

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol. 28 No. 29 — September 1, 1984 — Rs. 4.00

Next Week



- ★ **CONSULTANCY**
—What it Means?
- ★ **ETHNIC PROBLEM**
—by S. P. Amarasingam
- ★ **POPULATION & POVERTY - 2**
—More Malthus
- ★ **DIGAWAPI**
—Sixty years ago
- ★ **CONFIDENTIALLY**
—Governmental

A SRI LANKAN IDENTITY...

Elsewhere in this issue, A. C. M. Villavarayan who writes regularly in our columns on matters of current topicality has welcomed Minister Lalith Athulathmudali's plea that it was time that people in this country forgot the term "race" and talked only about "nationality". Mr. Villavarayan drew attention to the fact that in a "Behind The News" broadcast over SLBC on July 15, Minister Athulathmudali had made a fervent appeal that people should forget the concept of "race" and remember that only "nationality" mattered. *Tribune* has on many occasions in the past pointed out that Ministers and politicians were still talking racially about Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim or Malay and not about Sri Lankans. Some Ministers had called upon

the Sinhalese to defend this country against any possible foreign invasion—without realising that they were shutting all non-Sinhalese from any role in the defence of the country. In the *Tribune* of June 2 (Vol. 28 No. 26 and 27) we had among other matters pointed out: "... And now 54 years after adult franchise and 30 years after Independence, *Tribune* is not sure whether the country is moving in the right direction either to develop a Sri Lankan consciousness or concretise national unity. On the contrary our recent political history and developments have manifested strong ethnic polarising tendencies which can be interpreted as blatant chauvinism. This has been demonstrated not only in voting for parliament or local elections but also in all sectors of life and living. In the years after Independence, the attempts to reduce ethnic polarisation have virtually disappeared and no concrete or practical steps have been taken to promote national unity. All that has been done and is still being done is to pay lip service to the word 'national unity' and this has unfortunately been taken to mean that the minorities must merge their identities in the cultural, language and religious identity of the major community. Officially an attempt was made to erase Tamil identity from the history, culture, religion and language of this land. This trend could have been reversed if an attempt had been made to create a Sri Lankan consciousness. To bring this about it was necessary to make it clear that the Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers (of whatever religious persuasion) were and are part and parcel of a Ceylonese or a Sri Lankan nation..." What we need is an identity as Sri Lankans, not as Sinhalese, Tamils, Moors, Malays, or Burghers. It is nationality, not race that can help this country remain a unitary state. *Only the universal acceptance of the concept of a Sri Lankan identity can bring peace, harmony and progress to this country.*

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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 1/505

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 28. 6. 84.

SCHEDULE

D. R. O's Division : Colombo
Situation : Ward 43, Havelock town within the M. C. limits of Colombo.
Village : Thimbirigasyaya.
Name of Land : Rssmt. No. 314, Galle Road (portion)
Lot Nos. : 01
Plan No. P. R. Go. : 6137

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

The Kachcheri,
 Colombo.
 Date 27-6-1984

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (Chap. 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT No. 28 OF 1984.

Reference No. ATH 1/419

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. 302/30 of 18. 6. 84.

SCHEDULE

D. R. O's Division : Colombo
Situation : Ward N. 6, Blocemendhal within the M. C. limits of Colombo.
Village : Kotahena
Name of Land : Asst. Nos. 637, 637/5, 637/10, 637/11, 643, 649 Sirima Bandaranayake Mawatha.
Lot No. : 1
Plan No. P. P. Co. : 6180

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

The Kachcheri,
 Colombo.
 Date 18-6-1984

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

Notice Under Section 7

Ref. No. /328)

The land described in the schedule below have been acquire. For further particulars please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 302/35 of 21.6.84

SCHEDULE

Situation of Land : Manalana village, Gangboda Pattuwa North Matara District.
Name of Land : Pitamulla alias Puwakwattadeniya, Amuna
Lot & Plan No. : Lot Nos. 1 and 2 in P. Plan No. /1007

G. L. W. Samarasinghe
Acquiring Officer
Matara District.

The Kachcheri,
 Matara.
 Date 14-6-1984

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

Reference No. 3/2/5/5/1085

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. 300/9 of 6. 6. 1984

SCHEDULE

A. G. A's Division : Ja-ela
Village : Thalagolla
Situation : Ward No. 5 within Ragama Town Council limits
Name of Land : Thalгахahena alias Annasihena
Lot Nos : 1 - 76
Plan No. P. P. Co. : 347

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

The Kachcheri,
 Gampaha.
 Date 04-6-1984

TRIBUNE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Last month *Tribune* had written to its subscribers to apologise for the irregular publication for some months. Below we publish some excerpts from that letter. We had said that our difficulties had stemmed from the problems which arose from the ethnic riots of July 1983 and their aftermath which came down heavily on us only this year involving *Tribune* in editorial, administrative, circulation and financial difficulties. We had gone on to say "Since the paper was started in 1954, this is the third time, its publication was interrupted: first, after the communal riots of 1958 when the paper had to cease publication for about six months; the second during the Insurgency of 1971 when publication was disrupted for a slightly longer period, and the present interruption had come some months after the July 1983 holocaust. Large sums due to us on account of sales and advertising have not come in although we had hoped they would after six or eight months. But they did not. We have had to write off substantial sums due to us from sales agents whose shops and goods were burnt. It is well to remember that *Tribune* has at all times been a non-profit organisation, and it has been sustained by the financial contributions and the voluntary services of a dedicated few. Without financial reserves of any kind, *Tribune* was caught on the wrong foot with the continuing ethnic crisis and economic recession in 1983 and 1984. But in spite of all difficulties *Tribune* hopes to end this third interruption (in thirty years) soon. We will be back every week within a very short time. We appeal to our subscribers and readers to bear with us for a little while longer. No subscriber will suffer as he will receive his quota of issues for which he has paid. We are deeply conscious of the need for a paper like *Tribune* at the present critical stage of the island's political history and this has brought a sense of urgency for the need to have *Tribune* back on the rails soon." With this issue we are back in circulation: in a new format. We hope to increase our pages as we get more support. We take this opportunity to mention that at the suggestion of some of our friends and well-wishers we have decided to increase our income by introducing what are called *sponsored-features*. Many prestigious magazines in many countries have now adopted this method of sustaining themselves to be there by able to publish articles, comments analysis and exposures which would not otherwise be printed. Sponsored-features are paid for by the page. They will not appear as advertisement supplements but as magazine articles. *Tribune* will accept for publication at mutually agreed rates only such features as are in keeping with its publication tradition. With resumption of publication, we have a major problem with the *Sri Lanka Chronicle*. We have about 16 weeks of accumulated *Chronicles*. If we attempt to publish the 16 weeks in the weekly issue of *Tribune* over a few weeks, we will have very little room for articles or commentaries especially those on the burning problems of the day. For the present, we will publish the current *Chronicle* and keep the backlog of *Chronicle* from May 13 to August 20 in abeyance until we find a way out. One suggestion is that we print them separately as one or two special supplements and that they could be set off as copies to cover the subscriptions already paid. This backlog of *Chronicle* will take over 50 pages of *Tribune*. In our letter to subscribers we had also drawn attention to some salient facts about *Tribune* and about hopes and plans for the future. We refer to these elsewhere in this issue. From the next issue we hope to publish special articles on what is called the Ethnic Problem. But it is well to remember that what troubles Sri Lanka and which is highlighted in the terrorist campaign by a section of the Tamil people is not only the ethnic problem. It is a conglomerate of many problems we have inherited from the colonialism together with others we have created for ourselves.

● Tribune

● Multinationals

In the *Letter From The Editor* this week we had referred to a letter we had written to our subscribers to explain why publication had been irregular for some time. In the letter we had set out some particulars about *Tribune*. We had said: "*Tribune* is a weekly political and economic journal of Ceylon and world affairs. It has been in publication since 1954. It provides a window on Sri Lanka especially for those abroad who want to keep abreast with developments in the island. Among other features, *Tribune*, every week, publishes a *Sri Lanka Chronicle*—a concise daily digest of the headlines and contents of the significant events reported in the daily papers published in Colombo. This *Chronicle* will enable you to get the news from several Sri Lanka newspapers in one journal—and save you the expense of buying all of them.

"*Tribune* is not the organ of any organisation or group. It is independent of any affiliation that compels bias. That is why over the years people who matter have learnt to respect it. *Tribune* also provides a forum for a wide range of opinion on many aspects of life and living. It is eminently readable and deals in depth with the entire gamut of political, economic, cultural and social issues. It gives the news behind the news. It is the most valuable contemporary political and economic guide on Sri Lanka. On a conservative estimate ten to twelve people read each copy of the paper. In the large number of libraries that subscribe to the paper each copy is widely read. Most subscribers file every copy for reference. There is also a steadily increasing demand for back numbers including bound volumes of which we have limited stocks.

"Sri Lanka is now entering a new phase in its political history. *Tribune* will in the coming period approach all current problems of the country with a new orientation to focus attention on economic and ethnic issues in a way that will throw revealing light on them. *Tribune* which has in more recent times, much to the disappointment of many readers, taken the position of an observer commenting on events as they unfolded themselves, will revert to its earlier role of being a sharply critical dynamic campaigner to right wrongs and fight worthy causes. We had in the recent past concentrated on construction and economic development but we find that major political and economic issues are in urgent need of change and reform. Corruption has become the order of the day.

"The ethnic question is now the crucial burning problem of the day and if a solution is not found early, progress will be retarded for the entire Island: economic

development will be inhibited and foreign assistance may be curtailed. All Governments and all political parties since Independence have contributed to the present chaotic mess. To persist in a military solution, in whatever camouflaged way, will only perpetuate violence and terrorism. A political solution, however distasteful to certain vested interests, must be found.

"*Tribune* will, in the coming period dedicate itself to the task of suggesting ways and means of solving this problem to end the violence and establish an acceptable basis for communal harmony and peace. *Tribune* will also pay serious attention to correcting economically disastrous policies and programmes that tend to undermine the well-being of the people. It will also endeavour, within the limitations of the law, to expose corruption in high places.

"*Tribune* welcomes articles and comments, breloxy and concisely written, on the political and socio-economic problems of Sri Lanka, especially in relation to Third World countries in the Asia/Pacific region. Our arrangements to resume publication will soon be complete and we hope to maintain our weekly schedules thereafter. To help in our programme of rehabilitation and our endeavour to give a new life to a refurbished *Tribune*, we seek your support in a number of ways. First, we lost nearly all our Sales Agents in Colombo and the outstations after the July 1983 riots. The process of finding new agents who will pay their dues is slow and is beset with many

TRIBUNE

TR/BUNE welcomes feature and analytical articles on matters of current topical interest. They should be typed double-spaced and should not exceed 1,500 words. The ideal length would be around 1,000 words.

Articles in *Tribune* do not represent any consensus of beliefs or any commitment to rigid inflexibility. Editorial views are only to provoke thinking and provide guidelines for opinion making. Nor does *Tribune* expect readers to sympathise with or accept views put forward in the paper. While *Tribune* seeks to keep clear and not get involved in controversial and contentious issues, it believes that it can do much to keep Sri Lanka public opinion informed by broad hospitality to divergent views than it can by identifying itself with one trend of thinking. Furthermore, *Tribune* does not accept responsibility for the validity or otherwise for the views expressed in any article, signed or unsigned, which appears in its pages. What it does accept responsibility for is to give them a chance to appear in print.

difficulties. If you can suggest reliable sales agents or shops in your area, it will help us. *Second*, we need advertisements to sustain us. Both public and private sector enterprises are reluctant to advertise in what they regard as a basically anti-Establishment paper like the *Tribune*. But it will be of immense assistance to us if you can persuade any enterprise you know to advertise in the *Tribune*. It will pay them dividends because *Tribune* reaches people who matter. *Third*, we need more subscribers both local and foreign. We will be grateful if you can send us five (5) addresses of persons who may be interested in receiving the paper. We will be happy to send them specimen copies of the paper for their perusal. *Fourth*, we are enclosing two (2) subscription forms for the *Tribune* and would appreciate if you could pass it on to possible subscribers."

For the appeal we made in the letter, we received a response far greater than we had expected, and that is how we have been able to resume publication now. Once again we make the appeal for new subscribers, advertisers and sales agents.

