircraft to India on the ground that it was too 'good'. The *New York Times* said the reason why the F-20 was considered too 'good' for India is that the US air force refuses to permit the F-20's advanced electronics to go to India—the F-20. Made specially for export like the F-16/79 built by General Dynamics, is far less sophisticated than the F-16 and the US had hoped to satisfy Pakistan's needs by selling Pakistan F-16/79 but President Zia insisted on and got F-16s.

At a recent Congressional hearing Congressman Dymally criticized the Reagan Administration for foot-dragging on granting permission to India. According to him the offer as made during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's last visit to the US as a request to co-produce the F-20. But Administration spokesmen said they were not aware of any firm proposal. The *New York Times* despatch, if correct, would appear to confirm Indian suspicions about the potential problems created by the Reagan Administration's decision to sell Pakistan the F-16. Apart from India, the only party to show interest in the F-20 was Taiwan. The US denied the F-20 to Taiwan because of objections to the sale by China—PT/.

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HONDURAS

A Shift In U.S. Policy

What exactly is happening in Honduras? The facts are simple. On 31 March General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, the 46-year-old chief of the Armed Forces, resigned and was forced to go into exile in Costa Rica. His resignation was followed by that of four senior military commanders. Only the commander of the Air Force General Walker Lopez remained unaffected by the turmoil in the top ranks of the armed forces. Gen Alvarez had been a key figure in Honduras. A graduate of the Argentine Military Academy, Alvarez was considered an expert in counter-insurgency operations. He was extremely close to the US Embassy in Tegucigalpa and it was through him that

the Central Intelligence Agency channelled funds and arms to the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries. In a written communication to the Kissinger Commission, The Association for the Progress of Honduras (APROH), a group formed by him in January 1983, argued that the solution to Central America's economic problems required the immediate extermination of the cancer corroding the region from Nicaragua. President Roberto Suazo Cordoba, a traditional authoritarian politician who was elected in November 1981 and took over in January 1982 after a long period of military rule is a weak man and his power had eroded considerably in 1983 because of prolonged ill health. This enabled Alvarez to concentrate more and more power in his hands. Moreover, the commander of the Armed Forces is not appointed by the President; the Council of the Armed Forces nominated three names and the Congress makes the final decision.

It will, therefore, be difficult to see the enforced resignation of Gen. Alvarez. As a result of the struggle between civilian and military authorities Alvarez was handpicked by President Suazo in April 1982, as Commander of the Armed Forces and has enjoyed a relatively free hand in security matters. The official explanation that Alvarez had been "meddling in politics" seems hardly credible, for the military are very much a political force. President Suazo might tell the nation over television that the armed forces must always be obedient to the civilian government, but in Honduras the armed forces are not under the control of the civilian president. An anti-American move? Alvarez had been America's man in Honduras. It was Alvarez who arranged for US training for Honduran Troops, planned the joint manoeuvres on the borders of El Salvador. Honduras became in American eyes the base for intervention in Guatemala and El Salvador. In 1980, Honduras received more military aid than it had received in the 20 preceding years and since then military assistance has been growing. Military infrastructure has been improved and a military training and security centre set up. Alvarez rather than Suazo was the man who made the final decisions on all these security questions.

His removal, therefore, raises doubts, in Central American circles that there might be a shift in policy. President Suazo hastened to assure the Americans that relations will not be affected and that the joint manoeuvres will continue... It is more than likely that the ouster of Alvarez is connected with the internal politics of the Honduran army. The military is deeply split, one faction favours democracy and non-intervention in Nicaragua and El Salvador, the other is totally opposed to it. There are officers who are involved in the \$700 million drug trade while others want the military to keep out of such nefarious activities. Alvarez was of course the leader of the hawks. He wanted and worked for an immediated confrontation with Guatemala. However, for the majority of Hondurans, it is El Salvador and not Nicaragua which

is the enemy. Since the 1969 football war, relations between the two countries had remained tense and Honduras has very little inclination to help El Salvador's embattled oligarchy... It seems that Alvarez and his group were the loser in the power struggle... If this interpretation is correct then the possibility of a war between Honduras and Nicaragua had indeed receded.

Alvarez, of course, it is behoved, was abandoned by Washington. It appears that there has been a slight shift in American policy. Direct intervention is for the moment out of favour. This is election year in US, and an invasion of Nicaragua, if it does not lead to a quick and easy victory, might be a disaster. And a coup by Alvarez in Honduras when the US is organising elections in El Salvador and demanding of Nicaragua to hold early election would have been an acute embarrassment. Thus, the Americans reluctantly decided to sacrifice him. If the threat of a Honduran invasion of Nicaragua has receded, it does not in any way mean that the American plans for the overthrow of the Sandinista government has been given up. There is only a change in tactics, a overt was rather than an open one. The mining of Nicaraguan waters, the bombing of harbours and installation though carried out by the CIA can all be claimed by the centras.

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RELYING

On Force Again

By Nikolai Obotov

Moscow: No sooner had the applause in Georgetown University where Reagan made his much-publicized "Programme Statement" died out, than the bulk of the world's mass media called it a "hypo-critical" reiteration of the old concepts of Washington's militaristic foreign policy. This viewpoint is bound to be shared in the capitals of those countries which have already fallen or may fall a victim of Washington's aggressive aspirations. It may cause disagreement only in the White House whose host is futilely trying to don the attire of "peacemakers". *But is there anything to disagree with?* After all, Reagan himself made it clear in his speech in Georgetown University that the USA intends to continue acting from the positions of strength. Besides, his closest aide, Secretary of State, George Shultz, also declared recently in Washington that the United States is going to use force for dealing "pre-emptive blows" at "potential terrorists" (read National Liberation Movements).

As for the USSR, it fully shares the opinion expressed by political analysts. It also believes that the US administration continues to rely on armed force, that it is military supremacy, and is out to impose its *diktat* on other nations. This further confirms the fact that, regrettably, the situation in the world is not improving,

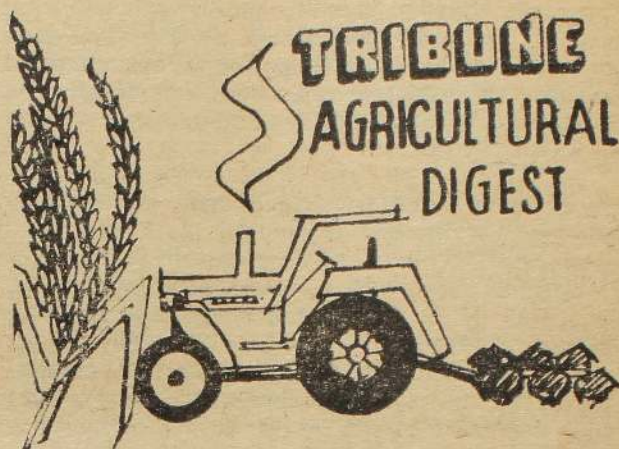
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as Konstantin Chernenko said in a recent interview with *Pravda*. "It remains very dangerous", he had stressed. There are many examples which confirm the correctness of the assessment given by the Soviet leader. All of these examples show that the imperialists are impudently using force in international affairs, and do not discontinue their crude interference in the internal affairs of other states. *Take Asia, for one.* Lebanon is being tormented. The bloody armed conflict between Iran and Iraq continues and is being fanned up in every way from outside. The United States and its allies are waging an undeclared war against the people of Afghanistan. The imperialist forces continue their fuss around the so-called "Kampuchean problem" to fan up strife and enmity in South East Asia. The naval build up of the USA and its allies in the Persian Gulf, the rest of the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific, the expansion of the already dense network of American military bases and the concentration of nuclear-missile weapons there also point to a stake on force. The same is borne out by the US attempts to involve Japan into the Pentagon's global military system in the Far East.

AS A RESULT, the situation in Asia remains one of the most complicated in the world. After World War II regional conflicts and local wars have been waged there almost without interruption. Of course the reasons behind many conflicts in Asia are rooted in the colonial past. But the main reason is still the fact that there are forces outside Asia that would like to use this strategically important part of the world in their own interests. These forces resort to dangerous intrigues and heavy pressure in order to hamper the free development and equitable co-operation of Asian nations, and to stir up mistrust and hostility in Asia. Therefore, most energetic efforts must be taken to eliminate the existing hotbeds of tension and armed conflicts and to prevent the emergence of new ones in different parts of the world, stressed Konstantin Chernenko, replying to *Pravda's* questions.

