

# TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol. 28 No. 34 — October 6, 1984 — Rs. 4.00

## Next Week

- ★ **OPEN ECONOMY**  
—Myths
- ★ **"NO-POVERTY" SOCIETY**  
—by Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne
- ★ **FOREIGN PRESS**  
—Sri Lanka
- ★ **BEFORE DARWIN**  
—by Prof. A. C. J. Weerakoon
- ★ **TENDERS**  
—Defence Ministry

## MORE ABOUT POLITICIANS...

The extracts from letters from our readers we published last week have induced many others to write to us. Unfortunately, we do not as yet have the space to publish all these letters in full, but we hope that we will soon be able to do so. Most of these readers want to remain anonymous and this is understandable. If the proposed Anti-Pseudonym law should become law, we will not be entitled to say that a reader sent us a particular piece or comment without publishing his name and address. *Tribune* will then have to publish these pieces as the views of the editor—until the anti-Pseudonym law is removed from the Statute Book as it will be sooner or later under pressure of public opinion. Even the government will not be able to print its "inspired leaks" in

its own papers as long as the anti-Pseudonym law is in force.

On the question of politicians, many readers have pointed out that most politicians today think that their role is restricted to being propagandists and pulpit preachers of the political party to which they belong. The result is that in recent years a system has been developed in which it is thought unnecessary for politicians to have any expertise, specialisation or knowledge. It is considered sufficient if a person is able to make friends and influence people to be a politician. And in addition if he is an able orator or stage performer so much the better. Political parties are always on the look out for those who have charismatic appeal and are capable of utilising modern publicity techniques to the fullest. These requirements for political aspirants are common to all political parties. It may differ in degrees, but the value and tactical base is the same. Even political parties who flaunt radical slogans discover that to fight an election they need funds and that these funds do not come on hat collections, but come mainly from those who have amassed unaccounted wealth. Black money is only handed out in the hope that those who get them will help the donors when they are elected to Parliament.

Many of the letters received state that what is needed is that the system and structure must be changed to eliminate the source of corruption: that if this was not done, any campaign against corruption will be only a cry in the wilderness. Chopping of a few heads now and again, most letters point out will not help. Exposure stories in the newspapers now fall like water on a duck's back. Politicians in Sri Lanka like politicians everywhere have developed a thick hide and what people or the papers say does not bother them. It is not often a Watergate that exposure produces results. Something more drastic is called for. What is it that can be done?

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# **HANDBOOK FOR THE CEYLON TRAVELLER**

This book is the work of many people all of whom have written of things they know and love. They will protest at being called 'experts' but experts they are on individual facets of Sri Lanka. Moreover, they have travelled the length and breadth of this country, seen, heard, experienced and above all, understood the land, its people and their life. It is this knowledge of the country and its people and the love they have for this island and the islanders that the compilers have tried to infuse into this book.

The revised edition includes several new chapters the first of which is the chapter on Buddhism — "A Religion. A People".

This book is not intended only for foreigners. We hope it will be a companion to our own people on their travels through the Island. It may perhaps, tell you of things you did not know and enrich your experience of seeing Sri Lanka in her many splendours.

**A Studio Times publication**



# TRIBUNE

A Journal of Ceylon and  
World Affairs

Founded in 1954

Every Saturday

Editor: S. P. Amarasingam

Vol. 28

No. 34

October 6, 1984

43, Dawson Street

Colombo 2.

Tel: 33172

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Rs. 220 for 52 issues  
and

Rs. 110 for 26 issues

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

OBSSESSED with the difficulties that have arisen as a result of eruption of terrorist activities in the North, many people in Sri Lanka tend to ignore global problems that threaten all life on this planet. Chief among them is the danger the world faces from a nuclear war. *Tribune* has in the past published many articles on this subject, but everyday more and more is being written on this subject in all parts of the world. Last week we received a report from Rome entitled *Study of Consequences of Nuclear Attack*: "A nuclear attack equal to the power of 16 million megatons on the 45 strategic military bases in Italy would cause 4.5 million dead and 2 million wounded, according to preliminary results of a study by the University of Milan Physics Institute. The study, presented by physicists Palo Cotta Ramusino and Andrea Ottolenghi, takes into consideration Italian, American and NATO bases in Italy, including the cruise missile base at Comiso in Sicily, the Italian air defence base at Martina Franca in Apulia, the Gioia de Colle and Villa Franca airports. The criteria used in the study, a simulation carried out on a computer, have already been used by the US Congress and the West German Government. The final results of the Study, carried out was possible because of a grant from the Education Ministry, will be released by the end of the year. The British magazine *New Scientist* answering the question, "How will this beautiful world of ours look after a nuclear attack?" said that horrifying pictures of a desolate and ablazing world have been conjured up by scientists and writers. "Scientists in the West studying possible effects of nuclear explosions on climate say that a nuclear war may be followed by a nuclear winter. Much of the planet may revert to the ice age with temperatures dropping below the freezing point. A survivor, pushing aside the sand bags and emerging from the under the kitchen table, will see twilight, day-long, with only an occasional glimpse of the sun, temperatures swinging between freezing and 20°C or so below. There will be intense storms due to the temperature contrast between the cold land and the relatively warm oceans. Dense fogs will blanket the coastal areas as oceans pump moisture into the surface layers of the atmosphere. The seas along the coastline will gradually freeze. Without Arctic survival gear, and in a physically and psychologically shattered state, survival at sub zero temperature is likely to prove difficult. Few domestic crops will survive a rapid temperature drop. The casualties of a prolonged nuclear winter could equal those killed or injured in the initial days of a nuclear war". For people in this country a nuclear war is still remote prospect. But even if it takes place in distant places even the tiny speck called Sri Lanka will suffer from all the disastrous consequences of radioactive dust and other evils of nuclear blasts. Nuclear war can bring instant death to many millions but the sufferings of many more millions, nay billions, who physically survive such a war cannot be estimated. Many will be blind, maimed, dehumanized and will be nothing more than creatures that once were men, women and children. And even those who live to tell the tale will find the world a new place with little food or sunshine for long stretches of time. What is essential is that there should be a world wide upsurge against all violence and war, leave alone nuclear war. Every country wants disarmament and peace, but more and more arms of the most dangerous kind are being manufactured and are being stocked by more and more nations. Instead of peace, more and more small wars are erupting in different parts of the world. And in an increasing number of countries, violence, terrorism and civil strife are growing apace. Will all this end in an Armageddon with a nuclear exchange to cap it all?



## Poor Get Poorer

*Tribune* has been at pains to point out that whatever the government since Independence the poor have got poorer as a small elite of rich have become richer and richer. This has been disputed by many especially those who insist on boasting about the virtues of the open economy. These people must have received a shock when they read in the *Weekend* of September 30 a front-page story under the heading *Shocking Revelations in Survey Report: No Hope for Survival for Lanka's Poor*.

We cite this *Weekend* story in extenso: "Sri Lanka's poor have got poorer in the past decade. This is the finding of a team of experts from the Food and Nutritional Policy Planning Division of the Ministry of Plan Implementation who based their finding on a country-wide survey carried out over the past three years on the nutritional needs of the Lankans. The experts in their report which is now with the Presidential Secretariat, say the per capita calorie consumption of the lowest decile has significantly dropped below the 1969/70 level while there has been an appreciable reduction in the consumption patterns of the lower second and third deciles."

### TRIBUNE

*TRIBUNE* 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 leaders 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.

"This is despite the fact that the per capita availability of important food items, such as rice, sugar, potatoes and fish improving considerably. According to the findings of the survey the overall availability of major cereals had increased to 145 kilogrammes per head in 1980 reflecting the 45 percent increase of rice production from 1978 to 1980. The report says 'even pulse production (black gram, cowpea, green gram, soya bean and lentils) had risen by about 50 percent. In the case of sugar, per capita availability more than doubled during 1978 - 1980 when compared to 1975-76. Fish production also increased by about 25 percent despite a decline in dried fish imports. According to the experts, if the country's masses are to live, by the year 1990 the incomes of the lowest decile has to be increased by at least 40 percent of the present level and for the second and third decile by approximately 20 and 10 percent. Even this would allow only for the procurement of the minimum calorie requirement the experts say. According to the report, about 17 million people will have to be provided with approximately 2,197 million metric tons of cereals by 1990.