In this issue, Sherlock Holmes has dealt with matters that involve the activities of multinationals. This is only a reflection of the concern about the incursion of multinationals into the economy (and the politics) of this island. There is among some, a sense of resignation that the coming of the multinationals cannot be stopped. A few think that multinationals alone can help to get this country economically on its feet. Others insist that multinationals will bring economic slavery and create conditions for unrest and upheavals. It is yet too early to evaluate the extent of multinational penetration or the impact this may have on our economy. But it is not too early to get acquainted with the character and nature of multinationals in the context of their global activities.

Below is a summarised "review" of a recent book; by John Cavanagh and Frederick F. Clairmonte entitled FROM CORPORATIONS TO CONGLOMERATES: A REVIEW OF MULTINATIONALS: "Over the past 20 years multinational corporations have become the dominant force in the world economy. But they no longer take the same form or operate in the same way as they did back in 1960. Five basic changes have occurred in the structure of multinational enterprise. *Conglomerates and Oligopolies*: For all the talk of a 'free market' and 'free competition', the world economy over the past two decades has increasingly been run by giant companies that exercise control by virtue of their oligopolistic or conglomerate strength. An oligopoly refers to a handful of firms that dominate the market by various collusive practices, such as predatory pricing or erecting barriers to entry. International oligopolies have become paramount over the past decade in automobiles, microprocessors, seeds and numerous primary commodities, such as coffee

and cotton. Meanwhile, the ranks of older oligopolies have been thinned in industries like petroleum and cigarettes. With the growth of these international oligopolies, their ability to control prices and wipe out competition has correspondingly increased.

"Equally striking has been the rise of the conglomerates, companies whose subsidiaries engage in unrelated economic activities. Conglomerates have expanded through mergers and take-overs in a series of waves during the 60s, 70s and into the 80s. Certain conglomerates even straddle agriculture, industry and service. A good example is the maker of Winston cigarettes, R. J. Reynolds, which has the following subsidiaries: Del Monte (fruit), Houblein (alcohol), Sealand Services (shipping) Kentucky Fried Chicken (food retailing) and Aminoil (petroleum). By their nature, conglomerates have the ability to undermine their competitors. As different markets expand and contract, the conglomerates can shift resources into whatever sector is most profitable at any given time. Moreover, conglomerates often engage in a practice called cross-subsidisation, whereby they shift profits from one product line to subsidise another. This is an ideal marketing device which enhances the company's market share by underpricing competitors. For instance, Marlboro cigarettes creator, Phillip Morris, revolutionised the US beer market in the 1970s by buying up a small regional brewer, Miller, and transforming it into the second largest beer producer in the world. Phillip Morris pulled this off largely by low pricing and massive advertising, subsidized by Marlboro's tobacco profits. Coca-Cola, through its acquisition of Taylor Wines, is in the process of doing the same to the US wine sector.

"*Decline of US multinationals*: The size of multinationals has increased dramatically over the last two decades. Revenues of the top 200 firms have jumped 10-fold, from around \$ 200 billion to over \$ 2 trillion. But amidst this overall growth, the position of US firms has fallen. In 1960, of the top 200 multinationals companies, 127 were US-based; these companies accounted for 72.7% of the group's revenue. By 1980 however, US firms numbered only 91 out of 200, their revenue share having fallen to 50.1% of the total. As US firms have lost some of their commanding lead other companies based in foreign countries—particularly France and Japan—have gained ground. The number of France's multinationals in the top 200 has

CENSORSHIP

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umped from 7 to 15, with sales skyrocketing from \$ 4 billion to \$ 161 billion. No less dramatic is Japan's steep ascent, with 20 companies now in the top 200 as opposed to only five in 1960. Revenues of these Japanese companies have zoomed up from \$ 2.9 billion in 1960 to \$ 155 billion in 1990. (The figures for Japanese companies do not include the Sogo Sochas, Japan's general trading companies. Led by Mitsui and Mitsubishi, there are nine giant Sogo Shoshas, whose 1981 aggregate revenues exceeded \$ 357 million). Over the past two decades, multinationals have altered their approach to the control of production. In general, the giant firms have given up direct ownership of primary commodity output, while greatly increasing their control over processing, marketing and distribution.

"In response to internal political shifts in many developing countries since independence, multinationals have sought to preserve friendly relations with segments of local oligarchies by formally transferring mine and plantation ownership over to them. Crucial, however, in this entire process has been the retention by the multinationals of effective controls over output. They achieve this result by various means, including contract farming in agriculture production. Firms like Del Monte, Castle and Coone (Dole) and even Gailo are often the sole buyers of agricultural products in a region. With total controls over prices, product size and quality, they are able to squeeze local farmers to work for them on their terms. Peasants and farmers who don't like the arrangements have no place to sell their goods. In this realm of marketing and distribution, multinationals have come to dominate world trade. Japan's nine Sogo Shoshas for instance, handle over half of their nation's international trade, as well as a good deal of domestic trade

"Fragmentation of production: The production line is now global, as companies manufacture parts of one good in one country, assemble it somewhere else and put on the finishing touches in yet another. Multinationals have achieved this globalisation of production by means of joint ventures, licensing and sub-contracting agreements, the burgeoning free trade and export processing zones. Engineered by companies seeking out the cheapest labour and most profitable concessions, this change in production has pitted Third World governments against one another. Developing nations now compete among themselves for the distinction of granting the greatest incentives to multinationals. And the global production line has enabled multinationals not only to cheapen labour power, but also to neutralise the strike weapon. When workers try to demand higher wages, multinationals can either pull out and move to another country boasting cheaper labour, or simply threaten to pull out. Either tactic yields the same result: diminishing the force of the labour movement.

"Rise of the Big Banks: International finance is no longer being performed primarily by the World Bank

and the International Monetary Fund. Over the past decade, commercial banks have taken over this function, providing more than 50% of the loans to developing countries. During this period, the assets of the major banks have soared to awesome heights; the top 100 banks have combined assets of \$ 4.4 trillion, equivalent of half of the global gross domestic product. Big Japanese and US banks together control two-fifths of the top 100's total assets, with 24 Japanese banks holding over a quarter of total assets. The rapid ascent of private commercial finance has placed the banks in conflict, at times, with multinational corporations. Although the relationship between the two is generally harmonious in period of growth, during the current global recession, tensions have arisen. Multinational banks are increasingly concerned about the ability of their country clients to repay loans.

"Thus in the past three years, the banks have decelerated their lending to developing countries. This is an unpopular move with multinational corporations which, in their desire to increase world trade, depend on bank loans to provide developing countries with the foreign exchange to buy Western goods. By and large, the combined impact of these five structural changes has been to increase the power and influence of multinationals. In particular, the flexibility of multinationals to shift resources across economic sectors and national boundaries has been greatly enhanced over the past two decades. This manoeuvrability expands the companies economic power, as they can move readily to the most profitable areas. It also allows them to dodge political accountability, for whenever any entity—be it a government, labour union or consumer group—attempts to regulate the companies, they can simply pull up their stakes and find a more hospitable host. While becoming better organised in many countries, workers and peasants are only beginning to develop the strategies, networks, and ability to counter such power and flexibility."

This will give our readers an idea about multinationals and how they operate.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

Oh! Holy St. Jude Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all, who invoke you, special patron in time of need, to you I have recourse in the depths of my heart and humbly beg you to come to my aid.

Help me now in my present and earnest petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause it to be invoked. (Our Father, Hail Mary and Gloria to be said three times). St. Jude pray for us and all who honour and invoke thy aid. This Novena will never fail. Request granted: Publication in Thanksgiving. —Jude, Moratuwa.

TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 1, 1984

THE POLITICAL SCENE

SRI LANKAN IDENTITY

Nationality Not Race

By A. C. M. Villavarayan

I refer to two items of information that reached me through the media in the course of the week 15th-22nd July 1984. *Firstly*, I refer to the speech of the Minister of National Security to ex-servicemen which came over the air on Sunday 15th July 1984 in the programme "Behind the News" at about 9.15 p.m. In the speech he broadly explained the concept of nationality and stressed that nationality and "race" are two different things. The other item of information was what I read in a newspaper that as a matter of policy, public servants in future will not be called upon to disclose their "race" when filling routine forms. *Please publish in your journal this letter which endeavours to place these vital items of information in their proper perspective with a view to building bridges towards National Identity, National Unity and National Amity.*

The Minister in his speech highlighted the confusion that appears to exist in the minds of Sri Lankans about their nationality. He compared the attitude of people in the United States of America and Britain with that of the Sri Lankans. He said that if anyone asks a citizen of America or Britain "What is your nationality?" the answer invariably will be that he/she is American or British without any reference as to whether he/she is of German, French, Jewish, Negro, Scottish, Welsh or even Irish origin. Whereas in Sri Lanka the members of the majority community or the members of the minority communities with very few exceptions, if asked what their nationality is, will say Sinhalese, Tamil or Muslim. Perhaps, a member of the Burgher community may say that he/she is a Sri Lankan. The majority of Sri Lankans have got their concepts about nationality and community completely mixed up. *I have used the word community instead of the word race for justifiable reasons because in the matter of race there appears to be no proper understanding of the meaning of the word.*

The information that appeared in the newspaper is most opportune and should apply to all citizens of Sri Lanka who are required to fill official forms of one kind or another. I submit that the word—race—should be deleted from all forms and be substituted with the word—nationality. For purposes of the official census, the word—community—should also be used. The reasons will unfold themselves as I proceed.

It is scientifically and anthropologically accepted that the human species arose from a common ancestor.

The evidence is weighty enough to merit serious consideration. It follows logically that all people comprising the human species belong to the human race because of their common ancestry.

It is interesting to note that many years ago, THOMAS MASARYK who was President of Czechoslovakia and who, perhaps, was one of the few rulers who approximated to Plato's ideal of PHILOSOPHER KING convinced the Immigration officials of the United States of America when he landed in that country that he had no choice but to insert the word human, in the blank space against the word—race. In his own mind he had no doubt that the words race and nationality did not mean the same thing. The gist of his argument was that if the American Immigration officials wished him to state his nationality, he would have gladly obliged by inserting the word—Czechoslovakian—if there was a proper cage for this purpose on the form. This incident is narrated by the great man himself in his book THE IDEALS OF HUMANITY.

In the circumstances, if all people inhabiting the planet earth belong to the human race, then, human beings, wherever they live, are not divided ethnically but only by religion, language and perhaps by colour. Human beings thus comprise communities. On this basis, in Sri Lanka, there is the majority community, the Sinhalese who make up about 74% of the population and the minority communities, namely, Tamils, Muslims, Burghers and others who make up the balance 26%. It is taken for granted that all members of all the communities are citizens of Sri Lanka enjoying equal rights prescribed in the Constitution.

If Sri Lankans are to live in peace and achieve National Identity, National Unity and National Amity we can do no better than to take to heart the examples of TRUDEAU and our own cricket squad that left recently for England. During the Quebec crisis in 1976, Trudeau allayed the fears of the Quebecers and the English speaking community in Canada with these stirring words: "There is a deeper bond than community and that is the bond of fraternity. We have to learn to live in mutual respect of one another and in love of one another."

The Cricket Squad represents a microcosm of Sri Lanka in a unique way. The Squad was selected by a selection committee whose head is a member of the Muslim community. The Squad consisted of 15 cricketers, 12 of them are members of the Sinhalese community, and the Tamil, Muslim and Burgher communities are represented by one member for each community. The selection without any doubt was not done on a community proportion basis but strictly on merit. Above all the Board of Control for cricket chose as Manager and Assistant Manager two members of the Tamil community. The Captain of the Squad is a member of the Sinhalese community.

The Managers, the captain and the squad left our shores as human beings and as Sri Lankans. There

were no divisions not even on the score of language and religion. The English language acted as a binder and the distilled essence of all four major religions in our country—brotherhood and mutual trust and love bound the members of the squad closer still. There is a lesson to be learnt. There was no doubt about nationality and no rancour about community.

Lord Buddha said that the mind is the source of all thoughts and ideas. It is the manifestation of everything. Therefore, it is to the mind that all our efforts at Identity, Unity and Amity must be directed. The task is one of communication truth to the mind devoid of the deadwood of outdated myths and out-worn ideas.

Unpalatable or not, there is to my mind no other permanent way.

x x x

LETTERS

Ethnic Problem

Sir,

Terrorism is a long drawn out affair and in the long run no side wins but the public suffer. It cannot be suppressed altogether with the sword. Mahatma Gandhi knew this and that was why he resorted to civil disobedience, which succeeded. Now that the politicians have so far failed to solve this problem, I would suggest that the leaders of the Buddhist, Hindu, Christian and the Islam religions hold a conference, arrive at a peaceful solution and advice the politicians. Someone has to take the initiative to convene such a conference. I would suggest that the Buddhist Sangha being the leaders of the religion of the majority should do this.