It is abundantly clear to the Soviet leaders that if Washington implemented its dangerous plans, the situation in the world as a whole, and in individual regions, in particular, would be still more explosive. It is also clear that this course of development would hardly meet the long term interests of Asian nations. Nor would it help Asian nations to establish durable peace and stability which would create favourable conditions for socio-economic advance. The Soviet leaders have repeatedly voiced their confidence that talks, constructive dialogue between neighbours, and a search for mutually acceptable solutions were the only sensible way of settling Asian problems. There are no problems between Asian countries, no matter how complicated they might seem at first glance, which could not be solved at the negotiating table—*APN*.

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RICE

Drying, Storing and Preserving

By J. Norman Efferson

The author is Chancellor-Emeritus, Center for Agricultural Sciences, Louisiana State University, USA, and an international consultant on tropical agriculture.

PADDY, OR ROUGH RICE, as harvested, is covered by an inedible cellulose layer, the husk. Although the grain cannot normally be consumed until the husk is removed, this outer layer serves a useful purpose. The husk provides a hard impermeable layer around the grain that supplies major protection against moisture, micro-organisms, and insects. It also acts to protect the grain from excessive heat as well as from rodents, birds, and other animals. Because of these factors rice is normally stored as paddy or rough rice, and the hull is removed by milling only as the grain is needed for daily consumption. The husk represents approximately 20 percent of the total grain weight.

As the rice plant matures the moisture content of the ripening grain gradually declines. When it reaches a level of from 20 to 25 percent, the maximum maturity of the grain is reached, and it no longer receives sustenance from the stalk. At this point the grains are still firmly attached to the plant. This is the most desirable level for harvest to obtain maximum yields and quality with minimum losses. At this level shattering losses will not have occurred, and damage from winds, adverse weather, excessive moisture, lodging, and animal attacks will have been minimal. Paddy or rough rice, however, will not keep in storage at a moisture level of more than 14 percent. At the desired moisture level for harvest, averaging around

22 percent, stored paddy will gradually begin to ferment heat up to undesirable levels causing the grain to turn yellow, crack, and develop obnoxious odors, and bacterial and insect invasions are stimulated. The milling yield and grain quality of the resulting product will be greatly reduced.

If the grain is harvested at the maximum level for good yields of high quality paddy, at the 20 to 25 percent moisture level, losses are reduced and grain quality is maintained if the paddy is properly dried after harvest. If the crop is left unharvested in the field until the moisture content reaches the safe level for storage, around 14 percent, shattering losses of 10 percent or more occur, the uneven action of the sun and rain causes many of the grains to turn yellow and break in the hull, and grain quality as well as quantity is greatly reduced. To obtain the best results the crop must be harvested at the desirable level of from 20 to 25 percent and then gradually dried down to a safe storage level of 14 percent. Since a very important component of good quality in milled rice is the maintaining of whole grains and keeping broken grains at a minimum, preferably less than 10 percent, it is very important that the paddy be dried gradually to prevent excessive breakage as the moisture is removed from the grain.

OVER THE CENTURIES farmers have recognized the need to harvest early and then dry for safe storage, and methods have been developed to solve these problems. The most ancient, and still widely used approach in many areas, is to cut the standing grain by hand at the 20 to 25 percent moisture level, place the stalks on the stubble to permit the grain to dry for a week or two, and then pick up the stalks, take them to a nearby threshing floor in the field, and beat the grains from the stalks, either by hand or with animal power. In this practice shattering losses are still substantial, and quality deterioration occurs, but drying costs are relatively low. In areas where rainfall during the harvest season makes in-field drying impossible, the practice has been to harvest and thresh, usually by hand, as soon as the grains can be beaten from the straw at a higher than desirable moisture level for safe storage. The threshed paddy is then transported to village compounds or cement patios near rice mills, where it is spread out in a thin layer on the surface and stirred frequently to stimulate rapid drying. It is raked into piles and covered, usually with canvas, when rains occur. Here again uneven drying occurs causing some loss and contamination, but costs are relatively low. From these ancient methods improvements have gradually developed. On larger farms the first step was the adaptation of the original wheat binder to cut and bind the rice stalks into bundles in the field, stack the bundles into large shocks, and let it dry in the shock for several weeks, and then move a stationary threshing machine into the field near the shocks to thresh the stacked bundles. On the smaller farms this method was gradually applied by cutting and stacking the harvested bundles by hand where it was permitted to

dry for several weeks while the land was refitted for winter crops, and then the stacks either threshed by hand or with the use of small motorized threshing machines. This practice is still widely followed in much of Asia.

ON THE LARGER MECHANIZED FARMS the use of combines in harvesting was delayed until proper drying methods were developed for largescale bulk supplies of paddy. In the last 20 years continuous-flow rice drying systems have gradually filled this void. These systems, using heat from gas, fuel oil, or other sources, provide for the movement of paddy down vertical columns as heat is applied to remove the moisture. The problem of excessive grain cracking and discoloration has been solved by removing only a small part of the moisture at any one time. The partially-dried paddy is then placed in tempering bins for a few hours and the process then repeated until the safe storage level has been reached. Such dryers, usually associated with large-scale bulk storage tanks to hold the dried paddy until it is needed for milling, are now common in all major mechanized rice areas. The most recent development is a modification of this approach. Large-volume on-farm bulk bin dryers have been sidely introduced. This method developed due to the desire of many farmers to dry and store paddy on the farm rather than move it to distant commercial facilities. The investment per unit of rice dried is substantial, but the multi-use of such facilities for storage, and for use for soybeans and corn as well as rice, as well as the conveniences of on-farm availabilities, have made it profitable for many farmers.

—To be Concluded



FOR TESTING AS NEW CROPS IN SRI LANKA

Some Exotic Plants

By Richard E. Schultes and Noel D. Vietmeyer

Caryocar species. The British botanist who initiated rubber growing in this part of the world promoted oil from *Caryocar* as much as he did the rubber tree. But *Caryocar* remain a group of little-known trees growing wild in the Amazon region. They bear large quantities of oily seeds resembling Brazil nuts. Test plantings and studies in Sri Lanka are warranted.

Jessenia polycarpa. Native to the Amazon regions, this palm bears extraordinarily large bunches of fruit with an oil similar to olive oil in appearance, content, and quality. It is sold as an edible oil in Bogota, Colombia, but is virtually unknown to the rest of the world. With the skyrocketing cost of olive oil, the time for *Jessenia* domestication is fast approaching.

Jajoba (*simmondsia chinensis*). This subtropical, North American desert plant is undue in the vegetable kingdom; it secretes liquid wax in its seeds instead of the glyceride oils secreted by other plants. Liquid waxes are important in industry. They are difficult to synthesize, and the only other source is the sperm whale. Development of jajoba as a crop might provide important economic benefits to the dry zone of Sri Lanka. Test plantings are warranted. (A National Academy of Sciences report, "products from Jajoba: A Promising New Crop for Arid Lands," describing the commercial importance of jajoba can be obtained, without charge, from the National Science Council of Sri Lanka or from Dr. Noel Vietmeyer, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418, U.S.A.).

Naranjilla (*Solanum quitoense*). Related to, but wholly unlike, tomatoes, this dessert fruit is highly esteemed in Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Guatemala, but is unknown in Sri Lanka. Its delicious, refreshing juice could become popular in Sri Lanka, where the plant could easily flourish at proper altitudes.

Other Solanum species. In Northwestern South America, there are three large tomato-like, tropical—lowland fruits that might be appropriate for Sri Lanka. They are high in vitamin and mineral content. Vitamin-rich iced drinks and jams are prepared from these especially from *Solanum topiro*, which is now being commercially cultivated in Colombia for the preparation of jellies. It is recommended only for local markets in Sri Lanka, as it is not easily transported over long distances, and is easily grown in home gardens and on small farms. Material and information are available from the Campania Fruco, Cali, Colombia.