"Identifying the estate labour, rural and urban unskilled labour as the worst hit, the experts have recommended that their wage structure be linked to the amount needed to procure the basic calorie needs for the average family. Stating that the present food stamp scheme is totally unrealistic, the experts say 'food stamps should be suitably index-lined with price fluctuations and determined on a more realistic income out of point. Stamp values should be based on per capita incomes rather than household incomes. Further, undeserving beneficiaries must be eliminated and administrative shortcomings corrected so that a greater measure of relief would be passed on the beneficiaries. 'Recommending the stabilisation of food prices in the open market in terms of specific commodities in order to protect the lower deciles of the population against excessive inflation the experts have pointed out that the government's rice pricing policy must be carefully re-examined to meet, at least a part of the needs of calorie income deficit groups."

The full report, it is said, has been sent to the Presidential Secretariat, and we hope that it will be released to the public as a sessional paper. But what is disclosed in the *Weekend* report is enough to make people to sit up.

Foreign experts and pundits who come to Sri Lanka for evaluating the island's developmental progress praise the governments since Independence for improving the standard of living. They do talk about the "quality of life"—a new mystical term to

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flatter a few Third World countries and set a new yardstick for development which is nothing but a smokescreen to befuddle the gullible in the developing world.

The simple fact is that whatever improvement recorded in the "standard of living" is confined to a small section while more and more people are daily getting pauperised with the result that malnutrition, hunger and disease have begun to proliferate a rapid pace.

## THE POLITICAL SCENE

FOR SRI LANKA

### A No- "Poverty" Society

By Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne

*The following is an abbreviated version of a speech delivered by Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne on April 7, 1983 on the occasion of the South-South Dialogue, a series of lectures on Appropriate Technology and Social Development sponsored by Approtech Asia.*

WE GENERALLY THINK OF OURSELVES as the Third World because we are economically poorer than Japan and the countries in Europe and North America. But in my recent travels to these countries, I have been appalled to see even poorer communities than those in our own countries, Third and Fourth Worlds right in the heart of the U.S. This brings us to an important realization: that the issue of development is no longer the concern of just the Third World countries. Before our Independence, all our countries were under one foreign power or another. In the struggle for independence, we produced a lot of national heroes, people who reminded us of the great traditions we had, the great technologies we had developed and the great structures we had evolved in which people had power. The struggle for independence has long since ended. For over three decades now, our political leaders, administrators, professionals and voluntary organizations, with the help of big International agencies, have been trying to achieve the objective of development.

BUT IF WE CLOSELY EXAMINE the result today, we have no cause for happiness. Take India. There are more poor people in India today than there were at the time of their independence. Clearly, the results, of our development efforts are not acceptable. Through the years, we have tried different development strategies. First, we thought that if we could train

some of our people in so-called "developed" countries they could learn from these countries, come back and build up our own countries. So a lot of our people went to Europe and other affluent countries to learn "development". They came back but development did not take place. Then we started getting experts into our countries. But these experts did not deliver the development we expected, either. Instead, these experts became a big joke. There is the story of the poultry expert who went to a village and asked a housewife how he could help her. "I don't need help", the housewife replied, "My hens lay eggs everyday". Disappointed, the man got into his car. "Wait", cried the housewife, "I do have a problem. Can you tell me how to distinguish between a male chick and a female-chick when they are still very small?" "It's very simple", replied the expert. "Male chicks eat female worms and female chicks eat male worms". Satisfied, the housewife began to walk home. Suddenly, she turned back and cried, "But how do I tell the difference between a male worm and a female worm?" "My dear, said the man, "I am only a chicken expert. For that you have to ask a worm expert".

The third strategy was to ask for aid: bi-lateral aid, multi-lateral aid, marginal aid, World Bank aid, IMF aid, etc. We thought that if we had the money, we could achieve development by ourselves. And now, we are beginning to doubt whether aid is bringing us any results. *We have been changing strategies without questioning the objectives. We thought development was what the First World countries had. That was our mistake.*

IN THE NORTH, they had achieved a certain standard of living, measured by per capita income, per capita growth, GNP, etc.—which we took as a model of development. But this type of economic growth required certain conditions: colonies, raw materials to which they put their own price, markets, technology—everything was in their hands, and they dictated their own terms to us. These conditions brought the economies of the North to their present unsustainable level. No longer can we find any European country in which the unemployment rate is less than 10 percent; often it is as high as 50 percent. I think these countries have reached a situation in which the growth targets they have set for themselves can no longer be realized. Therefore, development is no longer a problem only for our poor countries to face. The whole world—including both developed and developing countries has to think together, and re-design what is meant by development.

WHAT DO WE WANT to achieve? First, development, the way it is being done now, is something we have to stop with all our might. **Instead, I would**



rather refer to our objective as a no-poverty society. Building on affluent society is an objective we can never achieve under the existing, very unjust international system. On the other hand, the objective of building a society free from poverty can be shared even by the so-called "developed" or "affluent" countries who find Third and Fourth Worlds in the midst of their affluence.

What is meant by a No-Poverty Society? How can we achieve such a Society? This ideal is not a privilege reserved for the Asians. It includes all peoples whose histories were deliberately erased from civilized thinking by those powers who destroyed their culture: peoples such as the African nations, for example, who sent ambassadors to the Roman empire just as we sent out ours to other countries before colonization. In these old cultures, rule was not by majority, nor by minority, nor by dictatorship—but by consensus. Recent research has revealed that these cultures possessed the economic principles to build sustainable economies, highly productive economies on the one hand, which, on the other hand, did not disturb the environment, nor bring about degeneration of the human mind. In most of today's affluent societies, there is crisis, not only in the economic sphere but in the very ideologies on which these societies are built. In the recent conferences I attended in North America, all who participated were just as concerned about the future of their society as we are about ours. The mood is just right now for the world to draw from ancient wisdom. Modernity is not a question of time. Simply because something happened in 1983 does not mean it is more modern. Modernity should be judged by the validity of an idea or technology or structure to the times in which we live or in which it is to be applied.

FOR ABOUT THREE HUNDRED YEARS, we have developed only those physical sciences in which the standard of truth is if the object can be measured and verified; anything that could not be measured, weighed or calculated i.e., empirically studied—was dismissed as non-science, and therefore, non-truth. The biggest mistake we made after the industrial revolution was to stop developing one-half of the brain. We concentrated on developing only that we call the empirical half or the scientific half or the knowledge half. We completely ignored the intuitive half, the inside half wisdom half, which our Asian ancestry strove so hard to develop. We have to recover this wisdom half and give it to those countries which exploited us, in the past. Because this is something we owe them and they are ready to receive it. *Incidentally, this is where I do not accept the idea of political confrontation. Neither do I accept the idea of acquiescence or becoming a part of Western culture. Political confrontation has brought about untold damage to*

human lives in so many countries. Latin America is an excellent example. No one can succeed in such a situation. There are governments in Latin America which are being used to oppress the people. Other people are giving arms to those who are fighting against the government. Those who suffer most are the vast majority of people who do not know what is right or wrong or what is going to happen. These innocent people are placed between two sets of forces that are both supported by violence, whether legislative or extra-legal.

IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, judgement should prevail. There must be another strategy, to be launched by people who are neither committed to capture power nor ready to passively accept injustice. We have to find a way to bring these people together to work harmoniously towards a society founded on justice, peace and charity. We can do this only by using the total brain, both the scientific half and the spiritual half. If we think of the awakening of all as the objective we can immediately accept non-violence as a principle. Violence is too well-organized today; there are nearly 200 tons of TNT for every man, woman and child in the world. That by itself is enough proof that the age of violence must end. We have to dedicate ourselves fearlessly to bring about a non-violent transformation in society. This requires a return to various spiritual values. Unfortunately, most religions today have lost their spiritual base. And religion without spirituality is no more than a materialistic organization. We need to rethink and spiritualize religion and every aspect of life.