Eelam is out of the question, for a small country. Sri Lanka cannot be divided in to two states but there are other ways of settling this dispute. Take for instance Switzerland. That is a small country with a population of six to seven million people. The population consists mostly of Germans, French and Italians and there is said to be three official languages in that country and this is working smoothly with no problems. Why cannot Sri Lanka recognise Sinhalese and Tamil as the official languages of the country with English as a link language in order to foster racial harmony and National unity. The "hue and cry" for Eelam by the Tamils will gradually die down if the language problem is settled as suggested by me and the Tamils are assured that security, justice and equal opportunities in education and employment will be granted to them.

Jack Van Sanden

99, Docking Street,
Wodonga,
Victoria 3690,
Australia.

The Stateless

Sir,

Time and again, the newspapers spotlight the sorry state in which 'boat people', refugees, (shall we call them 'land people' as they are often relegated to crowded camps on terra firma?) are expected to exist and make the best of whatever amenities (often nearly nil), are available to them.

Over the years, various promises have been made by successive governments to alleviate the almost in-human conditions in which a large section of Lanka's population has eked out its living. And the saddest part is that hordes of these suffering people are termed "stateless" which means that they have no land of their own. A very sad state of affairs, you will admit, especially when one is reminded that these stateless folk have, over the decades, contributed in no small manner, to the improvement of Sri Lanka's economy, to enhancement of her gross national product, to diligent, painstaking toil on hilly, far-flung estates in the bitterly cold, wet hill country.

If not for the mass of plantation labour, who would pluck baskets upon baskets of "flush"—two leaves and a bud, which go to make one of the world's most popular and comparatively cheap beverages? One that appeals to both rich and poor alike? Most people would cavil at rising at break of dawn in sun and rain, wind and cold, to work in arduous conditions like these labourers have done, and continue to do, for so many scores of years. The blood, sweat and tears of these labourers have seeped into the soil of the country's tea gardens "nourishing" and enriching them as no fertiliser could ever do. Then, how come that successive governments have treated vast numbers of such diligent workers as "stateless", rootless aliens with no Mother India to welcome them, and no Mother Lanka to clasp them to her breast? How and why have they become mere cyphers on a huge checkroll? Why was their lot made harder following nationalisation of the plantations? Was that the reward they received for playing so dynamic a role in the development of our country?

Does it not smack of base ingratitude on Lanka's part to spurn large groups of these workers who have given the best years of their lives in loyal service to this island in the sun? Won't some of the warmth of the sun of comfort and solace suffuse the sorrowful lives of estate workers especially those who are deemed "stateless"? If they are left out in the cold of indifference, won't such an attitude on our part smack of grave discrimination and be a blot on society? After all, do we not realise that thin future is also the future of our motherland? This call goes out to Mother,

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Lanka: "Abandon not these people who have toiled for thee".

Recently, press reports had it that most of Lanka's "stateless" people would be given Ceylon Citizenship. Democracy, nay human decency, demands this. A gracious gesture, such as this, will be lauded by the entire world; a compassionate deed that will help, in no small measure, to restore Sri Lanka's image which was bespoiled following the tragic events of July, '83. If these labourers are permitted to enter the mainstream of national life in our country thereby erasing an affront to human dignity, President Jayewardene will be the only Sri Lankan leader who has succeeded in solving this 'human problem'. If the "stateless" have to be satisfied with only their unhappy yesterday, their dream of a better tomorrow be only a dream—now and always?

For coming to grips with this and many other national problems, with vision and compassion—When the history of our land comes to be told, the President's name will be graven in gold

Mrs. Lucy Thompson.

8/44, Watapuluwa,
Kandy.
July, 4, 1984.

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EXPOSE

SHERLOCK HOLMES

* Tenders

Sherlock Holmes is regarded as a pseudonym by most people, but he has been a real person from the days of Arthur Conan Doyle. *Sherlock Holmes* has been a real *Tribune* personality almost from the inception of the paper in 1954. *Sherlock Holmes* is a living entity not only in Sri Lanka but in all parts of the civilized world where the classics of the English language have penetrated.

Now a Sri Lankan law threatens to banish *Sherlock Holmes* and the likes of him from pages of the printed word. Why this is considered necessary is not understood. The Editor is responsible, in law, fact and ethic, for every word *Sherlock Holmes* writes in the pages of *Tribune*. *Sherlock Holmes* will continue in the present form in the pages of *Tribune* until the draft law is inscribed in the Statute Book.

AIRPORT TENDERS: A reader from Katunayake, who chooses to remain anonymous, writes: "Dear *Sherlock Holmes*, I know I am addressing a real person not a nom-de-plume. But the pseudonym problem is a stupidity government has unnecessarily conjured up for itself. That is another matter. What I want to ask you is whether you have heard of what is being talked about some tenders at the airport. It is a fascinating story. Comparisons are odious but they are inescapable. There were, it would seem, two tenders: one for the *Runway* and the other for *Airport Terminal*. Let me deal first with the *Runway Tender*. The estimated budget was Rs. 770 million. Tenderers are said to have quoted between Rs. 500 million and Rs. 600 million. The tender for the *Runway* was the first to close, and with the competition very close all quotations were nearly Rs. 250 million below the budgeted value. The *Airport Terminal* tender was another kettle of fish. It was under Japanese Aid and the tenders closed on June 26, 1984. *Local tenderers, some acting for foreign principals, had quoted between Rs. 500 and Rs. 600 million for the job. On an untied international tender this is what the job would have cost Sri Lanka.*"

But then came Foreign Aid. Then came in the Foreign Consultants whose feasibility reports are part of the Foreign Aid. The story down the grapevine is that a firm of Dutch Consultants NACO or with an abbreviation like that, had given an estimate of Rs. 800 million. But it is said that the Japanese Consultants

had estimated the job at Rs. 1,100 million. The aid was tied to Japanese tenderers and it is said that four tenderers had participated in the tender: (a) Mitsui; (b) Tode Tsei; (c) Kumagai and (d) Fugita. Now comes the amazing part of the story going the rounds in Colombo. Two tenderers, one of whom is Fugita, have not even made a site visit. All it means is that there was to be no competition inside a *de facto* Japanese Cartel. The price agreed on, it is said, will be very close to the budgeted price of Rs. 1,100 million. If there was competition like in the Runway tender the price would be at least Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 million, cheaper than the budgeted price—thus saving Sri Lanka some money which they have to eventually pay back to the Japanese Government. But the prediction in commercial circles is that one of the Japanese firms will be awarded the tender at possibly the budgeted price with no competition coming in from the others two of whom have not visited the site and obviously cannot submit a feasible quotation. *Is this a case where Foreign Aid makes everything more expensive for the recipient country? Is it not a fact that under such circumstances the biggest multinationals have a field day especially in a country like Japan where there is no law against cartelisation in tender bidding as in the UK and some other countries?*

"The simple question, *Mr. Sherlock Holmes*, is why there was no competition in the *Airport Terminal Tender*. Was it not because the tender was confined to Japanese firms which agreed amongst themselves that one of them should take over the job at the highest possible price? The name of the successful tenderer has not been officially announced, but everybody that matters knows who has carried away this booty. The Japanese consultants had estimated the job at Rs. 300 million more than the Dutch who had probably overshot the mark by about Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 million—providing for contingencies. The belief in Colombo commercial circles is that Sri Lanka will spend Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 million for the *Airport Terminal* more than it would cost under competition. Who are the locals who will get the crumbs from the table . . . Tell me, *Mr. Sherlock Holmes* . . . Whither Sri Lanka?"

Sherlock Holme's Answer: The reader's letter needs no answer. It speaks for itself. It is true that this story has been whispered in the topmost commercial circles. The tenderers and the Government agencies are covered by the Japanese Consultants' report. And in the case of Japanese Aid, consultants from Japan have the last word. The Japanese may also say that the Dutch consultants were only interested in throwing a spanner into the works by an underestimate. It may be that somebody may have an explanation for the *Airport Terminal Tender* but the general consensus is that this is a *RUN-AWAY TENDER* over which the aid-receiving Sri Lanka has little or no say. Beggars, they say, cannot be choosers.

August 20-26

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*—Janadina; *S*—Sun; *DV*—Davasa; *DP*—Dinapathi; *CM*—Chinthamani; *WK*—Weekend; *RV*—Riviresa; *DK*—Dinakara; *EN*—Elenadu; *IS*—Island; *DI*—Divaina; *IDPR*—information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20: An unpaid arrears account of well over Rs. 1 billion yet to be collected from its consumers, and expansion projects and plans to ensure still better services countrywide, will keep the CEB skating on thin ice financially for some time more, official sources said yesterday. Egypt has called for joint Arab action to protect navigation in Middle East waters as American, British and French ships continue the search for mines in the sea lanes near the Suez Canal—*DN*. An agreement will be signed today with Daimei Telecommunication Engineering Corporation of Japan, for the laying of a new Telephone cable network for the Port of Colombo valued at nearly Rs. 12 million—*DM*. The members of the University Grants Commission will separately submit their own views on the University Admission Policy Report to President J. R. Jayewardene who is also the Minister of Higher Education—*D*. A top-level probe on the illicit tapping of fuel from the pipeline connecting the Sapugaskanda oil refinery and the Kolonnawa storage tanks has indicated that certain employees of the Petroleum Corporation were involved in the racket, Police said. Many of the undisclosed details of President J. R. Jayewardene's second chamber proposal will be revealed tomorrow when the all party conference reconvenes at 6 p.m. A series of measures to stem the pollution of waterways in and around Colombo are to be implemented by the Central Environmental Authority, following the pollution of the Beira Lake—*SU*. The Colombo General Hospital mortuary is a nauseating mess as only six out of the 36 refrigerator drawers are working. Separatist guerillas fighting for an independent state in Northern Sri Lanka are likely to step up their attacks in the next few weeks, a senior army officer said today. The Tamil Eelam Radio which has regular broadcasts advocating separatism and violence, is transmitting on very powerful wave lengths and can be even in Colombo very clearly. The Central Bank will not issue any further six-month securities for the present; they are considering the introduction of one-year securities instead which can help spread the issues and avoid "bunching" observed during the three issues made, according to the Governor—*S*.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21: Sri Lanka is one of a dozen countries—most of them in the third world and battling to develop their economies—now feeling threatened by an effort by the US textile industry to impose new protectionist measures. Israel's two main parties, trying to form a national unity government, said tonight they had agreed that Israeli troops should be withdrawn from South Lebanon as soon as possible—*DN*. The Government is facing the critical problem of providing 2,616 public servants with quarters immediately; almost 600 officers in the staff grade and 2,026 in the clerical grades are on the waiting list for quarters since 1967—*DM*. Officials of the Government Analyst's Department who visited Sapugaskanda yesterday were amazed that there had been no major accident at Gonawala, Kelaniya where unauthorised persons had tapped the main pipeline from the refinery to the storage tanks in Kolonnawa—*DO*. The exodus of top management people from the public sector has hindered the work of government committees over the past two years; one such committee meeting which ended on Friday was 'rather an anti-climax' according to a reliable source. Government is expected to submit compromise proposals to the all party conference in the form of zonal councils instead of the regional councils on which the APC has been deadlocked for some time, informed sources said last night. Flights between Singapore and Sri Lanka may be totally suspended if the two governments fail to reach agreement on a fair exchange of traffic rights before November, Singapore authorities warned today—*SU*. A Senior Official from Sri Lanka which recently renewed limited ties with Israel held talks today with Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche of Israel. The four-party Left alliance of the LSSP, MEP, SLMP and the CP was yesterday expected to write to President Jayewardene requesting him to relax the Emergency regulations to enable the four parties to contest the forthcoming by-elections—*S*. Eight lorries carrying food stuffs arrived in Mannar from Colombo to overcome the food shortage prevalent in Mannar—*DP*.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22: The Ministries of Finance and State, in consultation with the banks, have jointly made a series of proposals to help the country's hotel industry whether the current economic storm caused by sharply reduced tourist arrivals, authoritative government sources said. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan have expressed strong determination to try to reach a speedy solution to the Afghan problem, the chief United Nations negotiator between the two nations said yesterday—*DN*. Policemen were yesterday warned to do their duty in enforcing the law and not to be scared by threats from thugs and racketeers who claim to be friends and relations of important people; this warning was issued by Police Headquarters following incidents reported that Policemen were being threatened and intimidated in various ways by interested parties involved in cases—*DM*. Customs officer have requested the Principal Collector of Customs