Pejibaye (*Guilielma gasipaes*). The chestnut-flavoured fruit of this palm is probably the best nutritionally balanced of tropical foods. It contains carbohydrates, protein, oil, minerals, and vitamins. Suited to the wet tropics, the trees, once established, require little care and yield well. They grow widely in the Central and South American tropics. Test plantings should definitely be made in Sri Lanka.

Leucaena latisaliqua. New varieties of this nitrogen-fixing legumionous plant developed at the University of Hawaii have tremendous growth rates and productivity. Trees attain 50 feet in seven years. The Philippines is now beginning to exploit these varieties on a very large scale as energy plantations to fuel steam-powered electric generators.

Hawaiian Supersweet Corn. Special varieties of corn suitable for growing in the tropics and with extremely high sugar contents have been developed. They could become a popular snack, sweet, or even food in Sri Lanka.

Caryodendron orinocense (*Euphorbiaceae*). This tree yields a large harvest of edible and oil-rich seeds. In South America, it is just beginning to be domesticated, although it has long been exploited from wild stands in the Orinoco Basin region of Colombia and Venezuela. The seeds are roasted before being eaten. The oil, which is still expressed by crude methods, finds limited sale in Colombia for uses ranging from cooking to soap and cosmetics. The tree, relatively fast growing, can successfully be grown on poor, lateritic soils in hot, humid tropics (300-1,000 feet altitude), but will tolerate areas where there is a marked dry season of four months. Information and literature on this potential new crop is available from the Departamento de Botanica, Universidad de Narino, Pasto, Colombia; planting material may be solicited from the Agricultural Experiment Station at Palmira, Colombia.

Passiflora Mollissima. The fruits of several little-known highland (5,500-8,500 feet) species of passion fruits, especially *Passiflora Mollissima*, provide a favourite and exquisite fruit in Colombia and Ecuador, where they are known as curuba. The fruit are elongate ovoid, measuring 7 by 3 inches. Yellow when ripe, they contain an orange jelly with many embedded seeds. The pulp is pressed through a sieve to separate the jelly from the seeds. The jelly is made into jams, candies and sorbetes (mixed with milk as a delicious drink), with a flavour that can be described as a mixture of strawberries, pineapple, and nananas but with a slight suggestion of almonds.

Most of the fruit comes from wild plants, but recently some selection work and several small plantations have been initiated in Bogata. A vine, *Passiflora Mollissima*, is grown in rows on simple wire trellises.

Sri Lanka already has much experience with passion fruit products, but *Passiflora mollissima* is a highland species, the source of a new taste for fruit juices, ice cream, jams, jellies, and concentrated pulp. Information and plant material may be solicited from the Agricultural School of Tibaitata, Colombia, and from certain commercial firms, especially Compania Frucom Cali, Colombia.

Arracacia esculenta (*Umbelliferae*). A new strachy root for local food consumption could be *Arracacia esculenta*, employed in the Andean countries in soups, purees, etc. Its mineral content though not high, is better than that of cassava and most other roots and tubers. This plant can be cultivated in equatorial regions from 5,000-9,000 feet and has numerous agronomic varieties, some of which might be adaptable to Sri Lanka. It is a crop admirably appropriate for small home gardens, although it might also be produced commercially in larger holdings.

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Conservation Tillage

CONSERVATION TILLAGE is fast becoming one of the most effective solutions to the problem of soil erosion on cropland. Presently, the erosion rates are high enough on cropland throughout the world to threaten long-term productivity. To help reduce this serious soil loss, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, universities and industry are constantly seeking new ways to help farmers develop and apply affordable conservation practices. Of these, conservation tillage has developed into the fastest-growing farming system in history. Through conservation tillage, farmers can greatly reduce the number of times they need to work the land. They can reduce or even eliminate ploughing, disking, harrowing and cultivating to control weeds. In conservation tillage systems, weeds and insects can be controlled by herbicides and insecticides. As a result, the new crop is planted directly in the residue of the previous crop. That residue protects the soil, wind and water erosion and acts as a mulch to retain moisture.

There are various conservation tillage systems—till-plant, ridge planting, and no-till, to name a few. They all share a common aim to save soil, fuel and labour. Of all the conservation tillage systems, no-till disturbs the land the least and leaves the most residue on the soil surface. In 1972, fewer than 12 million hectares of U.S. cropland were under conservation tillage. Some 10 years later, that figure topped 40 million hectares—or about one-fourth of all cropland. On most soils, conservation tillage is by far the most cost-effective approach to reducing soil erosion. In the State of Missouri, for example, conventional tillage, which leaves the field clean and bare, results in average annual erosion of more than 99 tons of soil per hectare. By switching to no-till, the most effective conservation tillage system for his or her land, the farmer could reduce erosion loss to 30 tons per hectare. Agriculture officials estimate that by 2010, more than half of all U.S. cropland planted will be under no-till and 95 percent will be in some of conservation tillage.—US/S.

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CHILLI PEST

Pod Gall Midge

Chilli (*Capsicum annum*), an important commercial crop of Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu, is attacked by several pests at different stages of crop growth. A new insect pest 'blossom midge' or 'pod gall midge', *Asphondylia capsci* B reported in some pockets of Tamilnadu during sixties was found to cause alarming losses in many parts of Andhra Pradesh also. Its

impact was found to be more on early planted crop, whose first floral flush synchronised with the virulent brood of this insect. Its spread was considerable, where chilli crop was taken up continuously season after season. At times, its effect was masked due to dominant damages of other pests like thrips, mites, aphids and pod borers.

The adult insect, resembling mosquitoes in size and shape, lays its eggs around the floral buds of succulent chilli plant. The newly hatched larva capture the fertilized flower and grows inside the young pod, thriving on the growing tissue. The button shaped young pod is atrophied and seldom grows to its normal size or shape. The damage due to this pest during 1979-80 and 1980-81 resulted in a yield loss of 15 to 20 percent of the first and critical flush of the crop.

The effect of consequent broods of this pest was reduced due to the activity of many of the insect parasites like *Platygaster*, *Neanastatus* etc. Recent insecticides like acephate (Orthene), methamediphos (Tamaron or Monitor) and old chemical like monocrotophos were found promising in reducing the impact of this pest also as in the case of other major insect pests of chilli crop.

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BREAK THROUGH

In Malaria Vaccine

Collaboration between scientists in Australia and Papua New Guinea has resulted in a crucial breakthrough in the search for a vaccine against malaria. It could open the way to controlling many other parasitic diseases in the tropics, says a report in *New Scientists*. Scientists from the Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne and the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, have developed a new technique which allows them to isolate human malaria antigens. Antigens are the proteins that identify the parasite responsible for the disease and provoke the immune system to produce antibodies against the parasite.

Several groups around the world are working on a malaria vaccine, but only one other has reported the isolation of antigens—and that was for a form of the disease affecting monkeys. Researchers believe the key to development of an effective vaccine lies with those blood ares which inhibit growth of the deadly malaria parasites and which come from people who are apparently resistant to malaria. During the next six months, the most promising of the 100,000 bacterial clones that have been produced will be grown in large vats by the Melbourne arm of the team. The resulting antigens will be tested by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on monkeys (the only animal model of the human infection that is available).

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VERSATILE FAVOURITE

Avacado

By Victoria Joseph

The Avacado tree a medium sized, thick-leaved and ever-green flourishes in forests and on river banks. The huge seeds germinate effortlessly in the tropics and even in sub-tropical countries they have become naturalised. The fruit is known by different names as cultivation spread to other parts of the world. In Florida it is called the alligator pear and in other parts it has been called butter pear, custard apple, laurel peach and vegetable marrow.

In the cuisine it is included in soups, snacks, spreads, meat, fish, cheese, vegetable salad, sweets and ice-cream. Nothing can excel the appetising butter fruit dessert of Sri Lanka to a gourmet—when split open and the non-edible stone removed, and the flesh scooped out from the Avacado and then creamy milk and sugar is added. If you want it with a sophisticated taste, add a dash of Worcester sauce to the flesh scooped out. It can also turn out as diced vegetable for fruit salad.