*To be concluded*

X X X

LETTER

## THE ETHNIC PROBLEM

Sir,

Your most esteemed article on "*The Ethnic Problem and Political Situation*"—*Tribune*, Vol. 28 No. 31 has provoked me to make this comment. We are in a dark period of the history of this beautiful country. And what horrendous events are taking place right before our very eyes. It makes one sick to think of them, and our blood curdles when we come to know of happenings in this country. Willy-nilly we have to find a lasting solution to all the outstanding issues: communal, racial and otherwise, and live in social peace, amity and communal harmony; so that this country shall no more be afflicted with the horrible racial tension that prevails today in our midst. Hence it is nothing but right we urge, we invoke, we implore, in all true earnest all the forces that be, seen and unseen, in the name of generations yet unborn, to make up their minds and say: we shall at any cost find

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a way out of this sneaky impasse that prevails and make this emerald Isle a fit home for our children, and our children's children and so on and so forth.

WHEN THE BRITISHERS LEFT OUR SHORES they left behind them a great, rich legacy: our law and order, our kindly social relations, our democratic form of government, our rich heritage, unsullied and perfectly intact, our unimpeachable legal system, our laissez-faire commerce and trade and economy, our net-work of roads and railways, our tea, rubber and coconut plantations, our schools and colleges, our love and regard for life's great values—truth and beauty, peace and justice; liberty, equality, security and fraternity. What a marvellous heritage! And, what great gifts. And now, what have we done with them? Our talents have remained concealed and are being misused. Our ridgepole has cracked, our roof is sagging and warped, and is about to break into splinters and sink to the floor. Can't we do anything to help maintain the noble edifice? The edifice of State? What are the facts of the case? And what are the palpable solutions? We are several people, ethnically considered. But we are one nation. And how can this solid nationhood—an integral unit—be maintained at its optimum level? Pray, this is no preachment.

At the outset our self-seeking perversity has to go. We are governed by far too much of the self-regarding sentiment: the notion of "we" and "us" and "ours" as opposed to the notion of "they" and "them" and "theirs". We should, every one of us learn to be "responsible" citizens. Note the word "responsible". If we have a love for our country, an interest in the welfare of its people; in other words if we are genuinely patriotic we have to be responsible men and women. We should learn to think responsibly: every one of us, from the most august President to the humblest mender of roads. The feeling of responsibility shall course in our veins. In other words, we shall feel, think, and act and have our "being" steeped in a sound sense of responsibility. If we can marshal this kingly feeling in us—of having a mutual concern for each other as between man and man—then we shall be in a mood to settle our manifold issues: so gargantuan, so horrifying.

Secondly we need to have great-mindedness and generosity and a give and take attitude; and our prejudices of race, caste, creed, language-smudge, and social status craze have to be abandoned forthwith. Then shall we be free men—not libertini (freed men). We shall be free to think and free to act without any constraints or bias, or twinge of conscience. *But unfortunately while all the time we are talking of superior race, super caste, and revealed truths and creed and other encumbering social ineptitudes, we make an effort to disentangle*

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*the communal tangle that we have got now around us.*

AREN'T WE INSINCERE? Isn't our diplomacy mere flimflam, pedantry and pretense? In these matters let us be frank and clear-headed: (1) This is our motherland—Right. (2) All people in this country, including the 'stateless' Indian people, are its citizens—Right. (3) They ought to have equal rights and equal duties—Right. (Right to live, right to own property, to speak their language; usable, dignified and privileged. (4) Let there be a world link language too—a language that will serve as a key to the different branches of knowledge. (5) Let each of the nine provinces—the Britishers have with rare administrative wisdom and experience made them for us—or the five geographical zones, have a simple, semi-autonomous form of government with clearly defined areas of operation e.g. land and land development, irrigation, education etc. (6) Let there be a sovereign governing body exercising sway over the entire Island. (7) Let there be a second chamber (senate) to decide and clarify and guide issues that might crop up between the central sovereign authority and the provincial or regional or zonal administrative authority. (8) Above all let people have freedom of movement and freedom of choice as regards places for their residence for work, for the education of their children etc. (9) Let there be perfect religious tolerance which shall not be smudged by bigotry and conversion or harrasment or high-pressure of any kind.

If we can think, sort out our issues and act wisely and prudently and circumspectly and large-heartedly on these lines without fear or favour, sure and certain, all our present-day ills will cease to be; and then shall we be able to win back the sense of security and liberty that we have lost; and live in peace, amity, goodwill and harmony. And this will register as the omega point of man's existence on this fair Isle.

**K. Kanapathipillai**

52, Nalliah Road,  
Batticaloa.

## EXPOSE

SHERLOCK HOLMES

### Water Meters

WHY DON'T YOU, MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES, pay attention to the water tax that is being levied on some citizens of Colombo? *Tribune* has already raised the question of householders having to pay for the air



that flows through the meters? If the authorities do not dispute the fact that air is being paid for by those who have water-meters, it is only fair that they should disconnect the meters until they find meters which will charge only for the water. Householders without meters are only called upon to pay a flat Rs. 30/- or Rs. 28/50 a month. It is a comforting thought for the Water Board that five star hotels pay several lakhs for the water they use. But considering the unconscionable profits they make it is only fair that they should pay what amounts to a punitive water tax. But sooner or later, these hotels will sink their own tube or deep wells and will not want the water (and air) supplied by the authorities.

*Sherlock Holmes* can only hope that the Water Board will realise that the meters presently in use will arouse deep resentment against the Government. Even if the General Elections are still many years away the government will be well advised not to allow such cankers to grow.

*Sherlock Holmes'* attention was recently drawn to a news item in the Italian News Agency bulletin ANSA on the question of water rates. The news was dated from Brussels and read: "Italy enjoys the cheapest water in the industrial world and a small Italian company working in a down-town situation with consumption of ten thousand cubic meters a year pays an average of about 200 lire a cubic meter a report said here. Drawn up the National Utility Service, which acts as a consultant to companies on the costs of public services, said the equivalent of 700 lire in France and Belgium, 500 lire in Sweden, Britain and the US, and 1,000 lire in West Germany. The highest charge was 1,800 lire in Australia, the report said. According to the National Utility Service, Italian water users saw a 46 percent increase in prices in 1962-83 meaning that charges rose by only 5.8 percent, or half the inflation rate in July 1983-84. The report said the other European countries can expect largish increases in water tariffs as of next year.

While water is a scarce commodity in the overcrowded and over-populated cities of the industrialised world, it is different in a country like Sri Lanka. Here water goes to waste. It is not merely the householder in the cities and towns who waste water, but water is not carefully and purposefully utilised by the governmental authorities or private enterprise undertakings, farmers, or people in all walks of life. There is no shortage of water because this country receives the benefit of two monsoons.

*Water meters are not the way to teach people about the proper and meaningful use of water.* This can only be done by education from the kindergarten to the university, from the poor farmer to the rich industrialist. Water meters have to be imported and cost of money. For revenue purposes and to meet the cost of conserving and distributing water, a flat

monthly rate—one for town and even village dwellers who get piped water, depending on the area will be adequate. Farmers who get water from irrigation schemes should also be called upon to pay a monthly or quarterly levy. This is now being done in some areas.

*Below is a further instalment from the Nestle-Milk Board Agreement.* 4.4 *Lease Agreement:* As soon as possible after the Company shall be incorporated and the tasks under paragraphs (f) and (g) of Clause 4.1 shall be completed, the Milk Board shall grant to the Company and the Company shall accept a Lease of the said land and the said plant. Such Lease shall be drafted by the lawyers of the parties hereto and shall contain the following provisions: (a) The Lease shall become effective on Takeover-day. It shall remain in force until 31st December 2010 and may be renewed for further periods as may be agreed between the parties hereto; (b) The rent shall be Rs. 150,000 payable at the end of each month and shall be reviewed and mutually agreed between the Milk Board and the Company every ten years; (c) The Lease shall cover the said land and the said plant, except the General Stores, and shall contain a detailed inventory as well as a precise description or plan of the said land; (d) The Company shall be responsible for and bear the cost of normal repair and maintenance of the said plant; (e) The Company shall be entitled to make any construction or work on the said land or any alterations, additions or improvements to the said plant which it may find appropriate; (f) Any new construction made or equipment installed or acquired by the Company shall remain the property of the Company and not be covered by the Lease; (g) The Company shall put at the disposal of the Milk Board any leased equipment which has become obsolete or is no longer required; (h) On termination of the Lease the Company shall be properly indemnified in respect of its own equipment and buildings on the said land and any improvements made beyond normal repair and maintenance; (i) On termination the Company shall deliver to the Milk Board the said plant in proper working order. Prior to entering the above Lease Agreement the Milk Board shall if necessary either acquire the said land or obtain a lease (with power to sub-lease to the Company) from the Government of Sri Lanka.