H. B. Dissanayake to withdraw all Customs Officers from the Duty Free Shopping Complex in Kollupitiya and the Trico Warehouse at Bloemendhal, if the Department cannot guarantee the safety of the officers attached to these places—*DO*. The creation of a second chamber of Parliament, a proposal put forward by President J. R. Jayewardene in a bid to bridge the gap between regional and district councils, would act complimentary to the unit of devolution, whatever its geographical and legislative definitions would be. By-elections are likely to be held in the Northern and Eastern Provinces to fill the existing vacancies. A row between Singapore Airlines and Air Lanka threatens to disrupt their flights between Singapore and Colombo, SIA officials said yesterday. The tea market continues to be encouraging as tea prices conform to the upward trend predicted by experts in the trade four weeks ago—*SU*. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday that close upon one hundred of the youths who were arrested in the Valvettiturai and Vadamaratchi division areas have now been released. With the assistance of the CID and the Police, the new Controller of Immigration and Emigration Mr. C. W. Siriwardene has drawn up a scheme to eliminate the touts and the racketeers who exploit applicants for passports—*S*. The case against Rev. A. Singarayay was postponed for 22nd October this year—*DP*.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23: The Kollupitiya duty free complex was temporarily closed and its 42 shops were sealed on the orders of the Principal Collector of Customs, following representations by Customs unions that it was not safe to work there. Vice President George Bush today sternly warned Libya on what would happen if it was found to be responsible for planting mines in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Sue—*DN*. The Cabinet yesterday decided to provide adequate funds next year to enforce stricter quality controls on all imports and locally manufactured goods; quality control was very essential to maintain standards on all consumer items—*DM*. It took one and a half days for the Petroleum Corporation to seal a one and a quarter inch aperture made in the pipeline that takes oil from the Sapugaskanda Refinery to the Kolonnawa tanks—*DO*. Conclusive proof of northern terrorists using narcotics to fund their militant activities has been uncovered with the arrest of four Sri Lankan Tamils including a 25-year-old girl in Sicily, Italy for the possession of heroin. Thirty three soldiers have been confined to barracks for going on the rampage in Mannar and setting fire to more than 100 shops in the town, Natiya. Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday. Drastic changes are likely to be made in the passport office in the next few weeks; according to highly placed government sources, action is underway to revamp the system to suit the requirements—*SU*. Work in the Duty Free Complex in Kollupitiya came to a grinding halt since Tuesday following the acid throwing incident in which a senior Sub Collector of Customs, Mr. V. S. Karunanayaka received severe facial burn

injuries. A high powered aviation delegation from Sri Lanka will fly to Singapore today to have discussions over a dispute between the national carriers between Colombo and Singapore said Air Lanka circles yesterday—*S*. The Refugee camps in the North and Eastern Provinces will not be closed on the 30th of this month as had been decided earlier—*DP*.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24: Tris year's bumper Yala paddy crop has effectively broken a centuries-old dependence on rice from foreign lands, Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Co-operatives told the *Daily News* yesterday. Britain was on the brink of its second national dock strike in a month last night after the State steel industry decided to unload a consignment of foreign coal without using registered dockers—*DN*. The Secretary, Ministry of State Mr. Douglas Liyanage is to be taken to task for visiting Israel without government authority and for making statements to the Press; Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, who is Cabinet spokesman said yesterday that Mr. Liyanage had left Sri Lanka with his family about ten days ago on a holiday to visit England and Africa; he had not obtained permission to visit Israel—*DM*. The concerted search operations carried out by the Security Forces have yielded large amounts of arms and ammunitions collected by the terrorists in many areas; the latest cache have been found in Kallar, Kaluvanchikudi in Batticaloa by the Police; the haul includes explosives of the type used by terrorists to mine the roads—*DO*. The future of the money-spinning Duty Free Shopping Complex hangs in the balance as Police continue investigations into Monday night's acid attack on a senior Customs Officer of the complex. The deadline for the rehabilitation of Tamil refugees of Indian origin on plantations, has been extended by the Ministry of Rehabilitation in a bid to move out a large number of refugees still in the 15 welfare centres. The Sri Lanka Transport Board is to launch a joint venture with private bus operators to provide a better service to commuters in Colombo and the suburbs—*SU*. The statements made by Mr. Douglas Liyanage, Secretary to the Minister of State during his "private" visit to Israel "were not authorised by the Government" Foreign Minister A. C. S. Hameed said yesterday; Mr. Hameed was commenting on an interview given by Mr. Liyanage to *The Jerusalem Post* which received wide publicity in the international press and radio, including the V.O.A. Tamil protesters invaded the playing field at Lord's hallowed home of cricket today and held up the start of the first Test between Sri Lanka and England—*S*.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25: Indian dockers have officially told Colombo that a Sri Lanka ship due to enter Bombay port tonight will be boycotted, shipping sources said yesterday. United National-sponsored talks on Afghanistan resume in Geneva with Pakistan saying it can accept a Moscow-backed government in Kabul if Soviet forces withdraw—*DN*. State Minister

Dr. Anandatissa de Alwis told Parliament on Friday morning that Mr. Douglas Liyanage, Ministry Secretary had gone to Israel purely on a private visit; he was scheduled to visit Nairobi and England; he also explained that on his return he will be questioned on the statements made by him—*DM*. As investigations into the illicit tapping of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's pipelines continue, Auditor-General, Gamin Epapa said yesterday the possibility of such thefts had been brought to the notice of the Corporation's Chairman in his 1981 report. Government was willing to consider Provincial Councils as units of devolution for the entire country, President J. R. Jayewardene has said in an interview with the *Indian Express* published yesterday. Peradeniya University authorities have requested all parents of students to submit their views on the formation of a Parent's Association at the campus—*SU*. A large number of women numbering over 500 staged a march in Jaffna town and submitted a petition to the Jaffna Government Agent Mr. A. E. Panchalingam yesterday; the petition which was signed by women who were all mothers of children being presently detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, requested the Government to release their children. President J. R. Jayewardene is prepared to offer a general amnesty to Tamil separatists, if they lay down their arms. One terrorist was shot dead and another injured in a clash between terrorists and police in Mannar yesterday—*/S*. Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali told Parliament yesterday that compensation will be paid not only to those affected in the Mannar Area but also to those at Murungan and Addampan—*Vk*.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26: Sri Lanka's overall balance of payments is expected to have a surplus of over 220 million US dollars this year, according to projected figures of the Central Bank; this is the highest surplus the country has had for over 20 years. Nobel Laureate, Mother Teresa will be here early next month on the invitation of the Archbishop of Colombo The Most Rev. Nicholas Marcus Fernando. Nineteen youths alleged to have connections with the Northern Terrorists and kept at a camp at Boosa were released yesterday morning—*SO*. With the Budget proposals for 1985, the Government has plans to revamp the import-export structure; informed sources said that this would deal with problems of external imbalance while trying to achieve structural adjustments to restore viability in the balance of payments. Two large long-standing business houses are on the mat in connection with the detection by Customs of a massive shortage of duty free goods from their bonded warehouses in Colombo—*ST*. The next budget is likely to lay greater emphasis on the development of the export crop sector, informed sources said. A group of terrorist suspects detained at Tangalle's maximum security remand prison failed in an attempt to escape by disguising themselves as prison officers yesterday morning. The duty-free shopping complex in

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Colombo, which emerged as Asia's showpiece, vying with Singapore emporiums and wooing a stream of shoppers from India, has been losing an average of at least 15 million rupees a day since its closure—*WK*. Police are to be given wider powers under the Prevention of Terrorist Act through a series of amendments contemplated to several sections of the Act. President J. R. Jayewardene in his latest letter to Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi has invited her special envoy, Mr. G. Parthasarathi to visit Sri Lanka again. The Government is expected to make provision to increase the number of Appeal Court Judges shortly in a bid to clear the severe backlog of cases—*/S*.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

By Ariel

- A WORLD UNDER STRESS
- US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

It has become extremely difficult, almost impossible to pick out one or two events as the most significant for the week or the fortnight in the current context of world affairs. This could have been done some years ago. Today, every country, every region and every continent seems to be under some kind of stress, and events of a sensational nature seem to be erupting all the time. Even a cursory survey will reveal this. On the *American* continent, as on every continent, there is no country which is free of tension and conflict of some kind. *Canada* is in a state of uncertainty after Trudeau retired from politics. The economic recession has hit *Canada* hard and serious economic problems have overtaken this country which is one of the richest in the Western world. In the Elections to be held this week, the Liberals who have been in power for 21 years are likely to be swept out by the Conservatives. In the *United States*, the forthcoming Presidential Elections has brought to the surface sharp conflicts and differences mainly about war, peace and armaments. All Central and Latin American countries without exception, are in the grip of the debt problem. If one or more of the bigger countries with the largest debt burdens in the world, like *Brazil*, *Mexico*, *Argentina* or *Venezuela*, default, the banking system of the *United States* and *Western Europe* will be shaken to its foundation. Every country in *Western Europe* has difficult problems of its own whilst at the same time they are individually and collectively concerned about the dangers of a nuclear war breaking out in their part of the world. A similar problem confronts the countries of *Eastern Europe* and the *Soviet Union*. No

country in *Africa* can be said to be free from economic difficulties, whilst nearly thirty of them face starvation caused by prolonged drought and the breakdown of their traditional agriculture. *South Africa* continues to be in the news, and its latest attempt to soften apartheid by having mixed-race representation in Parliament has misfired.

Many countries in *Asia* continue to be in ferment at different levels of upheaval and change. In *West Asia*, trouble continues in Lebanon with *Israel* still occupying a considerable part of its territory. *Israel* itself is without a government after the recent inconclusive general election. The war between *Iraq* and *Iran* continues with action mainly confined to hitting tankers and oil installations in the Gulf. There is talk of a general election in *Pakistan* whilst repression against all political-parties continues. *India* presents a picture of economic development on the one hand and internal political tensions on the other as the time for the general election draws nearer. *Singapore* is also on the verge of general elections with a proposal for an elected President which Lee Kuan Yew is expected to fill. *Malaysia* is streamlining its party system based on Malay hegemony and wants to quadruple its population in the next century. The *Kampuchean* problem has entered a phase of chronic stalemate with *Chinese* and *Vietnamese* border guards taking pot shots at each other across a common boundary. Crisis and conflict has overtaken the *Philippines* and President Marcos seems to be under a state of permanent seige. The new Labour Government in *New Zealand* has refused to fulfil its obligations under the ANZUS pact if US vessels carry nuclear warheads.

While these and many more items find space in the global headlines throughout the week, there is no doubt that the *Presidential Election in the United States* has begun to draw special attention. The United States is a super power and what happens in that country will have its impact on the rest of the world. Reagan, as expected, was chosen as the Republican candidate at Dallas, and his party and nearly all observers expect him to win with a comfortable margin. But there are some commentators who feel that the tide of public opinion may turn against Reagan if he continues to indulge in statements that can be regarded as provocative or dangerous to peace—even if made jocularly. It is as yet difficult to assess the full impact on American voters of what is called Reagan's nuclear joke. This incident merits attention not only because of the use Democrats are making of it but also because of the world reactions that may influence thinking in the United States. There is no doubt that people all over the world are deeply concerned over this incident which happened in the US President's ranch in California in mid August during preparations for recording his regular address on the

radio to the nation. Political analysts the world over have pointed out that what Reagan said during a so-called "sound test" only revealed what was permanently on his mind, but what he was recently forced to keep silent on in the context of his election campaign. "My fellow Americans," he said into the microphone, "I am pleased to tell you I just signed legislation which outlaws Russia for ever. The bombing begins in five minutes. . . ." It is true that White House staffers were in a hurry to make tremendous efforts to prevent this pronouncement, incautiously made by their boss, from being made public. At the start, an embarrassed spokesman for the White House refused either to confirm or regute the report on what had happened. This bluff could not be kept up for long.