The avacado has its nutritional value. It contains degrees of eleven Vitamins and fourteen basic minerals. It contains more protein and little carbohydrate, unsaturated fats and oil that does not contain cholesterol.

In the cosmetic market this oil together with the skin conditioning Vitamin E makes a notable ingredient for skin and hair cosmetics. A fresh and natural pack can be easily made at home and used by a good complexion lover.

This avacado is really a native of Central America although now it has been widely planted in the tropics. Everybody in Mexico relishes the spicy "gaucamole". One of Israel's major source of export is the Avacado. Other countries that produce are Spain, California and Kenya on South Africa.

Its versatility makes it a favourite worldwide.

He who would acquire fame must not show himself afraid of censure. The dread of censure is the death of genius.—William Simms.

THE VILLAGE and THE NATION

ATTITUDE TO ENVIRONMENT

Presidential Address

—to Ruk Rakaganne, the Tree Society,
Sri Lanka—

By Prof. A. C. J. Weerakoon

Presidential Address delivered by Professor A. C. J. Weerakoon on 13.3.84 to Ruk Rakaganne, the Tree Society, Sri Lanka.

I WANT TO BEGIN by reading you a short article I wrote nearly 30 years ago, about Forests. It was published in *The Ceylon Forester* (Vol. 2, No. 4, N.S.) in 1956 and read thus:

"Many years ago, in the eighteen eighties William Norris, poet, painter, craftsman and socialist said, 'You cannot educate, you cannot civilise men, unless you give them a share in art'. Not everyone agreed with this view then, not everyone agrees with it now. Indeed those who dissent from it are legion and many who have read thus far will be included in their ranks. These need not read any further for I shall not try to prove that Norris' thesis is correct. Instead I shall endeavour to show why it is that, accepting his thesis as I do, I consider that our forests and our nature reserves have a very important part to play in the education of our people. 'You cannot educate, you cannot civilise men, unless you give them a share in art'. The difficulty, the main difficulty, about giving man an effective share in art is that he doesn't seem to feel the need for it; he doesn't seem to want it. Instead he surrounds himself with as much of the hideousness produced by our commercialised society as he is able to. His taste is debased, his instinct for beauty perverted. Nor should this occasion such surprise. All around us is an increasing ugliness. The houses we live in, the articles we use in our daily lives, the entertainments we fill our leisure with, are all of them ugly. There are, of course, exceptions; but these are so few as to make no difference to the people at large. For them, for the vast majority of us, all around is ugliness, an ugliness that grows apace. It has reached our villages but is especially rampant in our towns, both large and small; and it is here, in the towns that it seems to be growing fastest. That too need not be wondered at. For this ugliness is a product of our commercial society; and as we become more and more commercialised within the existing economic frame-

work so will there be more and more of this ugliness. To rid ourselves of it we shall have to alter the entire basis of our society. That will take time. In the meantime, is there nothing we can do to help save people from the perversion of their taste, of their instinct for beauty? Is there nothing we can do to make them feel the need for a share in art? So that they may grow to be truly civilised men and women?

"There are many things that can be done. Indeed some are already being done, and merely require encouragement and expansion. We should collect in galleries the work of the best artists of our time and encourage as many people, especially young people, to spend as much time as they can looking at them, getting to know them as they know a good friend. We can, in addition, have exhibitions of the beautiful things made and used by men in the past—collected in museums; or displayed in the open and carefully preserved from the ravages both of the weather and of restoration societies. And, we can turn to our forests and nature reserves." That is why I have ventured to write an article of this sort for *The Ceylon Forester*.

Nature is never ugly; she is never tawdry, never "in bad taste". She may sometimes terrify; she never corrupts. And if we go to her as to a teacher, if we place ourselves in frequent and intimate association with her we shall do much to protect ourselves from the corrupting influences of our society. Now: there is plenty of nature around us even in our towns. But what there is of it is steadily disappearing; and what there is is generally flanked on this said and on that by man-made ugliness. It is difficult to walk anywhere in the city without one's sight being offended by some monstrous building, without one's ears being assailed by some raucous noise. I strolled through Victoria Park last morning when the rest of Colombo was busy with its myriad concerns—and how beautiful it was, how restful, how pleasant. Yet from time to time all that was marred and shattered by a distant rear of traffic. From the Park I walked along some of the once-loveliest roads in Colombo.

And now only here and there were they beautiful; all around, monstrous new buildings—boutiques, mansions, petrol stations, flats—had sprung up, and everywhere was the noisy hurry of engines, punctuated with the blare of a hundred radio-sets. The beauty, natural and artificial, such as there is in our cities grows less and less each year, and ever more difficult to find; and, when found, ever more difficult to appreciate because of the distracting ugliness around it. *That is why I ask that we cultivate amongst us, and especially amongst our young people, the habit of visiting our forests and our nature reserves. In them we shall not be distracted by ugliness, we shall not be beguiled by the meretricious. There will be time and the quiet necessary for us to move gradually and even unconsciously to an appreciation of the beauty around us. And this faculty will grow upon what it feeds till we*

find ourselves *demanding* that the things we use in our daily lives, the houses we have to live in, the houses we have to pass by in the streets, the very streets themselves, *shall* be beautiful. We shall have developed a good taste. We shall no more be satisfied with art for the few and trash for the rest. We shall insist upon a share in art for ourselves, for us all. We shall check the growth of hideousness around us; holding it at bay till such time as this market-society of ours, in which it has its sources, is altered. That is why I ask that we visit our forests more often; that we make a habit of it.

THE OTHER DAY one of our leading painters was discussing an exhibition of murals done by children of a Colombo school; and he asked: "What happens to all this good taste when these children grow up?" He wasn't expecting to be told in answer that most of it disappeared. He knew that. He was wondering, sadly, *why* it disappeared. It disappears because it cannot withstand the impact of our commercialised society. This impact increases as the child grows and finally overpowers his good taste. But in his very early years, the child is influenced more by what there is of Nature around him—by the sky, by the wind, by clouds, by the day and by the night, by sunshine and shadow and rain, by ants and bees and birds and lizards, by trees and by the grass, by butterflies and flowers. His appetite for beauty grows. He learns to notice it, to need it, to express himself in it.

But all the while another set of influences is at work also, influences springing from the artificial, that is man-made, portions of his environment. These other influences are at first slight, but they steadily and, because the child is a human child, inevitably pervade a greater and greater part of his life as he grows. And when he is full grown his taste is spoilt—because in our society these later influences are, for the most part, ugly. If we could have continued that early influence of Nature upon the growing child we might reasonably have hoped to preserve his good taste and thereby ensure a demand for art. That is why I ask that we visit our forests more often. That is why, echoing Morris, I say; "For your teachers, they must be Nature and History."

That is the end of the article. You will have realised by now that it is not about Forests only. It is also about Art and about the civilising of Man. As a matter of fact I had called it *Art and Our Forests*. I have chosen to read it this evening not only because the comments I had then made are even more pertinent today but also because what with talking and writing about Ecology and about the Environment so much the fashion today, one is in danger of supposing that trees and forests are of significance, of importance, merely because they play an important role in the economy of Nature, merely because they are an essential part of a healthy environment. But at least as important is the aesthetic role of trees and forests. And it will help our

Society, the Ruk Rakaganne, to avoid falling into the pitfalls which beset its road ahead if it steadfastly championed trees and forests in their aesthetic role as well, whilst so many others are gabbling a lot of rubbish about Ecology and about the Environment.

Some of you are sure to be puzzled, even shocked, by what I have just said. The importance of the ecological role of trees and of forests is well established. I am a trained ecologist; so when I say that much of what's written and said in Sri Lanka today about Ecology and about the Environment is just rubbish you might like to put it down to some special insight that my training has given me. But that would be only very partially true. One does not need to be a trained Ecologist to detect what's phoney in the ecological and environmental talk and writings of today's Sri Lanka. Let me give you one or two examples.

—To be Concluded.