4.5. *Licence Agreement:* The parties hereto shall procure that immediately after incorporation of the Company S.P.N. and the Company shall enter into a General Licence Agreement in the form of the draft General Licence Agreement annexed hereto. Under such Agreement S.P.M. shall grant or cause to be granted to the Company all technical assistance and licences (including know-how and special processes) required for the improvement and operation of the said plant and for the distribution and sale of the Product under Nestle's trademarks. The remuneration



ration shall be 5 percent during the first three years calculated on the net sales of the product under Nestle's trademarks and 4 percent thereafter. The Licence Agreement shall be for an initial period ending on 31st December 1990 renewable for further periods of five years each.

Section 5 entitled IMPLEMENTATION reads as follows: 5.1. *Determination of Takeover-Day:* The Takeover-day shall be a business day (being not less than four nor more than eight months after the date hereof) which shall be fixed in advance by the parties hereto as soon as the Company shall be incorporated and Nestle's experts will have been able to satisfactorily complete their audit and tasks as listed in Clause 4.1 hereof. 5.2 *Take-over of said Plant:* On Takeover-day the representatives of the Company at the said plant shall officially take over the management of the said plant. As from such date the Milk Board shall no longer be involved with the operation of the said plant and the Company shall be exclusively entitled to operate the same. 5.3. *Stock-taking:* On Takeover-day representatives of the Milk Board and the Company shall jointly undertake (a) a quality and quantity check of the items listed in the inventory of the Lease Agreement referred to in Clause 4.4 hereof and (b) a stock-taking of the General Stores appearing on the C list; 5.4. *Purchase of General Stores:* The Company shall purchase from the Milk Board the General Stores appearing on the C List at a price to be mutually agreed between the Milk Board and the Company. For the purpose of clarification it is hereby stated that the purchase shall not include any

stocks of finished products. 5.5. *Removal of Unleased or Unpurchased Assets:* As soon as practicable after Takeover-day the Milk Board shall remove from the said plant at its own expense all assets or other items not leased or purchased by the Company. 5.6. *Transfer of Personnel:* The Company shall take on employment with effect from Takeover-day all the personnel appearing on the A List and to such effect the Milk Board shall prior to the Takeover-day suitably inform the personnel appearing on the A List. The Company shall renew the contracts of employment of the personnel appearing on the A List upon at least the same terms and conditions as in force at the date hereof, recognizing their past services for all purposes and such renewal shall not be deemed to be a break in the continuity of service. The Milk Board, the Company and Nestle shall use their best endeavours as soon as possible to relocate in other plants or elsewhere all the personnel on the B List. 5.7. *Take-over of Liabilities:* For the sake of clarity it is hereby confirmed that the Company shall not take over or assume any debts and liabilities (other than existing liabilities towards the personnel taken over in accordance with Clause 5.6 hereof and other than commitments which the Company agrees to take over in accordance with Clause 4.3 hereof) of the Milk Board to third parties in connection with the operations of the said plant, which debts and liabilities subsisting on Takeover-day the Milk Board shall pay, satisfy and discharge. The Milk Board shall indemnify the Company from all actions, proceedings claims and demands in respect thereof.

## PLANT MORE TREES



**Multi-Packs (Cey) Ltd.**  
**24, Katukurunduwatta Road,**  
**Ratmalana**



## The Killing Continues

By Rodney Tasker

*Jaffna:* Evidence is mounting that army units are setting fire to Tamil dwellings in the Jaffna area. The Sri Lankan army major emerged through the thick smoke of a burning building and said "The terrorists are setting fire to houses to discredit us." Then, surrounded by his troops, he ordered this correspondent and three colleagues not to take pictures and said we would have to be escorted away. All evidence pointed to the fact that the army itself had put the torch to the buildings in the Tamil farming town of Achcheveli—about 15 km north of Jaffna—to retaliate against the denotation of a land mine by Tamil militants. The incident illustrated what appears to be a pattern of Tamil attacks on security forces followed by army reprisals against Tamil non-combatants in this sad, violence-torn northern peninsula of Sri Lanka. Six soldiers had been killed when their truck ran over a terrorist land-mine south of Jaffna in early August. Army retaliation a few days later included the burning of more than 100 shops and houses and the killing of several Tamils in the port town of Mannar, 80 km south of Jaffna. Scores of homes had been destroyed by the army in the northern fishing town of Valvettiturai after two Sri Lankan navy men had been shot by militants there. The government has admitted that troops went on a rampage in Mannar and said the 33 culprits would face courts martial. But any subsequent burning of houses was officially attributed to the Tamil separatists, whose hardcore numbers in the Northern Province the government puts at 300-500. Information from the area has been sketchy, with foreign journalists relying on exaggerated Tamil reports and government denials to paint the picture of the latest in a long history of communal violence between the Tamils, who comprise a 2.5 million minority in Sri Lanka's 15 million population, and the majority Sinhalese.

BUT WHEN THIS CORRESPONDENT, a two-man Visnews TV camera team and a correspondent from the Indian Express arrived in Achcheveli on the morning of 25 August, we surprised the Sri Lankan army in the middle of a counter-terrorist burning operation. We had been drawn to the scene by the sound of a large explosion, which later turned out to be the detonation of a large land-mine on one of the town's roads by Tamil terrorists. It had apparently been set off in haste by "the boys," as the Tamils call them, on learning that the army was approaching the town after an intelligence tip. No one was hurt in the explosion, but the company of troops who arrived

in eight armoured vehicles proceeded to set four shops and houses on fire. We arrived before the burning started. As we walked along a road in the heart of the now-deserted town towards the troops, a British-made Ferret scout car at an intersection swung its 50-calibre machine gun towards us, and three soldiers in full combat gear quickly crouched into the firing position.

Mindful of widespread reports from the local Tamil population of indiscriminate shooting by the feared army, we halted 25 yards from the troops as an armoured car drove into sight and trained its cannon on us. After a 10-minute standstill, one of the soldiers waved us away and we withdrew to our original position in the town square, just out of sight of the troops. Shortly afterwards, a group of soldiers made their way down the road towards us, hugging the walls in combat fashion. When they arrived, a young officer with a radio summoned our young Tamil driver and asked: "Are you Tamil or Sinhalese?" The driver, evidently terrified and with his hands high above his head, replied that he was Tamil. He was then told in English to drive us up the road towards the main concentration of troops because the commanding officer, whom we later learned to be Maj. P. A. Karunatilake, wanted to see us.

As we obeyed the order and drove slowly towards the intersection, the armoured car's turret inched around to keep its cannon trained on our vehicle. When we arrived, we saw, for the first time, smoke billowing from at least one building. Karunatilake was obviously not pleased to see us, telling us that we would have to leave the town in an armoured convoy. We were taken to nearby Kankasanturai Police Station where the major took down our journalist identifications and handed us over to the police.

Secretary to the Minister of State Douglas Liyanage had confirmed, in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, that five Israeli officials were currently in Sri Lanka and that Colombo was benefiting from Israel's expertise in anti-terrorist intelligence. The government, answering questions about the Israeli presence here, was previously vague about the relationship, the two countries having no diplomatic relations. Following Liyanage's unauthorised interview, observers in Colombo speculated that the government's apparent policy of reprisals in areas in which Tamil terrorists were showing themselves to be operating, including the burning of homes, may be part of a strategy suggested by the Israelis. Israel regularly uses reprisals against non-combatants to discourage support for Palestinian insurgents. Be that as it may, only time will tell whether the tactic succeeds in stamping out what is evidently widespread support for the terrorists in the northern Tamil community, or whether it hardens further Tamil hostility.

FAR EASTERN ECONOM/C REVIEW  
6 September 1984.