Nor could they prevent a political scandal of an enormous magnitude breaking out. President Reagan's men tried to smooth over the meaning of his words and assured everybody that he President was "simply kidding". However this escapade was evaluated as a blunder no President could ever afford to make not only among the American political circles, but also abroad. "There is no doubt that Reagan's statement will be assessed all over the world as proof of the fact that his hypocritical speculation on the striving to normalise relations with the Soviet Union and ensure disarmament was simply intended to camouflage the policy, which he proclaimed when he came into office". This was how *Pravda's* political analyst Yuri Zhukov looked at the matter. News Agency reports also indicate that diplomats in all the world capitals, baffled, angry or amused, according to their ideological orientation, were still wondering whether President Reagan's "humorous" threat to bomb the Russians out of existence will permanently damage Soviet-American relations or whether it will prove to be a storm in a teacup. No doubt thinking that he was off the record, President Reagan in the course of a voice test said what he did. Mr. Reagan however soon learnt that nothing that is picked up by microphones or overheard in Washington is off the record. The White House tried its best to prevent further damage by requesting the networks not to play the tape. CBS replied by playing the tape. The Soviet News Agency, *Tass*, in a formal statement declared that the President's words were in keeping with his policy of "state terrorism and direct application of armed force against independent countries whose home and foreign policies do not suit Washington". Some of the President's own critics at home said that even if the President's words were off the record they unwittingly revealed his mind set on nuclear war—and this is a big issue in the presidential campaign. The *New York Times* said in an analysis that Reagan's off-the-record words risked trashing his recent foreign policy advances and undercutting deliberate attempts by the administration to put him in a better position in this area for the election campaign.

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In the meantime, Regan continues to make his usual blow-hot and blow-cold charges against the Soviet Union. He demanded free elections in Eastern Europe. He has recently declared that he would not impose a grain embargo against the Soviet Union despite its continuing military presence in Afghanistan. He has said the embargo imposed by President Carter after Soviet troops went into Afghanistan in 1979 was 'cynical, wrongheaded and totally unfair' because it hurt American farmers more than the Soviet Union. Reagan, who ended Carter's embargo, said that the Soviet Union had bought more than 20 million tonnes of American grain since last October and added: "If they want to buy more, we'll sell more". Chernenko, the Soviet leader, has made a cautious proposal to restart negotiations on armaments and missiles. The US has responded to it in an even more cautious manner. It is problematic whether this shadow-boxing will lead to anything before the Presidential Election is over.

To turn to another matter of importance to the United States, it is noteworthy that in simultaneous press conferences in New York and Washington, the US decision to withdraw from UNESCO on December 31, 1984 was challenged by members of the Commission appointed by the State Department to advise it on UNESCO affairs. Among other matters, the Commission pointed out that the United States will lose financially, as well as diminish its political and intellectual influence if it cuts off UNESCO. It also stressed that the decision is counter to the recommendations of 13 federal agencies and that it was also not supported by 83 United States embassies and consulates. Further the National Science Foundation, coordinating seven scientific agencies is quoted as saying: "The weight of tangible benefits over certain impediments clearly justifies continued US participation in UNESCO. Financial and scientific losses were predicted if the United States withdraws from the organisation. Similarly, the US Department of Education concludes that if the United States withdrew from UNESCO, the US would lose the influence it now undoubtedly has in the organisation, the drawbacks notwithstanding. After setting out a formidable list of Scientific, Educational and Cultural Associations in the United States which were opposed to a break with the UNESCO, the Commission said that they shared some of the Reagan Administration's criticisms of UNESCO but also find, value in the many practical programs of science education and culture of UNESCO. It further said that it believed that the reforms which the US and other nations sought were best achieved by working within the organisation. Whether the Reagan Administration will pay heed to this report is yet to be seen.

AR/EL



MARKETING IN SRI LANKA

Livestock and Livestock Products

OVER THE YEARS policies and implementation strategies in the livestock sub-sector have paid considerable attention to such areas as breeding, animal health and animal nutrition and marketing of milk, but there was no serious or consistent effort to secure an in-depth understanding of the organizational structures and channels of marketing livestock and livestock products notably meat, in the context of varying socio-economic situations prevailing in different regions of Sri Lanka.

Recently the Consultants of the newly established Animal Industry Consultancy and Services Group under the leadership of Dr. C. P. Pillai, a recently retired FAO Expert in Animal Production and Health carried out a study of the *Marketing of Livestock and Livestock Products* and has come out with a series of very important and vital Conclusions and Recommendations not only addressed to Government policy makers but also to those in the private sector involved in the trading of meat and meat products and also in egg and poultry meat marketing.

The 80 page study carries an in-depth analysis of Production of Livestock, Government support toward Livestock Production, Internal Marketing of Livestock, Transport of Livestock and Processing of Livestock, supported by valuable data contained in 15 tables, 4 figures and 7 annexes.

THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS of the study are:
1. Very little attention has so far been paid to the marketing of different species of livestock as well as the processing and marketing of livestock products (with the possible exception of liquid milk), for the purpose of establishing appropriate marketing struc-

tures for livestock and livestock products. 2. Over the years, policies and implementation strategies in the livestock sub-sector have paid considerable attention to such areas as breeding, animal health and animal nutrition; but there has been no serious or consistent effort to secure an in-depth understanding of the organizational structures and channels of marketing of livestock products in terms of different species and different products, in the context of varying socio-economic contexts prevailing in the different regions of the island. 3. A comparison with the principal crop in the plant sector, viz. paddy, is illustrative. For long years, development of paddy production was supported by the provision of irrigation, research and extension. Very little attention was paid to marketing of paddy and the milling and processing through which the product reaches the consumer. This approach was substantially transformed with the establishment of state sector institutions such as the Paddy Marketing Board and the Rice Processing Centre at Anuradhapura. The marketing of paddy and rice and the quality of milling that is required for a good finished product are now recognized as an integral part of the paddy production programme.

4. In the case of traditional export plantation crops such as tea, rubber and coconut, there are long established institutions and channels which look after the marketing aspects of these commodities. Furthermore, institutional support has consistently been provided efficiently even in times of crisis. 5. A similar approach is necessary in the case of livestock and livestock products. The marketing of livestock should be recognized as an integral part of the livestock development programme. 6. The existing arrangement for the slaughter of animals are totally unsatisfactory. 7. There are no modern abattoirs operating on the line system which is essential for hygienic slaughter, efficient dressing of carcasses and proper inspection of meat. It is only in Colombo and Kandy Municipalities that qualified veterinarians conduct inspection of meat. In some other Municipalities and Urban Councils, medical officers and public health inspectors exercise some element of supervision over slaughter. The tragedy is that in the majority of cases no supervision of slaughter or inspection of meat is ever carried out. 8. In the absence of modern abattoir arrangements, the country is losing on commercially valuable animal by-products such as hides, skins, etc. 9. Existing arrangements for the proper inspection of animals brought for slaughter and the inspection of meat are very unsatisfactory. 10. This is an inevitable consequence of a situation where illicit slaughter is the main stay of the meat industry.

11. The present arrangements for the retailing of meat is very unsatisfactory. A few of the large distributors such as Elephant House, Goldi's, Bahiraha

Farms retail chicken meat in polythene packed bags. Even here, some of the retail outlets are places like petrol-sheds where the salesman handling petrol may well dip his hands into the deep freezer to pick up the chicken. 12. The Government has passed a Consumer Protection Law. It is difficult to see how this law is in effect protecting the consumer from the unhygienic conditions under which most of the slaughter as well as the retail trade in meat is now being carried out. 13. Institutional support for livestock marketing is totally lacking. 14. There are many ways in which institutional support can help in the development of livestock marketing. For instance, the Government could provide a framework for the establishment of holding grounds, bulking points and cattle fairs at suitable locations in the rural areas. 15. The facilities available for the transport of animals over long distances is unsatisfactory. 16. Rail transport is economical and investment in a reasonable number of additional wagons for the transport of animals will considerably improve the marketing system. 17. The data base for developing a market strategy for livestock and livestock products is very weak at the present time. 18. Several State agencies such as the Department of Census and Statistics, the Department of Animal Production and Health, the National Livestock Development Board, gather data on various aspects of the livestock sector; but most of this data relates to matters unconnected with the marketing of livestock and livestock products.

THE VITAL RECOMMENDATIONS are: 1. To overcome the grave weaknesses of the existing data base for the development of a strategy for the marketing of livestock and livestock products, several in-depth studies should be carried out as a matter of urgency. These studies should cover different species of livestock in selected regions of the country. Once these studies are completed, it will be possible to map out a strategy not only for refining the data but also to streamline the livestock and livestock products marketing, on a continuing base. 2. The existing slaughter houses in Colombo and Kandy should be upgraded to conform to modern abattoir standards. In addition, a few regional abattoirs for the hygienic slaughter of animals should be established in appropriate locations. The role of the Government in establishing these abattoirs and running them should be restricted to providing minimum infrastructure facilities such as land, water and electricity and the exercise of regulatory powers of inspection etc. The establishment of the abattoirs themselves and their maintenance should be left to private enterprise with appropriate incentives by way of tax exemptions etc. for a given period of time. These regional abattoirs could also be utilised as centres for the dissemination of information to the livestock owners regarding market prices, management of animals etc.

3. There should be a system of licensing of retail outlets for meat products. Minimum standards should be laid down for the licence holder. This is one way in which the Consumer Protection Law can be brought into operation for the benefit of the consumer in the field of livestock marketing. 4. Further studies should be carried out on the processing and packing of livestock products, the manner in which it is being done now and the incentives that can be provided to enable more and more of the livestock producers and marketing agents to process and pack the meat products.

5. There is a wide range of legislation already enacted relating to the livestock sector. Some of this legislation is archaic and unimplementable. Some are on the Statute Book without operational relevance. A study should be undertaken, as early as possible, to review the corpus of legislation relating to the livestock sector with a view to making recommendations to the Government on necessary changes in the current context of the livestock industry. 6. The existing ban on the slaughter of buffaloes and female cattle even though well intended, has to some extent proved counter-productive. Sometimes the farmers are saddled with unproductive/under productive and unfit buffaloes as well as female cattle because of the ban on slaughter. This results in the loss of quality meat and loss of valuable by-products. On the other hand, the existence of the ban in no way prevented the slaughter of buffaloes and female cattle illicitly. The consequence has been that these illicitly slaughtered animals are transported through channels which entail considerable corruption, with consequent price increase to the consumer.



MACHINE TO PICK FRUIT

From Palm Trees

FASTER PICKING OF FRUIT from Malaysia's palm trees will be possible following modification of a turf-collecting machine developed in Dungannon, Northern Ireland. The "Bogmaster" machine was invented by 24-year-old Mr. John Quinn in order to speed the collection of turf from the Irish boglands. Now he has been asked by the Government of Malaysia to adapt it for use there. Main features of the Bogmaster are that, because of its very light weight and extrawide tracks it can travel across marshy or soft ground which cannot be navigated by other vehicles. It is also self-loading by means of an hydraulic "arm" fitted at the front, and a tipping body makes it easy to release loads. The invention began to take shape three years ago when a local supplier of turf—used extensively as solid fuel in Ireland as well as for gardening purposes—asked Mr. John to design and build a transporter. It had to

be self-loading with a basket type "grab" up front rather like a mechanical shovel. Because it is so light, "Bogmaster" has a very low ground pressure ratio and even when fully laden—it can carry 5 tonnes—it will make little or no mark on the ground. It is made from light gauge steel and aluminium and its designer says it can be used to transport practically anything over soft ground—pipes, building materials, telephone poles etc. To date 30 machines have been manufactured at the Dungannon factory of Big Track Ltd., which Mr. Quinn established two years ago.

The vehicle weighs six tonnes and is fitted with special "marsh pads" or caterpillar tracks. Because the tracks are one metre wide, each is fitted with dual-drive chains for greater smoothness and reliability. Like a tractor, it is fitted with a three-point linkage which allows it to tow such accessories as a rotavator. It is powered by a Perkins diesel 57 kW engine and costs around £44,000 according to requirements. The vehicle, which is 3m wide and 9m long, is now in use throughout Ireland and the biggest privately owned producer of peat, Erne Peat, of Birr, County Offaly, have 20 of the machines in use for collecting and gathering peat. Says Mr. John Quinn "As far as we can ascertain, there is no other vehicle available which will collect and transport a wide variety of items such as turf, pipes or building equipment over very soft ground". Bogmaster can be quickly converted to a digger by replacing the "basket grab" with an excavator. And unlike conventional diggers, it is capable of digging and loading at the same time. Besides the interest shown by the Government of Malaysia, enquiries are being processed from South Africa and Germany. "Many areas of the world such as Canada and parts of Europe, have vast areas of marsh for which Bogmaster would be ideally suited," says Mr. John Quinn.

ANOTHER NEW VEHICLE of potential interest to under-developed countries is a three-wheel tractor/trailer combination which has been developed by engineer Sam McCoubrey, at Ballynahinch, County Down. Main feature of vehicle is its use of hydrostatic drive (similar to automatic transmission) which enables it to be driven by a single "throttle" lever which also selects forward or reverse direction. Shorter than a conventional tractor 2.3m against 3.2m, the vehicle is fitted with a Lister diesel 13 kW power unit which gives it a top speed of around 23 km/hr. It comprises a trailer body at the rear with a load capacity of up to, two tonnes; the engine compartment is in the middle beneath the driver's seat. It is extremely lightweight and can therefore carry loads over very soft ground without causing much damage. It costs around £6,000, about half the price of a conventional tractor,—*British Industrial News*.