X X X

GREEN FIELDS AND DRAGON FLIES

A rainbow flash

Of gossamer wings

Red, silver, blue,

Gently poised

Unmoving

Over dancing waves

Of green and gold

Green fields and dragon flies —

Sheer green magic

Splashing the dreaming silence

Of a sleepy afternoon

With the gold of the sunlight,

The blue of the sky,

The silver of moon-beams

Green fields and dragon flies —

These are my childhood loves

That snare me

Deep within

Their tender trap.

I'm glad I came this way

To drink my fill,

To slake my city thirst,

To catch within my heart,

The gentle innocence

Of green fields and dragon flies.

Lorraine

FROM BATTICALOA

Desert Vs Development

By K. Kanapathipillai

WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL, and that was a pretty long time ago, I happened to read one of those very puzzling, yet fascinating and thought-provoking masterpiece of an essay by G. K. Chesterton. If I remember right, it carried the title: "On Lying In Bed". Well ever after that, especially of late years, I have myself attempted many a time to be in bed, and that for some considerable time, and have made an attempt to think, to reflect, to collect my thoughts, so that I might have sufficient material for a fascinating essay. But the attempt proved to be futile. It was in short a deplorable failure. Invariably I lay in bed, and was in deep slumber. Perhaps my thinking powers were of a different sort; or it might have been this: Mr. G. K. C. was greatly made, and I, not so. But I had one lucky chance. The other day after seeing the Rupavahini I slept rather long in bed, and by a happy trend of events these thoughts flashed across my mind.

Deserts and Development: Then I recollected some notions that I had garnered in my desultory readings—I seldom stick to one book at a time, when the madness to know and understand comes upon me. I've read Seabrook's "Travels in Arabia, Seven Heiden's", "Trans-Himalayan Travels", Lyde's "Continent of Asia" etc; and the outcome was only a question. And that was this: How is it that the deserts of the Old World have a one-stretch lay out extending from the Sahara up to the Gobi—from the west coast of North Africa to Mongolia in Asia? And why has nature in designing and executing her designs chosen this whimsical pattern of the lay out of the greatest deserts of the world?—the deserts that spoke once and are silent now with a few stray whispers of wisdom-laden words. Here had once prospered and flourished some of the most fantastic civilisations of the world, which had left their footprints in the sands of time. And the ruins of Egypt, Khiva, Ur, Bokhara and Smarkhand; of Mohenjadhara and Harappa, still beautiful, though fast crumbling, half buried in the sand, speak volumes of the glory of the ancient civilisations of the Egyptians, the Medes and the Persians, the Indus Valley and the Urardhu Empire where Zoroaster flourished.

One would generally be disposed to think that the ravage was not mainly of Nature's designs. It was partly man's. Man, the marauder, with the Tartar, and Hun blood coursing in his veins, has been the cause of this ruin. Man had, in the dim past, raped and ravaged and burnt and helped to convert the region of "hanging gardens" and prosperous cities of dreamy domes and minarets into a dreary barren waste, wher

travellers say the wind sings and whispers into one's ears: "I've been wounded; I have been slain, I lie breathing my last". Says Prof. L. W. Lyde: "Ribs of smooth sand and bare clay overhung by similar ribs of mackerel sky". The story is very, very sad, indeed.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES we discover a hidden meaning in the two key words that have become an obsession: Desert and Development. Wherever man ventured far too much to interfere with Nature, and went far in excess to control and exploit Nature's resources, nature turned inimical and pushed man out of the tent, and let him roam in the desert waste.

Coming to our shores, let us review our position. Our ancient cities: Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, Yappahuwa and Sigiriya have gone into ruins. They have the very same sad tale to tell. We glory in those tales and say with just pride: ours is a glorious past. We are undoubtedly the descendants of a noble race of people. Men who thought, men who planned, designed and acted prudently. And it may not be legendary when we venture to say that a cock would have flown alighting on the roofs of houses and proceeded from Polonnaruwa to Anuradhapura. Well, that was our past. But, how is it that these cities are in ruins today? May be, because of the ravages of diseases like malaria and hookworm, may be the vagaries of the weather and an unforeseen quirk in the ordering of the seasons and the climate. These are all idle surmises and baseless speculations. For all I know, it might all have been due to man's mishandling and misuse of nature's resources: soils and trees and water resources.

Man has scarred and scored the landscape, denuded the hill slopes, ripped off chunks of earth, left gaping wounds, gory and reeking on the face of the earth. And the wind and the sun and the rain had their part to play; and what had taken centuries, nay millennia to build, man has hastened the ruination. The verdure, and forest-clothed baldscape has been virtually turned into a "green desert". *And what are we doing today? Under the glorious guise of development, we have denuded our landscape; dotted it with huts and cottages and houses; townships and villages; parks paddocks, farms and allotments; and pork-marked it into a semi desert. All this at what cost? We have to think and plan and execute.* What the great poet has said brims over with meaning.

"Let man think; let him decide to act. And after he has resolved to act, let him not waver and say to himself: let us think it over again"—(Valluvar).



TOURISM IN ASIA

Justice And Human Dignity

By Dennis Shoemith

THE ENORMOUS GROWTH of the global tourist industry in the past two decades has raised basic questions of economic justice and human dignity. What was once a luxury reserved for a privileged elite has become part of the lifestyle of affluent societies. Faster, cheaper international transport and rising living standards in the post-war period have made it possible for average people in the First World to travel overseas. Between 1961 and 1976, international tourist traffic more than trebled. Tourist income in the same period increased by more than five times. By the late seventies, something like one thousand million dollars (US) was spent every day by overseas travellers. The number of international tourists is now doubling every four years. Mass tourism is the international growth industry, expanding faster than world trade as a whole. Tourist spending is the largest single item of world trade. In economic terms alone it is a startling phenomenon. But tourism is a unique industry. It is concerned with people as consumers and commodities and it is in this sense that host peoples and tourists themselves must attempt to calculate the social, cultural and human costs of mass travel.

TOURISM RAISES, then, basic questions of economic justice and human integrity. What is the economic impact of the global tourist industry, particularly on the Third World host countries which now attract a large share of world tourism? How are the people of host communities and their visitors changed by the sudden confrontation of different values, expectations and styles of living? Nowhere has the emergence of tourism as the world's largest industry had greater impact than in the Asian Pacific region. In the sixties and early seventies, the developing countries' share of tourism ranged between 10 and 20 per cent of the world's total. More recently, this share has risen dramatically. Since the early seventies, the Asian-Pacific region has experienced the fastest increase in world tourist arrivals. In the decade between 1969 and 1979, visitors to the region increased almost four times, from just over five million to some twenty million.

Within the region, South Asia and South-east Asia attracted the most spectacular growth rates. By 1978, some five and a half million tourists visited the ASEAN countries alone. In the seventies, tourist arrivals in South and South-east Asia have been rising at an average of more than 20 per cent a year. Individual countries have experienced even more dramatic growth rates. Tourist arrivals in the Philippines, for instance,

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rose at an average of 33 per cent annually in the mid-seventies, and, although this rate has eased more recently, the annual increase in visitors to the Philippines now is greater than the total number of arrivals only eight years ago. Thailand receives almost a million and a half tourists a year; the Philippines a million. Singapore, with a population of only two and a half million, attracted two million tourists in 1979.

ALTHOUGH TRAVEL BY PEOPLE already living within the region has become significant, tourism in Asia is still very much a flow of tourists from rich First World countries to poor Third World countries. The multibillion dollar network of airlines, hotel chains, credit card companies, advertising agencies, travel agencies, restaurant and entertainment chains serve the consumer societies of North America, Western Europe, Japan and Australasia. Because control of the world industry is mainly in the hands of multinationals based in the First World, the tourist phenomenon is intertwined with the larger pattern of economic control which characterizes the unequal relationship between the North and the South. Whatever the short term costs or benefits of tourism for Third World host economies, the overall significance of the travel industry is that it reinforces the dominance of the First World centres of the international economy and deepens the dependence of the countries on the 'periphery' of that economic system.

The countries experiencing the fastest growth in international tourism are precisely those most vulnerable to its economic and social impact. They tend to be the poorest in living standards for the majority of their peoples, high unemployment, faltering and uneven economic development and heavy dependence on foreign investment, foreign loans and foreign aid. The very poverty of such countries is presented by the tourist advertisers as an attraction—as local 'colour'. Because labour is cheap, the hotel chains, agencies, restaurants and other service industries associated with travel can make higher profits in the Third World.