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## September 24 - 30

### 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; *JTH*—Aththa; *SM*—Silumina; *SLDP*—Sri Lankadipa; *AD*—Janadina; *S*—Sun; *DV*—Davasa; *DP*—Dinapathi; *CM*—Chinthamani; *WK*—Weekend; *RV*—Riviresa; *DK*—Dinakara; *EN*—Elenadu; *IS*—Island; *DI*—Divaing; *IDPR*—information Dept. Press Release.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24:** About 48 flat dwellers in the De Soysa Housing Scheme, Moratuwa have not got their electricity bills since May this year; these were new connections given in April. The International Monetary Fund has bowed to Third World demands for a review of the debt crisis next spring but shaved the maximum amount which financially-struggling nations can borrow—*DN*. A former CIA Agent now working for the Motion Picture Association of America is expected here soon to investigate the extent of video piracy—*DO*. Tough new provisions giving more teeth to the surveillance zone regulations and extending the powers of search and arrest by security personnel in specified areas are being drafted. The Ceylon Electricity Board's new rates proposed to be levied from the beginning of next year are likely to be up by about 100 percent; the present rate of 88 cents per unit will be increased to about Rs. 1.32. Sri Lanka will buy 150,000 tons of wheat grain from the United States under Agreement No. PL 480—*SU*. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of National Security in an interview to Mr. N. Ram of the *Hindu* said that no government has taken so much action against Security Forces misbehaviour as the government of Sri Lanka. The *Daily Telegraph* in a report sent by Ian Ward in Jaffna, has stated that the Roman Catholic Bishop of Jaffna Dr. Diogupillai has denied the suggestion that he has aligned the Church with the militant Tamil separatists. A young man who aspired to go abroad for employment and applied to the Controller of Immigration was amazed to find another's photograph in the passport which he received from the Department of Immigration and Emigration—*S*. Food Stamps would be issued this time too to seven million families who fall in the low income group—*DP*.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25:** Airlanka yesterday announced that it has successfully negotiated traffic rights with the Malaysian aviation authorities to fly from Colombo to Tokyo via Malaysia. A meeting at Ndjamena, between Canadian head of state Hissene Habre and an envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand appears to have eased tensions created by the abrupt announcement of a Franco-Libyan deal to withdraw their troops from the country, informed sources said—*DN*. A major derailment of a goods train that occurred between Ihalakotte and Kadigamuwa on the Colombo-Kandy line last night has resulted in extensive damage to several compartments and several fires that broke out after the crash—*DO*. About 10,000 million rupees will be spent for the betterment and upliftment of the plantation workers in 1985, Minister and Plantation Union chief Gamini Dissanayake said yesterday. Malaria is on the increase; last year the number of cases trebled from 38,566 in 1982 to 127,264. Airlanka has curtailed traffic rights via Colombo of Singapore Airlines, to two flights a week to Athens, one flight a week to Amsterdam and one flight a week to Paris. Shop owners and several Customs trade unions are locked in a tug-of-war over the opening of the Duty Free Shopping Complex to Sri Lankans—*SU*. There are around 26,000 Sri Lankans who have illicitly entered France according to Sri Lankan diplomatic sources in Paris; the *Le Figaro* and *France Soir* reported French Police uncovering a Sri Lankan underground network smuggling Sri Lankans into France. Mr. S. B. Wijekoon, a UNP organiser at Minneriya, has been nominated as the UNP candidate for the by-election there by the party yesterday. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party is expected today to consider the proposals submitted by President J. R. Jayewardene to the round-table conference to bring about a solution to the mixed ethnic issue. Hundreds of telephones in the Dehiwela, Mt. Lavinia, Ratmalana and Kalubowila areas sent dead yesterday due to a major underground fault—*S*.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26:** The UNP working committee yesterday resolved that the APC proposals were a "suitable basis" for consultations with the other parties and would contribute towards finding a lasting solution to the ethnic problem. World Bank President Alden Classen yesterday urged the world community to increase decisively its assistance to the Third World, in particular to the poorest countries of Africa and Asia—*DN*. The International Monetary Fund has warned Sri Lanka that the budgetary deficit even at ten per cent was far too high and unsustainable with the country's present resources—*DO*. The date for the by-elections at Minneriya and Kundasale will be announced tomorrow; the by-elections are expected to be held on October 19. Sri Lanka will receive 107,000 metric tons of wheat worth 9.6 million US dollars plus ten million Canadian dollars as aid cargo in the next two months, according to Food Ministry sources. More than three hundred families were yesterday evacuated from the mountain slopes surrounding Matugama following warnings by the Meteorology Department of possible earthslips. Both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on Sunday commended Sri Lanka on its remarkable



economic recovery, but at the same time expressed serious concern about the political situation in the country—*SU*. Candidates from the UNP, SLFP, and the Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya are expected to hand over their Nomination Papers today for the Kundasale and Minneriya by elections at the Kandy and Polonnaruwa Kachcheries. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party yesterday received an invitation from President J. R. Jayewardene to discuss with him the proposals submitted by him to the Round-Table Conference. In an effort to curb ragging in campuses by bringing about better understanding and co-operation among undergraduates and lecturers, a system of tutors for guiding students, as practised abroad has been proposed by Higher Education authorities—*/S*. School children in the Maha Vidyalyas in the Mannar district are boycotting classes from last Monday—*DP*.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27:** Public sector officials in six administrative districts in the North and the East will be held accountable for the loss or robbery of public property in their care and such property will not be replaced, the National Security Ministry said yesterday. Prime Minister David Lange of New Zealand has said nuclear weapons will not be permitted in his country and this is "the fundamental bottom line" in the country's negotiations with the United States—*DN*. Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi is expected to lead a delegation to Sri Lanka to seek to overturn a government decision to allow Israel to open a special interest section in the US embassy. A "Third Agency" specially constituted with persons from the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and other intelligence agencies were involved in alleged Indian Government plans of military intervention in Sri Lanka, *SURYA*, a leading news magazine has claimed. Press censorship under Emergency Regulations ceased to be in force from midnight in all districts except Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Mannar, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Amparai, Mullaitivu and within the surveillance zone—*SU*. The Cabinet decided yesterday to ban liquor on Christmas day; this decision was taken on a recommendation by the Minister of Sports and Parliamentary Affairs, Vincent Perera, after representations were made to him by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka. Employed graduates, who took bank loans during their university career will in future be forced to pay back these loans through deductions from their salaries which their employer will be allowed to make—*/S*.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28:** In an effort to ensure that terrorist inflicted land mine attacks on the security forces are minimised or eliminated, the authorities have taken a decision to suspend forthwith repairs to roads used by the military and police in five northern districts. Arab and African states drummed up support today to restrict independent South African and Israeli nuclear activities as the International Atomic Energy Agency annual conference went into a fourth

day—*DN*. There has been a significant increase in paddy production in the North Central province during the past few years, according to statistics compiled by the Agricultural Development Authority official sources said—*DO*. SLFP leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike has decided to send a party delegation to meet President J. R. Jayewardene today to discuss the latest amity proposals presented at the all party conference. Sirisena alias "Cheena" a once notorious criminal, was killed during an altercation with the Police at Gampaha yesterday afternoon. Sri Lanka yesterday sought clarification from the Indian government about the *Surya* report which bared details of a new intelligence agency under Premier Indira Gandhi, making plans for a military intervention. Forty one Sri Lankans were placed in temporary detention in West Berlin yesterday evening after entering West Berlin illegally, authorities announced today—*SU*. Mr. Anura Daniel, a former UNP MP for Hewaheta was yesterday found guilty in the gold bar smuggling case and convicted by Harbour Courts Magistrate, Brigadier D. D. Hewagama; Mr. Daniel was fined Rs. 10,000 and six months simple imprisonment in default; in addition he was sentenced to six months simple imprisonment suspended for five years. Permission has been sought from the Minister of Higher Education, President J. R. Jayewardene to establish a private medical college in Jaffna—*/S*. A delegation from the World Bank is now examining the performance proposals of the Ceylon Electricity Board—*DP*. Two persons including a ranking official of the General Post Office have been arrested in regard to the loss of postal stamps to the value of Rs. 4,790,000—*VK*.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29:** The week end's plenary session of the All-Party Conference will be the last; after that the government will prepare legislation and pass it through Parliament, President Jayewardene has disclosed to the South Asia correspondent of the *London Times*, Micheal Hamlyn in a special interview in Colombo, the *Times* said today. World Bank President Tom Clausen said yesterday he was keenly disappointed with the attitude of the Reagan administration towards raising funds for the bank, but was encouraged that other governments had offered additional financing—*DN*. The British Labour Party which meets in Blackpool next week for their annual convention has decided to drop a sharply worded resolution introduced by the Eelam lobby in the UK. Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, S. J. S. Chatwal called at the Foreign Ministry last morning to explain his government's view of the *Suriya* report of alleged Indian invasion plans, which were reproduced in the *Sun* of Thursday 27. About 50 percent of the farmers whose paddy crops have been devastated by the "yellow blight" are to receive insurance payments, official sources said yesterday—*SU*. The Government of Saudi Arabia has assured the Sri Lanka Government that there would be no restrictions on