Mint

By Victoria Joseph

THE MINT prefers a fairly moist soil, or at least a moist root-run and good light for a good quality crop. It should be cleared and replanted in fresh ground every third year to reduce the likelihood of attack by the soil-borne fungus spores of mint rust. Also for healthy growth moisture retentive material like well rooted compost or moistened horticultural peat should be used. The Sinhalese call this herb *Minchi*, the Tamils "Puthunona" or "Puthmeena"—which means the eating of this herb transforms a person to look young and healthy—to attain a new look. It is generally accepted that about six species are to be found in gardens. The plant is herbaceous and found in all temperate parts of the world. In the New Testament, St. Luke 11:12 refers to "tithing mint" which the Jews were commanded to pay. The varieties generally found in the Holy Land are peppermint, spearmint and pennyroyal which are chiefly used in pharmaceutical products. The peppermint oil is used to provide oil for both pharmaceutical and confectionary. Pliny listed over 40 uses for the herb.

PEPPERMINT TEA a household remedy made by infusing a few dried leaves or fresh leaves is helpful to the digestion and commonly used as a night-cap. The "Green Tea" as it is called in Europe is widely used in Germany and France. Commercially its oil is put to a wide variety of uses in the manufacture of tooth-pastes, digestive palatives, confectionary and the liqueur, *creme-de-menthe*. The *Mentha Citrata* or the Eau de Cologne mint is used for potpourri or in sachets and herb pillows in the West. The spearmint makes the best mint sauce to serve with roast lamb.

Mint is a symbol of virtue, clearly alluding to its cleansing properties, and the Greeks added it to their bath-water in much the same manner that pine essence is used today. The olden days kings of Ceylon cultivated herbs for medicinal needs. Robert Knox a British captive in Ceylon speaks of the forests as "the apothecary's shop". Mint is used as an inhalant in the treatment of heavy colds. Peppermint and spearmint are used for flavouring chewing gums. Commercial herb-farming has begun to expand in North America specially in California.

The value of natural foods and remedies have been "rediscovered". For centuries herbs have played a vital role in making food more palatable. For culinary purposes in the early gardens of Assiriya and Babylon mint was one of them. They include thyme, basil, bay, mint cummin, coriander, sage, saffron and fennel.

Palates vary and the strength of the herbs themselves vary. The herb was used in Egypt for seasoning as well, although more is known about their use in cosmetics and perfumery. Mint helps in disorders of the stomach and intestines which give rise to vomiting and cramp. They are also used in Sri Lanka for disorders of the gall-bladder. Also in the culinary department of this country, mint sauce, mint chutney, mint sambol, mint mallun and mint tea are made. "Add basil, nasturtium, garlic and tarragon judiciously and with care, use rosemary and thyme with caution" mint parsley, marigold and chervil can be added generously".

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LETTER

Sunflower

Sir,

Under above head you have published an article about safflower cultivation in your January 21, *Tribune*. Since "Sarvodaya Rural Technical Service" (SRTS) is always in search of alternative Dry Zone crops, that might bring benefits to the small farmers, I am very interested about safflower or sunflower. Are you able to help with a few further information: (1) from where can we get seeds?; (2) How to do the processing of safflower-seeds at the farm itself; (3) Who is going to buy the produce? for which rate?

I would be grateful for answering above questions. Thank you very much in advance.

Markus Shafer

Sarvodaya,
Anuradhapura.

We suggest that you write to the Seeds Section of the Department of Agriculture. But in case you get a negative reply or no reply at all we suggest that Sarvodaya should contact a counterpart organisation in India for the seeds, or Australia. India and Australia are among the largest growers of Safflower and exporters of valuable safflower cooking oil. Sri Lanka now imports large quantities of cooking oil including safflower oil—the best for those who want to keep their Cholesterol low. So there is no reason why a ready and immediate market cannot be created for safflower oil for domestic use and if there are large enough supplies there is a big export market. We have ourselves written for information for processing safflower seeds and as soon as we get the information we shall publish the same—Ed.

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MUSHROOM

Excellent Vegetable

Mushrooms are like any other plants, but devoid of the green pigments. They are delicious when cooked as vegetables and nutritious too, as the protein content is higher than in fruits and vegetables.

Mushrooms belong to the fungi group. There are a few edible species. They have smooth, stout, whitish central stalk (stem or stipe) a swollen bottom (volva) and a thick cylindrical cap (pileus) lined with gills on the undersurface. From these gills a thick cloud of spores is released on the surface or into the air. The large edible species may be 12-15 cm high and 5-20 cm in diameter. The white flesh of the stalk and the cap has a pleasant taste.

The paddy straw mushroom, Volvariella volvacea originated in China about 2,000 years ago. It is the most popular edible species among the cultivated varieties in tropical countries. Paddy straw is tied in bundles of half a kg and soaked in water for 24 hours. The excess water is drained. The stacks are kept inside a bamboo or wooden frame of 1 sq. m. in 4-5 layers, each consisting of 6-8 bundles. Each layer is spawned and the bundles are placed opposite to the first layer. About 250 g of gram or pigeon pea powder is added to enrich the bed, except on the top layer. The bed is covered with a polythene sheet which should not touch the straw to create a high humid condition. After 12-15 days, small button like growths appear. At this stage the plastic cover is removed. Harvesting should start a day before the buttons open or after the velva ruptures and can be continued for a couple of weeks. About 1.5-2 kg yield (fresh weight) is obtained at the first flush and around 500 g each in subsequent two harvests.

Spawn is the preparation of the fungus grown on a substrata under sterile conditions and usually milk bottles are used as containers. It is available ready-made with the mushroom growers or with any mycology unit of an Agricultural University or Department.

Recently, another improved technique was developed using polybags and nylon nets. Approximately 750 g of chopped paddy straw is to be soaked for 18-24 hours and the excess water drained off. An enrichment with waste paper bits in the ratio of 3:1 (w/w) is done. To this a bottle of three-week-old spawn is added and thoroughly mixed and packed in polybags of 30 x 45 cm having several holes. The mouth of the bag is tied and kept in a dry place under shade (35-40°C). After 8-10 days when the bag is cut open without disturbing the contents. As the fungus spreads, the pulp becomes compact like a ball and can be transferred to a nylon net and hung on a hook in a balcony

or terrace in shade. Water is sprinkled as frequently as possible, at least thrice daily, to get maximum humidity and soon small whitish-brown bodies appear and remain for 5-6 days before starting to grow to the normal size and shape. Gammexine or BHC 10 powder may be used against flies and ants. The contents of each polybag yields about 200 g of mushrooms in the first harvest and 50 g each in the subsequent two harvests.

A number of recipes are available, both western as well as Indian. Edible mushrooms are used in making soups, pie, curry with or without onion, stew in combination with vegetables as well as in the fried rice preparations. Due to low caloric value with negligible fat content (p.07%) are considered an ideal diet for diabetics.

K. Manibhushan Rao.

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SPROUTED PULSES

For Health

Nutritional experts have of late been laying increased emphasis on sprouted whole pulses and beans which are nutritionally rich and have many advantages over the unsprouted pulses and beans. Sprouting creates Vitamin C in pulses and beans besides improving digestibility and assimilation of proteins and iron. It also leads to 2-3 fold rise in B Complex Vitamins, iron and carotene. It also reduces anti-nutritional factors like phytates and tannins and also complex carbohydrates that produce gas in abdomen.

For sprouting pulses and beans should be washed in running water and soaked in water overnight. After draining water, soaked pulses should be tied in a clean muslin cloth and kept in any place. The cloth should be kept moist till the pulses and beans germinate which takes about 23 hours. Sprouts should not be allowed to grow beyond 1 cm. Germinated millets cannot be eaten raw. So, germinated millets should be dried in the sun and ground into powder. Malt with milk or water and sugar or jaggery can be cooked with this powder.—F/U

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MANMADE

Seeds

Synthetic lettuce seeds beginning to germinate foreshadow a new technology that may link the sterile laboratory environment with the world's farm fields. Researchers at Plant Genetics in Davis, California,

produced the seeds using recombinant—DNA technology, called "gene splicing". Their goals include the development of crops with higher yields and greater resistance to drought.

The seed process starts with the culturing of stem tissue from an ordinary plant. Company scientists point out that the seeds could be produced year-round in a very small lab space, compared to field seed crop areas, and that they might be made to carry tiny doses of agricultural chemicals to help the seedling grow after sprouting.—US/S



IRRIGATION

For Cardamom

THE CARDAMOM CROP which requires a congenial atmosphere grows well only at the altitude of 600-1500 metres above sea level. Its growth will be affected in places below 600 metres and above 1500 metres. This crop requires more water throughout its growth period except one or two stresses. Also it requires optimum temperature which can be obtained only at the altitude mentioned above. This crop should not come under direct sunlight and shade has to be maintained so that the crop will not be affected. The water requirements are more than for other crops but water-logging will affect the growth of the plant. The rainfall requirements for this crop is about 2000-2500 mm annually. The humidity also plays an important role in raising the plants. Protection from high winds is also essential.

There is no proper moisture conservation practices followed in most of the cardamom plantations. The following are the measures which can be easily adopted by the farmers. (a) The weeds need not be removed from the water courses and other drainage channels; but they can be allowed to grow to have a grassed area so that when water is flowing there will not be any erosion. This will facilitate percolation of water into the soil so the water will be available for plants for longer periods in the surrounding and lower areas. (b) There is need to provide some more drainage channels to remove the excess water during the heavy rainy seasons. At the same time it should not be allowed to erode the soil and remove all the water immediately. Small check dams or obstruction by stones may be provided in these drainages. (c) In the slopes it is possible to provide small basins in between plants in order to store the rainy water which will percolate and will be available for the cardamom plants. (d) The farmers are practising loosening of the soil as soon as the rainy season is over and this helps to store more rain water till summer rain comes. This may be done systematically in all the areas.

(e) The weeds removed may be used as mulching so that the evaporation can be reduced and permit the soil to absorb more moisture. The diseased trees also can be used to add humus to the soil in order to increase the water holding capacity of the soils.

NORMALLY the farmers do not give any irrigation for this crop. It is suggested therefore that they can introduce sprinkler or drip irrigation in these tracts. Some farmers have promoted sprinkler irrigation even though the cost works out to Rs. 7,500-12,500 per hectare, but the amount of water required is much and sufficient water is not available in this period. Drip irrigation could be used in this tract though the initial cost is about Rs. 15,000-17,500 per hectare. The amount of water required in drip irrigation is about 30 to 40 per cent of the water used for surface or sprinkler irrigation. About 4 to 5 litres/day of water may be required for each plant. The water which is available in the hills in this season can be suitably stored and drip irrigation can be adopted without any pumping. Though the cost of installation is somewhat high, it is possible to increase the production if irrigation is given for about three months. By providing irrigation it is possible to increase the productivity and also get very high quality of cardamom. The cost benefit ratio will be very favourable and hence drip irrigation can be recommended for adoption in the tracts where water is available.

Prof R. K. Sivanappan
Dean, College of Agricultural Engineering,
TNAU, Coimbatore.

SCIENCE, DEVELOPMENT and MAN

POPULATION AND POVERTY

1. The Malthusian Myth

By Prof. A. C. J. Weerakoon

The August 1984 UN Population Conference in Mexico City has been an eye-opener. The U.S., seeking to prune its funding of international agencies including the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), discovers that the population crisis has been over-played, that "population growth is, of itself, neither good nor bad" that there is a "natural mechanism for slowing population growth" which she believes will be disrupted by wrong economic policies, that people are producers also and not consumers only; and so on. Rafael Salas, Director/UNFPA and Secretary-General of the Conference.

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obligingly states "We have always been able to produce more food than population; the problem is in the distribution of food".