ALTHOUGH MUCH BASIC RESEARCH is yet to be done, evidence suggests that tourism widens the gulf between the rich and poor within Third World countries and the First World. Scarce resources are diverted to costly infrastructure projects serving the tourist. Only a fraction of the tourist dollar goes to the poorly-paid hotel workers, waitresses, guides, 'hospitality girls' and others employed in tourist service occupations. A meal in a first-class hotel in Jakarta or Manila costs more than the monthly salary of the waiter who serves it. In countries with hundreds of thousands of squatters and homeless, governments invest scarce capital in hotels and convention centres rather than in housing or basic services. Often, that capital is borrowed from Western Banks or international lending agencies and has to be paid back with interest, so increasing the national debt. Tourist dollars feed

inflation, through the tourist's ability to pay for luxury goods and services. Natural resources and the environment become commodities to be exploited for foreign travellers regardless of the needs of the local population.

At the international level, dependence on tourist revenues further weakens the ability of countries to exercise effective control over their national economies. Tourist income now ranks as the third or fourth largest source of foreign exchange for most Third World states in the region and is essential if such states are to continue repaying foreign loans and to maintain fragile and costly export industries. Not only do host countries not control the tourist industry, they also cannot do without the foreign exchange it brings, given the development strategies adopted in non-communist Third World Countries. Multinationals involved in Third World tourism are able to extract their profits at will just as other big foreign investors have been able to operate in such dependent economies more or less free of exchange controls and other restrictions. Of the total expenditure by each tourist, much of it is not even spent fees, luggage, cameras can all be paid for outside the host country. Money spent on food and accommodation pays the wages of local workers and has some multiplier effect on the local economy but much of it flows out of the host country to the hotel chains, credit card companies and other international interests which control tourist style accommodation and entertainment.

The gross disparity between the affluence of the tourist and the poverty of most of the people in the host country is the most obvious aspect of the kind of cultural confrontation tourism provokes in the Third World. In such a situation, the human relationship between the tourist and the people he or she meets cannot help but be distorted.

—To be Concluded.

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BRAHMA SHRINE AT

Las Vegas

Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, the premier resort/casino in the world, will soon become the Western World home of the counterpart of one of the Far East's most revered and worshipped shrines—the Brahma Shrine. The Brahma Shrine is renowned to Eastern cultures as a place of prayer and worship which, in turn, bestows great prosperity and good fortune to those who come to visit and make their wishes known. The casting ceremonies for the four-faced, eight-handed statue of the Hindu God Brahma destined for Caesars Palace were held in Bangkok. The ceremonies were attended by many honored dignitaries of Thailand, including many important religious authorities. The

story behind the beloved Brhama Shrine explains why it is sure to attract much international attention and worship at its Caesars Palace home. It was 30 years ago that the famous Brahma Shrine in Bangkok mysteriously bestowed its grace upon the construction of the Erawan Hotel, now the location for this most famous Brahma Shrine.

During construction, mishap after mishap occurred. When a vessel carrying the final marble pieces for the completion of the hotel sank at sea, the superstitious workers feared evil spirits and knew that something had to be done to rid the area of such dark troubles. After a four faced statue of Brahma was enshrined, the misfortunes ceased and the hotel celebrated a successful opening and has enjoyed many fruitful years thereafter. Since then, as a result of visits to the shrine, countless stories have been recorded of many people who have experienced good fortune. Thousands of people, both residents of Bangkok and visitors alike pay respect to the Brahma Shrine each year, making frequent offerings and donations. It is hoped that the Brahma Shrine at Caesars Palace will offer the same good luck to its visitors and guests as it has to those who have had the moving experience of visiting the magnificent Brahma Shrine in Bangkok.

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CHINA

Buddha's Sutra Mints Money

Next to the hefty Gutenberg's Bible, the Chinese have recently published one of the world's costliest religious works 'Saddharma Pundarika Sutra'. When a top Indian scholar, Dr. Lokesh Chandra, recently visited Beijing, he was shocked to find the prohibitive price—\$2,200 per copy. When Lord Buddha taught this Sutra to the wife of King Vimbasara over 2,500 years ago in the ancient Ganges Valley, he never might have thought that the Sutra will have so much tourist value. Reports reaching Buddhist circles in Seoul and Japan confirm that after several years of suppression, Beijing has allowed the sale of the famous Sutra—world's perhaps only comprehensive copy—along with the opening of temples and monasteries.

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SPOTLIGHT

● Olympics

THE HIGHLIGHT in the sporting calendar this year will undoubtedly be the Summer Olympics to be held in Los Angeles come July. There is a lot of controversy going on between the Soviet Union and the Organisers and at the time of writing, the controversy is raging on. From Sri Lanka's point of view, it is said to note that not one sportsman or sportswoman will be seen in action. According to information not one of them had come near the qualifying standards set and the authorities feel that it is a waste of good money to send a team that will stand no chance whatsoever against their better trained opponents. Very rarely has Sri Lanka missed sending one or more competitors to the Olympic Games. At least we have been sending a token team. But this year we will not send a single. However, the President of the local Olympic body and its Secretary, Roy de Silva and Pinnawala, will make it to the Games at their own expense. The International Olympic Committee will be holding several meetings of importance during the games and it is important that our President and Secretary be there at these meetings. With only a couple of months more to the Games, the usual controversy between the Soviet Union and the United States has begun.

A report had it that the Reagan administration has expressed surprise at allegations made from Moscow that America is trying to restrict Soviet participation. John Hughes a spokesman from the State Department said: "As a matter of fact we have been very forthcoming with the Soviets as far as their involvement in the Olympics is concerned". Hughes was replying to a report from the Soviet News Agency Tass which said the Soviet National Olympic Committee had alleged US violation of the Olympic Charter and asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a special hearing on the matter. Tass added that the Committee accused the United States of a "broad campaign against Soviet participation" in the Olympics. State Department spokesman Hughes said that the United States has approved Aeroflot charter flights for Soviet athletes and officials and permission for them to stay in a Soviet ship in Los Angeles harbour. Hughes added: "The only area in which we have been unforth-

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coming" was the rejection of Oleg Yermishkin as the Soviet Olympic attache. US officials have said Yermishkin was connected with the KGB, the Soviet security agency. "They can still have an attache but we will look at that individual", said Hughes.

PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE in Los Angeles, Peter Ueberroth said that criticism from Moscow could be part of a Soviet plan to justify any decision it might take not to send a team. On the other hand Ueberroth believed a Soviet boycott was likely. "I think they will be here", he said. According to Tass the Soviet Olympic Committee accuses the United States of three violations of the Olympic charter: (1) Demanding a list of Soviet athletes and individuals, and reserving the right to have them seek visas, rather than accepting anyone with an Olympic identity card; (2) Accrediting Radio Free Europe to cover the Olympics. Tass said the radio, which broadcasts in Eastern Europe is financed by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and so is subversive and (3) Commercialising the Olympics in violation of the charter.

However, Western diplomats say that the Soviet press campaign, which has depicted Los Angeles as a wash with crime and pornography and the NOC statement was intended as revenge for the US boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics. They said that the Kremlin had been deeply hurt by the boycott, in protest at the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. However, according to *Reuters*, officials in Los Angeles have rejected charges that the United States violated the Olympic Charter in its preparation for the Summer Games. "To our knowledge we can find no violation of the Olympic Charter by the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee (LAOOC) or by any of the government agencies that we deal with", Peter Ueberroth, President of the LAOOC told a news conference. "I certainly won't dismiss this as merely idle discussion", said Ueberroth adding that the situation would be watched.