aid or a freezing of employment following the setting up of an Israeli Interest Section in the United States Embassy in Sri Lanka. An economic programme which has already been introduced in the North by Minister Lalith Ahtulathmudali, has provided avenues of income for about two thousand people in two villages of Pt. Pedro and Chavakachcheri. Israeli experts whose presence in Sri Lanka to train security personnel caused a storm have completed their assignment and left the island, a Defence Ministry official said yesterday—/S. It is understood from government sources that the salaries of government employees will be increased by about Rs. 150 to Rs. 200—DP.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30:** Over 500 Sri Lankan women, who tried to make it to the Middle East lured by the pot of gold, are stranded in the busy streets of Bombay, reports reaching Colombo indicated. The All Party Conference will resume discussions at the BMICH this morning; today's full day session will discuss the proposals which had emerged with a large measure of support of all parties since the conference started in January. The narcotic scenario in Sri Lanka is not only changing rapidly but also keeping pace with trends now prevalent in the West. For the first time in the half century of universal adult franchise in Sri Lanka 90 candidates will be vying for the votes of 88,570 registered voters in two electorates with a mathematical calculation of just around 98,401 per candidate in the forthcoming by-elections. Many Co-operative Unions have paid the CWE sums totalling Rs. 7 million by way of cheques without money in their current accounts and being aware that these cheques will not be honoured—ST. Former South Indian Chief Minister and leader of the opposition DMK party, M. Karunanidhi has vehemently called on the Indian Central Government to sever links with Sri Lanka. Government has made available to Indian authorities details of confessions made by at least twelve northern terrorists who had claimed they underwent guerilla training at a camp at Chakrata, north of Dehra Dun; Sri Lanka's poor have got poorer in the past decade; this is the finding of a team of experts from the Food and Nutritional Policy Planning Division of the Ministry of Plan Implementation who based their findings on a country-wide survey carried out over the past three years on the nutritional needs of the Lankans. Security forces in the north have taken into custody more than ten people who are alleged to have given shelter and food to the terrorists responsible for blowing up an army convoy in Mullaitivu two weeks ago—WK. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party has urged President J. R. Jayewardene to commence negotiations with the Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi for the repatriation of "stateless persons residing in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party though not directly participating in the Round Table will review any proposals emanating from the conference; this assurance has been given to President J. R. Jayewardene by the SLFP delegation which met him

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on Friday. The Minneriya and Kundasale by-elections have posed a whole crop of questions to the Elections Commissioners Department; the Government itself is concerned over the problems and a senior Government spokesman told that it was closely watching the decisions which the Elections Commissioner would take during the coming days. The Sri Lanka Union of USA, in a letter addressed to India's Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has pointed out that her recent comments on the property of Sri Lanka seeking assistance from Israel amounted to India's interference in Sri Lanka's internal affairs—/S.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

By Ariel

### Reagan's New Stance

The spotlight last week has been stolen by the zig-zagging developments in US-Soviet relations. In his address to the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Reagan abandoned his customary cold war rhetoric against everything Communist and Russian, and tried hard to take a middle path of conciliation. He called for holding institutionalised regular ministerial or Cabinet level meetings between the United States and the Soviet Union to promote better understanding and to avoid chances of a global confrontation between the super-powers. He affirmed his belief in peace and human dignity and made a strong plea for improved relations between the estranged super-powers. The President touched on almost all thorny issues like Afghanistan, South-East Asia, West Asia and Central America and in elucidating known American positions did not apportion any blame on the Soviet Union. On Afghanistan, especially, he spoke in low key without mentioning the Soviet military presence for the first time. He said the United States strongly supported the "dedicated efforts" of the UN Secretary-General and his representative to find a diplomatic settlement of the dispute. "I assure you that the United States will continue to do everything possible to have a negotiated settlement which would give the right of establishing their own Government to the Afghan people. Mr. Reagan re-affirmed US commitment to "allies and friends", support to NATO alliance and said the United States also respected "genuine alignment". He favoured greater flow of funds to developing countries and promised to deal with this in detail at his speech before the meeting of Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on Tuesday. Conscious of the presence of Mr. Gromyko, the President dwelt at length on improving relations with Moscow. He prefaced



his comments on the Soviet Union with the remark that "America has repaired its strength, under his Administration.

The Russian response was cool. Moscow does not see any real change in the US approach to international affairs. According to the Soviet news agency Tass Gromyko had told Shultz that the Soviet Union will "resolutely oppose a disruption of the current balance of power between the two countries. Gromyko had said no talks were being held on such issues as disarmament because of the present policy of the US administration according to TASS. At the United Nations Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in a bitter attack on the United States said that everything the Americans said was intended to secure unilateral advantage over Moscow. Therefore, from the very outset things were doomed to failure, he had said in an address to the United Nations General Assembly a day before he was due to meet President Reagan. Gromyko said that United States policy documents glorified American domination of the world, extolled arms and strength and "thus they set the stage for deadlocks in the solution of all the acute problems of today. Gromyko further said, "The Soviet Union believes that it is precisely concrete deeds rather than verbal assurances that can add to normalising the situation in our relations with the United States. Reagan had called for more dialogue and an easing of the nuclear threat in his UN speech, but Gromyko charged that US policy was dominated by militaristic thinking and American production of weapons, weapons and even more weapons. Reagan avoided any criticism of the Soviet Union in his address in contrast to past harsh anti-Moscow rhetoric. He had previously called the Soviet Union an "evil empire" which would wind up "on the ash heap of history. Gromyko said US-Soviet relations had been developing normally, despite ups and downs, "until fairly recently"—an obvious reference to the Reagan administration's tough line and unprecedented military build-up "In recent years, these exertions have been upset through Washington's exertions, he said. Gromyko blamed Washington for the breakup of nuclear weapons negotiations and for the failure this month to begin a proposed meeting between United States and the Soviet Union in Vienna to discuss weapons in outer space. He said Washington was now looking to "turn outer space into a staging area for war .

The correspondent of the Madras *Hindu* Chakrapani, summing up the situation said that Reagan's softline was greeted with scepticism. His turn-about on US-Soviet relations—from a tough anti-communist line he has followed both before and after he assumed office to a markedly conciliatory approach reflected in his UN address—has been received, said Chakrapani more with scepticism than praise. The instant reaction was that the speech has been prepared

for the Presidential elections just 35 days away, in an attempt to change Mr. Reagan's hawkish image where relations with the rival super-power are concerned.

Mr. Walter F. Mondale, Mr. Reagan's Democratic challenger in the Presidential elections, called the speech a "death-bed conversation to which no credence should be attached. He called Mr. Reagan's speech a political ploy. Speaking to a rally in Texas, Mr. Mondale said, "Today, Mr. Reagan changed his spots. I hope he changes his course. He also said that for four years Mr. Reagan had been talking like the former Air Force General Curtis Lemay who had talked of bombing the Soviet Union "back to the stone age. And finally declared: "Now Reagan is trying to talk like Walter Mondale .