These views are so contrary to what they have been propagating for years past that many delegates, thoroughly indoctrinated, as they have been by that propaganda, with the fallacies of Neo-Malthusianism, seem to have been taken aback—as much at this 'volte face' as at the prospect of their countries' receiving smaller hand-outs. Mr. Mwai Kibaki, Vice-President of Kenya, is said to have complained that "it is not useful for us to be told (now) that the population situation depends on the economic situation". But it has always been so, though the rich nations and the so-called international agencies have hitherto found that it suited them to hide the fact. And it seems to me opportune to reproduce now what I said 30 years ago on this subject of the relationship between population growth and poverty (*Weerakoon: "Origin, Growth and Consequences of a Myth". Proc. 10th Ann. Session, Ceylon Assn. Advnt. Sci., Pt. 2, pp 87-103, 1954.*). The following version of that Presidential Address of mine has been slightly shortened for reasons of space:—

A SOCIETY is not a mere collection of human beings: It is a body of human beings knit together by a certain set of beliefs and practices. It is by no means essential that these beliefs should be true. Untrue beliefs ranging all the way from harmless fairy-tales to the most vicious lies will serve satisfactorily—for a time. Nor is the exposure of such myths an easy task. For in serving to knit society together the myth is often of special benefit to a particular section of that society and that section will fight tooth and nail in support of the myth. Men have even been burnt at the stake for maintaining that the earth is not the centre of the universe. And though today those who seek to expose such a myth are not burnt to death, they are just as effectively silenced neutralised when they are cordoned off with a band of silence, denied use of the means of mass communication, or when they are deprived of their livelihood and subjected to campaigns of ridicule. In the meanwhile false propaganda for the myth is poured on the rest of us day in and day out, in our hours of work and of rest and of play, from the cradle, almost, to the grave.

Nevertheless, despite all difficulties and penalties it is essential that myths be exposed for what they are and discarded; and that correct beliefs be substituted for them. Otherwise, whilst knitting society together they will also hinder and retard its development. Let us make no mistake about that. A myth always damages society as a whole in the long run, however much it may benefit a section of it in the short run. Where would we be today if we had not, as a society, discarded the myths that the sun went round the earth,

that the earth is flat, that sickness is the result of the evil-eye or is the work of malignant witches and so on. That is why I have considered it important to tell you about the Malthusian Myth.

MALTHUS' ARGUMENT may be summarised as follows: The reproductive rate of living things (including man) is such that they increase in numbers according to a geometric series (like this one: 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, . . .) but the food of living things increases at best according to an arithmetic series (like this one: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, . . .). Therefore, living things are continually shooting far beyond the limits set by their food supply; and this results in famine, epidemic disease, mass deaths and—in human society—also in poverty, in unemployment, in the lowering of wages, in a shortage of housing, in misery, and in vice, including prostitution. I am not making any of this up. You will find it all, and more, in Malthus' "Essay on the Principle of Population" first published in 1798.

And you will also find in his "Essay" that by 'vice' Malthus referred to sexual intercourse so conducted as to prevent the conception of children. When Malthus advocated a reduction in the birth-rate it was by a practice of what he called 'virtue', that is by abstinence from sexual intercourse. I find it amusingly ironic that today we should be asked, in the name of Malthus, to practice what Malthus called a vice, to practice what Malthus believed was a vicious consequence of his Principle of Population.

But let us examine Malthus' Principle itself. The crux of it is this: A population of living things increases according to a geometric series but its subsistence increases only according to an arithmetic series. . . Is this correct? Most of us will answer, yes—so conditioned have we become with the propaganda of these past years. . . It is, nevertheless, not correct. For: consider an animal that feeds on other animals. If, according to Malthus, the predator must increase in numbers according to a geometric series so also must its prey, which is also an animal. There will not develop any rapidly increasing shortage of its food such as Malthus claimed. What of animals that feed on plants? Malthus makes it clear, over and over again, in his "Essay" that in the matter of reproductive capacity he placed plants and animals in the *same* category; they should both increase according to geometric series, and here too there cannot develop that rapidly increasing discrepancy between feeder and food on which Malthus' thesis depended. What of the relationship between plants and their inorganic food? As soon as it is realised that soil is not produced by weathering alone, but by weathering combined with the action of plants and animals on and in the developing soil, then it will be seen that if plants increase geometrically so also will the soil. As for

water and carbon dioxide upon which also plants feed... I do not suppose that anyone suggests that they will ever be limiting factors in the Malthusian sense, any more than oxygen will be, in a normal world.

Food and feeder will increase in the same sort of way; and Malthus' basic propositions cannot lead to the results he claimed for them, namely, starvation, famine, mass-deaths, epidemic disease, unemployment, misery and what not. This demonstration has been fairly easy. How then did it happen that a man of Malthus' intellectual ability should have proposed so obviously incorrect a thesis? and why was it so enthusiastically received? To find the answers to these questions one must know something of its socio-historical background.

To be continued

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RATMALANA

Environmental Disaster- I

By Dr. M. L. M. Salgado

I HAVE READ with considerable interest the Presidential Address of Prof. A. C. J. Weerakoon published in the recent number of the *Tribune* (Vol. 28, No. 26, May 12, 1984) and thought of writing a few comments on the main theme of his address to the Ruk Rekaganne, and published under the headline ATTITUDE TO ENVIRONMENT. I may call it the loss of beauty in our towns, both old and new towns by the commercialisation mania of house builders, house owners, land lords, and tenants, and the utter lack of vision by Urban Authorities, as well as promoters of Private Housing Estates.

A few years ago a serialised article by me INDUSTRIAL ESTATES VERSUS HOUSING ESTATES was published in the *Tribune* (August 2, 1980 and August 16, 1980). In fact it was pointed by me how new townships in the suburban areas such as Ratmalana, which could be considered a suburb of Mount Lavinia which developed from building blocks carved out of Ratmalana Estate of the De Soysa family (Sir Wilfred de Soysa) and R. E. S. de Soysa's Lady Catherine Estate on the southern periphery of Ratmalana and abutting on the northern boundary of Moratuwa UC. Both these were semi-rural areas, almost villages such as Borupana and Telawala, some of which were, in particular where we now live, (Lady Catherine Housing Estate) was, before it was dissected into building blocks out of Lady Catherine estate by the late Mr. George Jayasuriya, who inherited these lands on the death of his wife Catherine, daughter of R. E. S. de Soysa. There was development without planning by the owners of this land and or by the state, which

should have had a statutory body to control such building activities, as would have jeopardised the ultimate beauty of the entire landscape, once building activities are completed.

IN FACT before the building activities were *fait accompli* there should have been a sort of landscaping by planting trees which would have come up once the buildings were completed. To make matters worse, in due course, factories were established, cheek and jowl, with residential buildings, not only disturbing the peace of the residents, but also causing irreparable damage to elderly people like myself, who had retired and were looking forward to live a quiet life in the twilight of their lives. Most of the houses in this building estate (and this applies to other similar housing schemes which have proliferated all over the country) have suffered a similar fate with factories built in proximity to residential buildings and residents have to face the reverberating noise of heavy roaring traffic such as tractors, lorries running at break-neck speed, not only by day but even by night. The latest menace is the part played by gigantic container vehicles which block the entire main roads blocking Borupana Road, which though a PWD road is narrow and on which under normal circumstances even two buses can barely cross over.

Commercialisation has reached such a level, and such limits, with the heavy traffic creating massive pot holes, into which pedestrians fall. These pot holes are merely repaired by so called patching parties who just fill with road metal, tar and sand, which do not last even a month and get evaporated after heavy monsoonal showers. Those living proximate to the main PWD road and even the cross roads, most of which lead to the factories which have proliferated even after some of them were destroyed during the ethnic holocaust. Some cross roads are maintained by a few thoughtful factory managers whose heavy traffic eat up these roads. Even the cross roads have no shade and/or flowering trees and during hot weather as in March/April, the glare and heat is intolerable and may be the reason for the heavy incidence of eye complaints and even premature cataract of the eyes affecting comparatively young people.

IT SO HAPPENS that I am the only resident who planted along my boundary on the road side in Abaya Mawatha, Kottamba trees (*Terminalia catappa*) which grows fast, and not only provides adequate shade, and particularly when pollarded so that the trees spread out as an umbrella and flower and bear fruit in a year or so. In fact at the Abaya Mawatha junction where there is a bus stop, the shade provided is a social service to those who wait at the bus stop. Further this shade tree is not damaged by cattle, and when in fruit provide a luscious almond to the youngsters who relish it and collect the fruits in the morning. An

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attempt to organise a Shramadana campaign in the attempt to cultivate shade and flowering trees received hardly any support. There is a Welfare Society, but the members appear to have no time or leisure to join in a communal endeavour, not even the few retired pensioners extended a willing hand at this tree planting endeavour.

The Moratuwa Urban Council under whose territorial authority we live, does not even sweep the roads and/or collect garbage from the houses who pay taxes just for doing nothing. In fact the garbage deposit is a major damper in maintaining the beauty of the locality and escape the smells of decaying garbage. The Council does not seem to be able to initiate a tree planting campaign on its account. If a certain amount of funds can be provided by the local authority, it may be possible to commence an organised campaign to improve the landscape and beautify the area.

THE BIRDLIFE which was a sheer delight to watch in the early hours of the day, is now no more. The periphery of the areas bounded by the Borupana River which is connected to the Bolgoda Lake, was an area where birds hibernated on the trees on the river bank. There is a factory on the riverside forming a boundary and also may be the area where chemicals are disposed of. In fact the river bank is jet-blue due to the washing Blue manufactured in the factory. Whether any other chemicals used in drug manufacture is unwittingly disposed and gets into the river we do not know. But the fact remains that the usual river fish which were abundant in the old days are now rare. I remember the time when after heavy rains during high tide eels and other fish used to drift into the main road drains through which flood waters debouch into the river.

Whether the scarcity of bird life is also a result of environmental pollution remains to be seen. In the days before factories were established in the vicinity, there used to be a number of that beautiful blue plumed "Dunkavas" that added to the beauty of the neighbourhood, as also a variety of bird life that roosted on the trees on the river bank at night and the chirping of these birds and of minas at dawn, and weaver birds who used to build their nests on trees on our live fences are for some reason, a rare sight, have disappeared.

To be concluded

x x x

TWO PEGS A DAY

“Is All Right”

Noted Indian and the USSR cardiologists at a seminar on "Cardiology present day issues" are of the opinion that moderate consumption of liquor, "two pegs a day" does not cause any adverse effect on

health, reports *PT*. Prof. R. G. Oganov, Director, Institute of Preventive Cardiology and the USSR Cardiology Research Centre said moderate consumption of alcohol did not cause coronary heart diseases. Consumption of more than 75 grams of absolute alcohol, six pegs a day however may cause other health problems such as hypertension, he said. Prof. Oganov said "prevention is better than cure" and emphasised on the prevention of the disease which includes annual mass check-ups. This is of paramount importance both socially and economically, he said.

Lt. Gen. G. R. Narayanan, chief consultant medicine in the office of Director General Armed Forces Medical Services in Delhi said smoking is the major risk factor for cardiovascular diseases in the country. Excessive weight and cholesterol did not pose any systematic problem he said. Quoting an official report, Prof. M. L. Bhatia, a noted cardiologist said occurrence of coronary heart diseases in only 66 per thousand in the country. Incidence of hypertension is six to 18 per cent and its national average is about 10 per cent. It is predominant among the adult group, he said. Lt. Gen. Narayanan and Prof. Bhatia opened that moderate consumption of alcohol does not harm the system.

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POINT OF VIEW

Towards A Non-Secular Development

The human-centred and people-oriented concept of development is summed up by the Filipino moral philosopher Vitaliano R. Gorospe, a Jesuit priest, who believes that development is "the process of bringing about the condition of society, both national and international, in which peoples, especially the poor and the powerless, nations as well as individuals, may have more, do more, know more, be more than ever in the past" . . .

Potentially, the major religions of the region—Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity—can play a significant role in such a transformation of the prevailing orientation of development and of the power structure. Initially, religious leaders will have to find more effective ways of counter-balancing the secularization of the development process with the very same non-materialistic, humane, and transcendental values that are being sacrificed in the name modernization, political stability and separation of church and state.

It will take careful, delicate reconciling of mundane concerns with spiritual considerations, of modernity with tradition, if nations . . . in the world at large, are

to move closer to the vision of a national and an international order based on justice, equality and freedom. In Sodejatmoke's wisdom, "the search for such a vision will require a new balance between individual rights and collective obligations, between freedom and discipline, between economic efficiency and justice, between individual initiative and competitiveness on the one hand and a spirit of sharing and cooperation on the other".

However, if religions are to perform the more difficult role of facilitating a political transformation, religious leaders will have to become fully aware of the structural bases of national problems and their implications for the peoples' material and moral well-being as well as the country's future. They will have to gradually rip themselves of the conservatism which has made them the unwitting defenders of the old system whose injustices they decry. In this respect, some religious leaders and groups are already showing the way.