THERE IS ALSO TROUBLE brewing in the 1986 Commonwealth Games to be held in Edinburgh if England's proposed rugby tour to South Africa takes place. The Organisation of African Unity warned that African member states of the British Commonwealth may be forced to boycott the Edinburgh Games. The OAU called on the British Government to move in and stop the tour. In a statement the OAU said "The British Government will have only itself to blame of the consequences that will arise if the rugby tour, scheduled for May and June goes ahead". An explanation offered by the British diplomatic mission to a letter sent by the OAU secretariat concerning the tour was rejected as "unacceptable". "The decision to proceed with the tour was one of the Rugby Football Union and taken solely by them. No sanctions will be taken against them", the British Embassy wrote. "The reluctance of the British government to stop the

tour is therefore a challenge to all member states of the Commonwealth and most particularly African members of the Commonwealth as the proposed tour is a challenge to the African position on apartheid", the OAU warned.

IN THE LOCAL SCENE and the most interesting happening was the soccer match between a team of Parliamentarians led by Prime Minister Premadasa and a team of Municipal Councillors led by Sirisena Cooray, Mayor of Colombo. The Councillors proved to be the better team and won the game by three goals to nil. However, the cynosure of all eyes during the game was on Prime Minister Premadasa. Playing in the centre forward position and sporting the number eight jersey he was a glutton for work be it in offence or defence. For one of 59 years, the Prime Minister Premadasa moved about the field like a youngster and the goal he scored would have beaten any custodian. This game was conducted on the initiative of the Prime Minister and the large crowd, numbering over fifteen thousand that flocked to the Sugathadasa Stadium gave the Prime Minister a thunderous ovation when he obtained the equaliser for his team.

The Councillors however proved the fitter team and with a couple of players who did well for their clubs in their ranks they ran out ultimate winners by three goals to one. This game was also marked by the superb goal-keeping of Jayawickrema Perera for the Parliamentarians. He saved a few certain goals and if not for him the Councillors would have doubled their margin of victory... It is hoped that this game will be an annual affair.

MINISTER OF SPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS and Chief Government Whip Vincent Perera and a team of officials from the Ministry left recently for the Soviet Union to explore possibilities of inviting Soviet sports teams here and also send sports teams from here to the Soviet Union. The Minister who has been doing his best for the improvement and development of sports in the country was confident that his tour will meet with success... In the past several of our sportsmen, sportswomen and coaches benefited from Soviet help and expertise. But of late things did not move. With this visit it is now certain that Sri Lankan sportsmen and women are in for good times. The Minister will ask for coaches to be sent to Sri Lanka and *vice versa*. The Minister will also explore all possibilities of sending youth Badminton and Volleyball teams to Russia. With the game of football getting all the encouragement, it is likely that we will soon have a Soviet coach to train our national squad.

THE GUANGLONG FOOTBALL TEAM from China which was here recently did well to win all their games. They were given a scare by the City Football League team and managed to win only on the penalty tie-breaker system. The local lads played true to form and it was a pity that they did not win. After leading

two-nil they conceded a last minute goal which warranted the tie-breaker system. The Chinese proved better in this system to take the trophy and maintain their unbeaten record.

ALLROUNDER.

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SPORTS CHRONICLE

April 5 - 15

THURSDAY, APR/L 5: Australia after falling 80 runs behind the West Indies in the first innings of the Third Test, were tottering towards defeat by the end of the fourth day on Tuesday. Australia first innings 429 and West Indies first innings 509; Australia second innings 68 for 4. Ken de Alwis (69) and Sanjeewa Wijesinghe (67) helped MCA XI beat the Victoria Country XI by 142 runs in a 40 over match played at the NCC grounds yesterday: MCA XI 226 in 39.6 overs and Victoria Country XI 84 for 7 in 40 overs.

FRIDAY, APR/L 6: West Indies, with their fast bowlers in irresistible form routed Australia for 97 and swept to a 10 wicket victory in the Third Cricket Test at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Wednesday: West Indies 1st innings 509 and Australia 2nd innings 97; West Indies 2nd innings 21. Lake House entered the Inter-Firm Table Tennis Knock-out Finals of both the Men's Division and Women's tournaments: they beat Ceylon Tobacco and Air Lanka in the semi-finals yesterday. St. Paul's College, Kandy bowled out for a paltry 88 and Sri Rahula College at 16 for 4 when bad light stopped play at 4.20 p.m. in their inaugural Big Match played at Sri Rahula grounds, Katugastota yesterday: St. Pauls 88 and Sri Rahula 16 for 4.

SATURDAY, APR/L 7: Star batsman Roy Dias hit a superb unbeaten 57 to lead Sri Lanka to a convincing 5-wicket victory over Pakistan with 2.3 overs to spare in the first One Day Match of The Asia Cup at the Sharjah Cricket ground on Friday: Pakistan 187 for 9 in 46 overs and Sri Lanka 190 for 5 in 43.3 overs. Devananda Vidyalaya Ambalangoda scored a convincing win over Dharmasoka College in their annual limited over match at Ambalangoda on Sunday: Devananda 90 for 4 and Dharmasoka 88. Hayleys won the Men's A Team event and Lake House the Women's team event at the Lever Brothers sponsored Mercantile Services Table Tennis knock-out tournament at the Racecourts TT Hall yesterday.

SUNDAY, APR/L 8: Air Force openers Susil Fernando (92 not out) and Ajith Jayasekera (69 not out) put on a fine unfinished stand of 179 runs at close guiding Air Force towards a first innings win over Nomads in

their final round Lakspray Trophy match at Vihara Maha Devi Park: Nomads 240 and Air Force 179 for 10 at close. CCC were 83 for 3 in their second innings in reply to Tamil Union's first innings score of 241 in their Lakspray Trophy Final round game at Maitland Crescent yesterday: CCC 62 and 83 for 3 at close and Tamil Union 115 for 5 overnight 241.

MONDAY, APR/L 9: World Cup Champions India outplayed Sri Lanka to win their first match in the Asia Cup Tournament by 10 wickets at Sharjah yesterday: Sri Lanka 96 all out in 41 overs and India 97 in 21.4 overs. Sri Sumangala were in a sound position at the end of the first day of their Big Match against Moratu MV; they shot out Moratu MV for 70 and were 100 for 4 at close of play at the Tyronne Fernando Stadium yesterday. Ananda clinched the Coco-Cola Bottlers Trophy in a thriller when they best St. Josephs by 7 runs in the Schools Limited Over Final played at SSC grounds yesterday: Ananda 165 for 9 in 50 overs and St. Joseph's 158 for 7 in 50 overs.

TUESDAY, APR/L 10: Unbeaten centuries by Viv Richards and his 22-year-old protege, Richie Richardson, put West Indies in a commanding position in the Fourth Test against Australia on Sunday: Australia 1st innings 262 and West Indies first innings 273. Chandra Mahesh's fine allround performance was the highlight of the 33rd Big Match between Moratu MV and Sri Sumangala MV, Panadura which ended in a draw at the Tyronne Fernando Stadium Moratuwa yesterday: Moratu MV first innings 70 and Sri Sumangala first innings 179 for 8 dec.; Moratu MV 2nd innings 118 for 5 at stumps.

WEDNESDAY, APR/L 11: The West Indies accumulated a first innings lead of 231 over Australia on the third day of the Fourth Cricket Test match here principally on a record third wicket partnership of 308 between Antiguans Vivian Richards, who scored 178 and Richie Richardson 154: Australia first innings 262 and West Indies first innings 493 for nine wickets.

THURSDAY, APR/L 12: Negombo CC scored a fine 95 runs outright victory over Bloomfield in their Donavan Andree Trophy match, played at Reid Avenue: Negombo CC 143 and Bloomfield 166. Croos House emerged overall champions at the annual inter-house sports meet of Holy Cross College, Kalutara held on the College grounds: Breton House finished runners up. Nilwala RC Colombo 2 failed to qualify for the final round when they lost to Eleven Favourites SC by one run in a Group D final match of the All Island, Inter-club 30 over knockout tournament played at Kolonnawa UC grounds: Eleven Favourites SC 84 for 9 in 30 overs and Nilwala RC 83 for 9 in 30 overs.

FRIDAY, APR/L 13: The West Indies fast bowlers skittled out a dispirited Australia for 200 in their

second innings to register a resounding innings and 36 runs victory with a day to spare in the Fourth Test match at St. John's on Wednesday: Australia 1st innings 262 and West Indies 1st innings 498 all out. Trinity's Second XI scored an easy 49-run win over the touring All Sorts Cricket Club in a limited over match played at the Asgiriya Stadium: Trinity Second XI 130 in 47.3 overs and All Sorts CC 81 in 31.2 overs. Negombo Rovers SC beat Negombo Youths FC 1-0 in an exhibition match played at the Don Bosco Technical Centre, Ettugala, Negombo.