Reagan administration officials understandably tried hard to get the greatest political mileage out of Reagan's first ever meeting with a senior Soviet official. There is no doubt that in having this carefully planned encounter, Reagan was only trying to get rid of a stinging charge levelled against him not only by his Democratic challenger Walter Mondale but also many non-partisan foreign policy experts that he had dangerously neglected improving relations with the Soviet Union and pushed the world closer to the brink of a nuclear holocaust. Admittedly for Mr. Reagan and his administration the reality of a meeting at the White House with a Soviet leader though not of summit status is a welcome development in the context of the presidential elections and the tauntings of Mr. Mondale. Mr. Reagan's appearance before the UN General Assembly and his reception to visiting foreign delegations and personal meetings with a select few of them all are aimed at portraying him as a man in full command of foreign policy affairs a domain in which he is receiving poor ratings from the American public. On domestic economic management and leadership issues however, he is so far ahead of his rival Mr. Mondale that many Americans believe that he is already certain of a second term at the White House. The current attempt of Republican election strategists is to see that the vulnerable gaps for Mr. Reagan's re-election are bridged.

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#### TIDBIT

MANY PEOPLE IN CHINA are attempting to leave the country by marrying a foreigner. The Chinese even have a name for an unmarried foreigner, jipiao, which literally means plane ticket. Recently, a European woman, who was riding her bicycle along a crowded Beijing street, was approached by a young university student. After a few minutes of conversation, the Chinese student enquired if she was married. "No", she replied in a dismayed tone. "Well, why don't you marry me?" he asked. —AS/ATECH

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THE FUTURE OF

## The Rubber Industry

By **P. R. Seneviratne**  
Chairman, JEDB.

Hon. Minister, Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests and friends—it is a pleasure for me to participate on this occasion, which marks the 75th Anniversary of the Rubber Research Institute. I am conscious of the fact that this august assembly, which Dr. Ossie Peries has asked me to address on the subject of the "future of the Plantation Industry" comprises some of the most prominent Scientists and top Administrators, in whose hands the destiny of the Rubber industry actually rests. As the JEDB, inter-alia, is at present responsible for the management of about 27,000 hectares under rubber cultivation, my comments, although general in nature, will, to a large extent, be influenced by the practical knowledge gleaned from, and problems experienced in, Sri Lanka. I know our overseas visitors will bear with me in this respect. *It is useful, when attempting a prediction for the future of the rubber industry, to look at the past to see what lessons the history of the industry has to teach us.*

Although rubber was introduced to Sri Lanka in the year 1876, I find that the first recorded export of rubber from Ceylon, (as this country was then called), was in the year 1900. A total quantity of four tons of rubber was exported and the total extent under rubber cultivation was 1,750 acres. In seventy years, the extent of land under cultivation of rubber had increased to 560,000 acres, with a production level of 160,000 tonnes. An interesting bit of information is that, at the beginning of the century, rubber fetched as much as £ 417 per ton at the London market—the equivalent of 4.2p Sri Lankan Rupees per kilogramme. The

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enormous profits realised, of course, were enjoyed by the Rubber Companies at the time. By contrast, the 1983 London average of 75.05 new pence, which is equivalent to Rs. 27/- appears to be disappointing low. During the depression of the 1930s, however, I find that rubber was sold in London at £ 21.2 per ton, which is equivalent of -/22 Sri Lankan Cents per kilogramme—a low figure indeed! *From the above bare facts, we have a very brief sketch of the growth and fluctuating fortunes of the rubber industry.*

Reverting to the theme given to me, which is the "Future of Plantation (Rubber) Industry as I see it", I propose to arrange my remarks under two broad heads, namely, the prospects of there being a continuing and growing demand for rubber in the future, and the future of Rubber production in the years to come. As far as the demand for natural rubber is concerned, the industry has encountered progressive competition from the synthetic product, and it would be interesting to examine, in slightly closer detail, the impact that the production of synthetic rubber has had on the demand for natural rubber. *Up to 1940, natural rubber held undisputed sway and supplied 1p0 per cent of the needs of all industries. In 1940, 1.127 m. tonnes of natural rubber was produced and this quantity was found insufficient to meet the demand. Large scale synthetic rubber industries emerged when supplies of natural rubber were found inadequate and when supply lines were blocked as a result of World War II. By the year 1950, the total demand for rubber had risen to 2.339 m. tonnes, of which quantity, the natural product could contribute only 75 per cent, that is, 1.750 m. tonnes. Synthetic rubber gained progressively in proportion to the natural product in meeting the total demand, basically due to the inability of natural rubber to keep pace with the demand. The proportion of natural to synthetic has stabilised at around 3p per cent, of the total requirement, from 1975 to date, and even so, the entire production of natural rubber is absorbed. The escalation of oil prices in 1973/74 also worked to the advantage of natural rubber. The share of natural rubber is expected to rise to about 40 per cent. At the present rate of development, the forecast for output of natural rubber is that, production will increase from 4 m. tonnes to around 8 m. tonnes by the year 1990.*

LET US EXAMINE the respective positions of natural rubber and its synthetic rival, as can be gleaned from the experience of the past four decades.

- (a) A Manufacturer's choice between natural and synthetic depends on three main considerations, namely, suitability for specified purposes, the price and availability. I shall elaborate on these aspects as we go on; (b) Natural rubber lost ground mainly due to problems of



availability; (c) The two products are not altogether inter-changeable, that is, natural rubber cannot be said to be identical in all respects to its synthetic rival and vice-versa. Consequently, there are manufacturing industries, which prefer one product to the other, on account of certain particular properties, which are peculiar to that product. (d) Natural rubber, generally speaking, has more desirable properties, such as greater elasticity, greater resilience, and better resistance to tearing and cutting; (e) Research is underway in order to eliminate some of the less desirable characteristics, which are found in natural rubber; (f) The physical properties of natural rubber render it superior for use in the production of items such as, aeroplane tyres, truck tyres, surgical gloves, adhesives and similar items.

Approximately 60 per cent of the natural rubber production goes into the manufacture of tyres. The proportions vary according to various extraneous factors, but in the manufacture of large tyres for heavy duty trucks and aeroplanes, etc., natural rubber is the product, which is exclusively used. There is, therefore, no doubt that the demand for our full production of natural rubber will continue. This demand will naturally grow in pace with the growth of industries, such as automobile, engineering and domestic appliances and similar consumer goods, etc. In other words, the demand for rubber keeps pace with the progress of the general development in industry. We, as producers, however, must take meaningful steps to consolidate and to improve our position.

**THE FIRST PROBLEM** that has to be faced in this connection, is availability—that is, ensuring production at adequate levels. According to forecasts by authoritative and knowledgeable sources, the global output of natural rubber is expected to increase to 5.00 m. tonnes by 1985 and to 5.80 million tonnes by 1990. The corresponding demand for the natural product is assessed at 6.7 m. tonnes in 1985, and 8.0 m. tonnes in 1990. It will be seen, therefore, that, unless natural rubber production can be increased at an accelerated rate, it will not be able to keep pace with the increase in demand.

In practice, what measures can be adopted towards increasing productivity? I venture to suggest a few. *Replanting:* A major reason regarding an increase in production is the failure to sustain a systematic and consistent long term replanting programme. We may examine the reasons for this although it will be appreciated that some of these may be peculiar to Sri Lanka.

- (a) The loss of income during the first 7-8 years when the rubber is immature. This more seriously affects the small holder who depends

on his plot of rubber for his family's subsistence. Some 30 per cent of the rubber in Sri Lanka is in plots of less than 10 acres. Malaysia, which has a larger proportion of small holders, has introduced special systems of cash grants and encouragement of cash crops or livestock rearing. This problem should be faced squarely by countries like Sri Lanka, and positive measures taken. In fact, this aspect may be of universal interest, because about 70 per cent of all rubber land in the world belongs to small holders. (b) Inadequate producer margins on trade, coupled with a subsidy which does not adequately cover the outlay in replanting, as in the case of Sri Lanka. (c) The procedures, as regards application, inspection and supply of planting materials and the concomitant delay in respect of subsidy instalments, are certainly far too tedious for the small holders. These may be simplified with advantage. (d) Another factor, which requires reappraisal is the replanting cycle. In order to produce natural rubber at a competitive price and to cushion the effect of heavy wage increases, it may be worth examining the economics of:—(i) reducing the replanting cycle, and (ii) intensifying the harvest, thus increasing the overall annual yield per hectare and production.