RELIGION, CULTURE LITERATURE

NEW CHRISTIAN THINKING

Aloy Jayarajah - His Books

This country knew Aloy Jayarajah as a successful businessman, the Chairman of a Group of Companies. Associated with his name are Ceylon Printers, Kalamazoo Office Systems, Bradbury Wilkinson's Security Printing etc., etc. Not too many had the pleasure of knowing the other Aloy, the reticent contemplative with a tremendously inquiring mind, the poet, artist and the mystic, who among other things spent some time daily in meditation.

Aloy's youthful aim was to be a Jesuit but destiny decreed otherwise. Nevertheless, he pursued his inquiry into the nature of *God, Man and the Universe*. His first book was entitled that. It was published simultaneously by Arthur H. Stockwells Ltd., of England and the Vantage Press of USA. It is a small book of only seventy one pages written in clear and precise language. It is an inquiry into the orientation of Man in the Universe. It brings out the antiquity of man's reflections on the nature of things from Vedic times and puts into perspective the thinking of more recent times, the "scientific" dimension as against the

ultimate nature of things. "The mystical experience whether vague or intense is nothing less than direct intention of ultimate reality". Aloy himself, an oil painter in abstract art, a pupil of the Heatherley School of Art, has something to say on Art and Mysis besides reflecting on symbolic Mathematics, depth psychology and the collective unconscious. No. The book is not for the specialist. It is written for you and for me.

His latest book *Whither Christianity*, Vantage Press, New York, 1984, saw the light of day only shortly after his death. This is a more challenging and controversial production. It involves the attempt at reconciling the "traditional" Christian in him, his alternative perceptions and his innate mystical appraisal of the nature of man and the Universe. His criticism of Christianity, as is, may be harsh at times—and naturally too. His deep interests in our ancient traditions, the questions asked, the many replies given, from ancient times puts the events of recent times in another light. In every generation Man thinks: the tragedy is that in the area of reflecting on the ultimate nature of things man is constantly re-inventing the ehrrl!

Would he start with the *Vedanta*? Never heard of it! Modern Western man tends to begin with the Judaic tradition, Christianity and secular scientific thought. But thanks to a new generation of scientists the universe is now viewed in its fuller mystical dimension. To the Western mind it is back again to Plato and St. Augustine, to Meister Eckhart, Chardin and Thomas Merton. The Divine presence takes on a new meaning.

G. I. O. M. Kurukulasuriya

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A WESTERN VIEW OF

Buddhist Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY OF BUDDHA: By A. J. Bahm, Published by Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., 5, Ansari Road, New Delhi—Rs. 60. The author, a professor of philosophy at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, USA., was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Rangoon when he wrote this book. This is the first Indian edition. His purpose is to state the philosophy of Gautama, the man himself, going back to "the original records". However, the sources actually used by the author were English translations of certain selected basic texts, not the original texts themselves nor all of the texts. But the author cuts through layers of devout and theological speculation—much as biblical criticism has done in Christian

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thought—and presents clearly the real roots and permanent values of Buddhism. In preparing his manuscript, Dr. Archie J. Bahm had the critical advice of a number of prominent Buddhists, and one may assume that his evaluation and interpretation is very near to Gautama's intention as one can see in his book.

The Buddha's whole philosophy is presented in the brief first chapter. Here the reader is acquainted with the basic psychological principle: "Desire for what will not be attained ends in frustration: therefore, to avoid frustration, avoid desiring what will not be attained"; and he learns about the "Four Truths" and the "Eight-Fold-Path". (20-25). But the application of this "Middle Way" is so slippery Dr. Bahm goes on, that most of the Buddha's followers and each sect found reasons why Gautama could not have advocated it. He is told that the "Four-Truths" are "not four principles, but merely one principle, with four statements asserted about it"—the principle being the one quoted above. The remainder of the book attempts to remove various misunderstandings and dealing more specifically with "desire", "craving", "the middle way", "jnana", "the soul" and so on, explains further the meaning of the principle, "to avoid frustration, avoid desiring the unattainable".

The concluding chapter (150-162) is set apart for 'criticisms'. The sum and substance of these criticisms is perhaps stated in this sentence: Gautama's philosophy "appears to involve an imbalanced commitment to the balanced way." (150). Besides this, however the author also suggests that "Gautama's philosophy, as interpreted here, is not sufficiently realistic, not sufficiently voluntaristic, not sufficiently idealistic, and not sufficiently instrumental." (151). One reflects how Prof. A. J. Bahm by exposing the primary doctrine presents a challenge both to practising Buddhists and to historical scholars and brings new understanding based on a fresh study of the earliest known Buddhist scriptures by a mind uncommitted to traditional approaches. If Prof. A. J. Bahm is right in his characterisation of Buddhism, then this book has done at least two important things. First, it has shown that Buddhism has great value for the Western man on the personal level as a liberating power to make him more sensitive to nature and human suffering and to give him the requisite inner freedom for self-discrimination in the light of dehumanising technology of his culture. However, as a first introduction to some of the basic doctrines of Buddhism, this little book is valuable; but it in no sense represents a comprehensive or, definitive study of Buddhist philosophy.

K. S. Ramakrishna Rao.

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POEM

A GARDEN OF MEMORIES

A tiny lawn
Of tender grass,
Where quiet moments
Gently pass—
Behind stern walls
Of city home,
It keeps alive
A dream.

A quiet dream
Of rustic loves,
Of lotus pools
And tender buds,
Of na, and sal
And Mangosteens,
Where long ago
I lived.

In white-washed home
Midst kindly folk,
Where softly scolding
Voices spoke,
When childhood mischief
Swayed a bough,
Of spreading
Mango tree.

Though city friendships
Intervene,
And rushing moments
Onward stream,
There gently steals
Into my mind
In night-time's
Neon glow.

A little square
A garden plot,
A living dream
Of childhood lost,
Which keeps alive
A steadfast heart,
With quiet
Happiness.

A cherished little
Garden plot,
In dream-clothed times
A quiet spot,
Of breathing,
Living memories
A home from home
To me.

Lorraine

Haunting Spectre

IS IT NOT TRUE that *Tribune* has for a long time been campaigning against the activities of the multinational known as Nestle? That among the matters *Tribune* had raised was the way that this 60/40 Company had pushed *Perakum* milk out of the market and had virtually made Nestle's *Milkmaid* a monopoly at a fabulously high (black) market price? (That this condensed milk produced at the Milk Board's condensary at Polonnaruwa was marketed at a price 25% to 30% higher than condensed milk imported from far away countries?). That this column had in its last issue cited the opening paragraphs of a report in the *Daily Mirror* of June 5 which had revealed that the Government had decided that "Perakum condensed milk should be produced and sold at a cheaper rate than 'Milkmaid' brand condensed milk now being produced by the multinational firm Nestle in collaboration with the Milk Board?" That the *Daily Mirror* had also explained that the "International Dairy Products Ltd., which is the joint stock company producing the condensed milk with the National Milk Board and Nestle of Switzerland holding shares"? That the report had gone on to explain: "... 'Milkmaid' had to face stiff competition with the other imported brands of condensed milk which are available in the market at a lower price. Consequent to this, competition the firm had requested the Presidential Tariff Commission headed by the Additional Secretary Ministry of Trade and Shipping Mr. G. Kumaranatunge to increase the present import duty on Condensed Milk in order to bring the level of protection for their industry. Considering this request the Presidential Tariff Commission has recommended to the Government to increase the present import duty of 25 per cent to 45 per cent."? That whilst a few have tins of *Perakum* can now be seen at the shops, the price adjustment, if any, has been marginal? That in the meantime, Nestle is crowing about its glorious victories on the TV and the media? That Nestle advertisements (direct and features) have descended on the country and the word *Perakum* is fast disappearing from public consciousness? That ordinary people have begun to ask why all this lavish advertising (costing millions of rupees) was necessary after a substantial tariff protection, (allegedly owing to Finance Ministry blessings), have been given for locally produced milk products (this will mainly help Nestle as against other competitors)? That the Ministry of Finance concern for Nestle is a talking point in political circles? That very soon it will become a national issue? That Nestle, in the public mind, is regarded as responsible for price increases? That even justifiable price increases of locally produced dairy products (to help producers) will be regarded as the diabolic work of Nestle to have a cover for increasing its profits?

THAT IT IS TRUE that the Nestle issue is a burning problem in this country? That letters pour into the *Tribune* office on this matter? That one such letter to the Editor reads as follows: "I do not subscribe the *Tribune*—I cannot afford it. However, my dentist does and before what threatened to be a painful extraction, I picked up your magazine on the 10th March 1984, Vol. 28, No. 19 and I was most interested in page 8 column 1 half way down about Nestles and the snacks, pens, diaries and other give-aways. Do these not amount to a violation of the Code of Ethics? Why do you not probe the so-called Nestle expenditure of Rs. 6 million on dairy development in Kurunegala and find out who got what? Did anyone (in the powers-that-be) scrutinise the payments and expenditure before or after it was doled out?"

THAT ANOTHER LETTER draws attention to a speech made by the ADA Chairman Ranjan Wijeyeratne (*vide Sunday Observer*, 3/6/84) in which he had said: ". . . Nestles have helped out by distributing 700 stud bulls free and subsidising pasture cultivation at Rs. 2,000 an acre. Their Ipil Ipil farm at Anamaduwa, Puttalam issued six lakhs of seedlings to potential cattle breeders. A network of 120 collecting points and 12 chilling centres are also in operation . . ." That the reader wanted to know how many of the 700 stud bulls distributed free by Nestle were still alive: that whether it is possible to obtain and publish the list of recipients and their addresses and the age and condition of the animals given and also the list of persons who have been given a pasture subsidy of Rs. 2,000 per acre by Nestle and the six lakhs of seedlings from the Nestle Ipil Ipil farm at Anamaduwa? That with the record Nestle has in this country the public will not be satisfied unless the list of all recipients of Nestle bounty are made public? That if this government is not inclined to get this done there is no doubt that a future government will be under public pressure to get this done and examine Nestle activities in the context of national interest?

IS IT NOT A WRITING ON THE WALL that questions should be regularly raised in Parliament about Nestle? That these have been clobbered out of sight with sweet and evasive answers that have to be accepted owing to the steam-roller majority of the government? That Minister Thondaman is called upon to make denials that Nestle was swallowing up the livestock and dairy industry in this country? That it is now known and accepted that Minister Thondaman had nothing to do with the bringing of Nestle into country—as had been generally believed earlier? That whilst grassroots opinion in the country is daily gathering momentum against Nestle, the media and some VIPs seem to be beating the big drum to proclaim the good work being done by Nestle? That it is time that they take a fresh look at the activities of Nestle? *That unless the Government immediately lays low Nestle Diabolus now stalking the land, it will soon become a hunting spectre to embarrass the Ruling Party?*

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMON AMENITIES BOARD TENDER NOTICE

1. The Chairman, Tender Board, Common Amenities Board, 1st Floor, National Housing Department Building, Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 2, will receive tenders upto 10.00 a.m. on 11.09.1984 for the following works.
 - (a) Repairing the roof and the ceiling of 'N' Block at De Soysapura Housing Scheme, Ratmalana.
 - (b) Repairing soffit leaks, roof leaks, gutters, down pipes etc. and colour washing and oil painting to external faces of Block 'G' at Mallikarama Housing Scheme.
 - (c) Colour washing and oil painting to Blocks A, B, and C at Newhan Square Housing Scheme.
2. Tenderers should be registered for similar works for Rs. 125,000.00, Rs. 150,000.00 and Rs. 225,000.00 respectively in the Common Amenities Board or in other Government Departments/Corporations and should produce proof of such registration before the Tender Forms are issued to them.
3. Tender documents will be issued by the office of the Chairman, Common Amenities Board till 3.30 p.m. on 07.09.1984 on payment of non-refundable Tender Fees at Rs. 150.00 for (a) and (b) and Rs. 200.00 for (c) respectively in cash and on production of the receipt thereof.
4. Tenders will be opened on 11.09.1984 at 10.30 a.m. Tenderers may be present at the opening.
5. Tenderers should keep their offers valid for acceptance for a period of 60 days from the date of closing of Tenders.
6. The selected Tenderer, will have to provide a security deposit of 2% of the accepted tendered amount which will be refunded after the satisfactory completion of the work.
7. Tenderers in respect of tenders from private companies should declare the names of the company and in regard to public companies the names of the Directors of the Company.
8. Any further information can be obtained from the under-mentioned.

Chairman.

27th August, 1984.
Common Amenities Board.

RELY ON
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT. HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION
COMMON AMERICAS BOARD
TENDER NOTICE



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