SUNDAY, APR/L 15: India clinched the inaugural Asia Cricket Cup amid scenes of wild jubilation from their followers in a 15,000 crowd when they beat Pakistan by 54 runs in the third and final one day match on Friday: India 188 for 4 in 46 overs and Pakistan 134 all out in 39.4 overs. The finals of the Eighth Asian Junior Basketball Championships began yesterday at Seoul with six boys teams and four girls squads, competing: in yesterday's play China slashed Sri Lanka by scoring 88-40 with a half time score of 60-22 in the Boys' Division: in the girls' matches of the day, China slashed Malaysia with a run away score of 113-42 after leading 59-28 at half time while Singapore defeated Sri Lanka 49-47 in a consolation match.

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ROWING

Hongkong Rowing National Championships — Schools fours — coxed — **St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia**, came fifth among six finalists in the Schools' Coxed Fours Exent. Schools from Australia came first and second in the coxed fours, followed by one from Japan: a school from the U.S.A. was fourth, St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, fifth, followed by another school from the U.S.A. sixth.

In the senior events, there were prospective teams for the Olympics in Los Angeles this year from Japan and China, so the boys learnt much more about their sport by mixing with these crews and other crews in a friendly regatta of this nature. The weather was very cold, and inspite of this and a course longer than any obtainable in Ceylon just now, the Thomian crew got a better timing than they had been able to achieve before they left these shores. They beat two school crews from California both in the repechage or semi-finals, and the finals. More detailed news of the regatta will follow later.

OUR ROWING CORRESPONDENT.

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NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (Chap. 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT, NO. 28 OF 1964.

Reference No. ATH. 15/101

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 293/35 of 19. 4. 84.

SCHEDULE

D. R. O's Division : Kolonnawa.
Situation : Ward 7, Salamulla, within the U. C.
Village : Walamulla.
Name of Land : Delgahawatta.
Lot No. : 01
Plan No. P. R. Co. : 6131

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

The Kachcheri,
 Colombo,
 Date 16-4-1984

God will not look you over for medals, degrees or diplomas, but for scars and calluses. *Elbert Hubbard*

Passports

IS IT NOT TRUE that there has in recent months been a great deal of attention paid to the working of the Passport Office (PO) of the Department of Immigration and Emigration? That well over two years and a half ago *Tribune* had pointed out that the Passport Office had become a stumbling block in the government's endeavours to increase the highly remunerative export of manpower to the Middle East and elsewhere? That under various bureaucratic pretences the powers-that-be in the PO had slowed down the process of issuing passports to the point of no return? That several thousands were therefore unable to accept jobs offered to them? That apart from the fact that the public outcry against the functioning of the PO, there arose a great new industry that of manufacturing and issuing forged passports? That police investigations have confirmed that the public knew for a long time that the business of forged passports was carried on in a three-way partnership: (a) job agency operators who wanted passports to service the demands of their clients; (b) underworld racketeers who can forge anything from a signature of an official to a thousand rupee note; and (c) officials in the Passport Office who found this an easier way to make a quick buck (and a sizable fortune in a few months) rather than by getting direct bribes (with all attendant risks)? That to make people rush to the forged passport industry, PO officials would make unreasonable and unfulfillable demands? That it is known that they would ask for the marriage certificates of grandparents and parents, of brothers and sisters who are either dead or had long left the island and so on and so forth? That tens of thousands have left the country on forged passports not only to get jobs but also as carriers of narcotics or to join some terrorist group? That in the meantime, the prices demanded for such forged passports had increased from around Rs. 2,000 each to Rs. 10,000 each? That a rising crescendo of public indignation blew the top off the complacent nonchalance of even our governmental bigwigs (who are far removed from grassroots contact with ordinary men and women)? That a three-man Ministerial Sub-Committee was appointed to investigate the working of the PO and to make recommendations to make it work better? That there was a great deal of newspaper fanfare about the heroic attempts of the sub-committee to unravel the dark and sinister operations of the PO? That it is not known whether they got any where near the under-cover and under-the-counter operations that had long become the hall mark of our PO? That even the overt and above-the-counter activities of the PO were dismal and appalling? That a dramatic report about a much publicised visit by the Ministerial Committee appeared in all the daily papers? That the *Daily Mirror* report by Victor Fernando (12/4/84) read as follows: "Not even five percent of the staff attached to the Passport Office in

the Department of Immigration and Emigration reported for work yesterday. This was revealed when three Ministers visited the Passport Office. On the orders of the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, three Cabinet Ministers paid a surprise visit to the office at 11 a.m. and found that the work in the office was being done at a snail's pace. Newspapers including the *Daily Mirror* have from time to time, spotlighted the weak administration of the Passport Office and the undue delays caused in the issue of passports. Public Administration and Plantation Industries Minister, Major Montague Jayawickrema Fisheries Minister Mr. Festus Perera and Rural Industrial Development Minister Mr. S. Thondaman who visited the office found to their astonishment that there were many absentees and delay in the execution of public business. The Ministerial delegation ordered the Assistant Secretary, State Ministry Mr. S. M. Samarakoon, to submit a report on the working of the office before April 17. They also ordered that the report should include fullest details pertaining to the issue of passports during the last few years. With the studying of this report a novel plan is expected to be devised to expedite the issue of passports. Several who were waiting to obtain passports complained to the Ministers that they were compelled to undergo severe hardships and innumerable difficulties in obtaining their passports in time and due to undue delays they have even lost job opportunities abroad".

IS IT ALSO NOT TRUE that on April 26, 1984, the *Sun* had a front page splash- SWEEPING CHANGES AT PASSPORT OFFICE—PASSPORTS IN ONE WEEK, "A three-member ministerial team appointed to probe the chaotic conditions at the passports office following a series of exposures in the *Weekend* has made a series of recommendations to remedy the sorry state of affairs. Main among them is the introduction of arrangements to ensure that the public receive their passports within one week. They will be posted to them at state expense . . ." That in spite of this hopeful sunshine story, applicants for passports (urgent and otherwise) had a different story to tell? That nothing had changed at the PO? That the officials had become more rude and offensive? That the earlier bad public relations had become worse? That this was partly confirmed by a front-page story in *The Island* of May 1, 1984 under the headline THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED AT THE PASSPORT OFFICE: "Officers of the Passport Office in Colombo believe that unless far-reaching changes and improvements are implemented the recommendations made by the Ministerial Committee for strengthening of the passport office would prove to be impractical. Chaos and disorder prevailed last Friday, too. There were unending queues that didn't appear to move. There was commotion at the windows, with noisy protesting members of the public trying to get their passports while the harassed officials tried desperately to cope up with the pandemonium that prevailed there . . .?"

Govt



Notice

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (Chap. 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT. NO. 28 OF 1964.

THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 28 OF 1964.

Notice Under Section 7 ()

Reference No. ATH. 17/461

Ref : No. 3298

It is intended to acquire the lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars, see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 294/16 dated 27. 4. 1984

The land described in the schedule below has been acquired. For further particulars please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 292/5 of 9. 4. 1984

SCHEDULE

D. R. O's Division : Nugegoda.
Situation : Ward 8, within the T. C. limits of Maharagama.
Village : Pannipitiya.
Name of Land : Portion of Assmt, No. 8, Pansala Road.
Lot No. : 1 & 2.
Plan No. P. P. Co. ; 5570.

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

SCHEDULE

Situation of Land : In the village of Mirissa North, Weligam Korale West D. R. O's Division, Matara District.
Name of Land : Polkoratuwa alias Dampittaniyawatte
Lot & Plan No. : Lot No. 1 - P. Plan No. 30/1123.

G. S. Ediriweera
Acquiring Officer
Matara District.

Kachcheri, Matara
1st April, 1984

The Kachcheri,
Colombo
23-4-1984.

RELY ON



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