*Thailand replants 3.3 per cent of its rubber annually, while Sri Lanka's general rate is 3 per cent.* We, in Sri Lanka, have found PB86 a reliable clone which has stood the test of time from the thirties. Several newer and fancier clones failed to come up to expectations. The white latex of PB 86 is also ideal for latex crepes for which Sri Lanka is noted. However, the yield potential of PB 86 is inadequate to meet the demands of the future market in respect of quantity or unit price. The Research Institute has fortunately evolved clones with a superior yield potential and equal latex properties and these new clones may have to be used in our future replanting programme.

As for Sri Lanka, the State owns only 30 per cent of the land under rubber cultivation and 70 per cent remains under private ownership. It will be a difficult task to persuade the small-holders who own 56 per cent of the estates below 100 acres in extent to change from PB 86 bud grafts to these new clones.

2. **Salvaging and upgrading the present Crop potential.** It is estimated that approximately 5,000 tonnes of cup lumps and tree latex are not harvested in the small holdings of Sri Lanka, as the selling price is not attractive. Perhaps, the same position may exist in other rubber producing countries as well. If the Government can give a subsidy of, say Rs. 2/- per kg., to block rubber manufacturers, they would be induced to purchase the cup lumps and tree latex at an attractive price

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for conversion into block rubber, thus making a meaningful addition to the country's national and foreign exchange earnings. Similarly, it would also be possible to encourage the purchase and conversion of the No. 3 and 4 RSS into Block Rubber by the same method.

3. **Small-holders — Replanting.** Replanting of small blocks containing a few acres each is a slow process. Though the Government pays a subsidy towards the cost of the replanting exercise, the owner-family is often faced with a substantial reduction in, or even total loss of, its regular income or livelihood during the period of immaturity of the replanted block.
4. **Small-holdings — General.** Of the seven million hectares of rubber in the world, small-holders own 70 per cent. In the two giant producer-countries, Malaysia and Indonesia, small-holdings amount to 7p per cent and 80 per cent respectively. In Thailand, with a total of 1½ million hectares, 95 per cent of this extent is with small-holders. The growth rate of natural rubber production is affected to a great degree by the large extent of small-holdings; mainly in two ways—
  - (a) The unit yields from small-holdings are generally only about one half of the yields produced by the estate sector, and
  - (b) a very large proportion of the available crop from small-holders is manufactured into low grade rubber.

If natural rubber is to meet the progressively increasing demand, which is anticipated to go up to eight million tonnes by 1990, it is of utmost importance to stimulate and motivate the small-holdings sector. The long term objective should be to evolve a modern, organised group of well-informed rubber farmers who will obtain the optimum yield—in quantity, as well as in quality from their holdings. In this respect, Malaysia has set a worthy example with her Malaysian Rubber Development Corporation, which operates several factories turning out the highest quality SMR from small-holders latex. To a more modest extent the Rubber Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka has also shown in practice that the highest quality block rubber, and sheet rubber, can be produced from small-holders latex. Malaysia, with some 500,000 small-holders, has taken other steps to have organised and modern management made available to small-holders, such as by the setting up of Development Centres, which cater for 20-40 small-holders each. Other producer-countries like Sri Lanka would profit by following Malaysia's example.

SO FAR, MY REMARKS were in the main, confined to the *quantitative* aspects production. But, let us also briefly examine the *qualitative* aspect, as well. Consistency in standard, is as important a factor, as regularity in supply. It has also been found that the

standard and mode of packing has a material bearing on the marketing and price prospects. For example, hydraulic pressing of rubber sheets into bales makes for easy handling, saving in freight and in the avoidance of mould formation. It has been found that RSS 1 in pressed bales of 33.3 kgs. polypacks obtains a higher price than the normally made-up bales. **TSR** in the form of block rubber is the most convenient type for industrial purposes. It will, therefore, be necessary for countries such as Sri Lanka to consider switching over to block rubber manufacture as an alternative to crepe and RSS. As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, some 40 per cent of the output is made into crepes, which sell at a premium over TSR. *There is a role that research has to play in the future of the industry. It is impossible to pursue development of the Rubber Industry without advice and guidance from a competent, and well equipped research institute which should be provided with adequate resources of personnel and finances. The improvement of the genetic quality of planting material, and the technology of manufacture and above all, the study of the particular problems of small-holders and provision of practical advice and assistance to this Sector, are some of the areas in which the investment of effort and finances will reap great dividends.*

FINALLY, the future of the industry would be also dependent on the successful marketing policies that are adopted. As previously stated, there is growth potential in the demand for natural rubber and this is expected to outstrip supplies. It must not be forgotten, however, that natural rubber has a guard against being supplemented or rendered obsolescent, by synthetic rubber which has certain tactical and practical advantages. For example, the natural rubber has to be conveyed over large distances by land and sea from the producer to the consumer. On the other hand, with synthetic rubber, vertical integration between production and consumption is possible. Further, in the case of synthetics, the purchasing country does not need to spend her foreign exchange and all the 'value added' remains within the country. It is, therefore, vitally necessary to have a comprehensive marketing network providing service as regards promotion at prospective Sales Centres, and market-intelligence to producers. One cannot help feeling that at present there is inadequate contact between the producer of natural rubber and the consumer. This is demonstrated by one recent example. When Malaysia had to give up its production of sole crepe due to labour problems last year, Sri Lanka, which was the logical alternative source of supply, did not benefit from the void thereby created. We can only surmise that the buyers must have turned to Industrial Sole Crepe made in their countries with our thin crepe. An efficient marketing service should enable the producer to maximise the resources from all available sources of rubber production.



The World recession had its impact on rubber prices as well and this industry suffered a set-back in 1981 and 1982. However, the situation is now changing. In 1983, car sales increased by 17.3 per cent in the UK and the production of cars in the USA rose by 21 per cent. Japan hopes to import extra rubber in 1984. The prospects definitely appear favourable. It is clear, therefore, that the natural rubber industry has a bright future, the demand for it being a barometer of general World development and prosperity. But, we producers have to work, and work hard, to maintain the industry at the highest levels of production, both quantity and quality-wise. In conclusion, I think it is most appropriate to quote Dr. B. C. Sekhar, who is present among us today, in this context. Dr. Sekhar says, "If ever the natural rubber loses out to synthetics and other substitutes, it will not be due to competition from synthetics, but because natural rubber production has not expanded fast enough. This in a nutshell is the future of our Rubber Industry as I see it. Thank you for your patient hearing."

September 17, 1984.

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GARDENS OF TAPROBANE — 4

By Count de Mauny

## The Garden

*Taprobane, January 4:* ANOTHER cloudless day. It is the beginning of the dry and comparatively cool season which corresponds to our winter at home. The sap almost stops flowing and the wood of the trees ripens; Nature takes a rest before rushing ahead with renewed vigour at the first spring showers. It is the season during which one reaps the harvest of the year's efforts, which are amply repaid by the wealth and beauty of the blooms. To plant or replant now would be to court disaster, but the flowers appear in swift succession, becoming more numerous and more brilliant, though ephemeral as ever, for tropical flowers rarely last more than a day, and often fade before noon. The garden, unfortunately, is itself an ephemeral creation, composed of living things, of fragile and perishable elements. It is bound in the course of time to deteriorate. It will last but a little while unless its basic design is executed with lasting materials. I think one may say definitely that the art of arranging plants and harmonizing the grounds near the house, with a view to obtaining comfort first, and beauty afterwards, has steadily developed.

THE ARRANGEMENT of the garden today is subject to the same laws that prevailed in the early times, when gardens bore the hall mark of style. One

comes across specimens of old Italian, Dutch, French and English gardens in the pictures and photographs reproduced in the illustrated periodicals. But to copy antiques for the reason that they are beautiful is a mistake which often leads to extravagant results. The garden today should not only be a work of art and a luxury, but should answer new needs. It should fulfil a beneficent social purpose. Before making a garden one must first decide on its style. Shall it be formal, or an English landscape garden? The formal garden seems to satisfy the mind more completely. The plan of the garden is more evident, and the result is always pleasing, provided the trees and shrubs are not trimmed and pruned to excess. But formality is not a sufficient quality. Original and well-conceived designs may look well on paper, but they should constitute only the decorative element of the garden, not the plan of the garden proper, which is conditioned by the treatment of the site. The French, according to the English, sometimes overdo design, and do not make sufficient use of natural resources. A formal garden, but where it is successful it gives one far more pleasure than the latter. Above all, we must preserve order, clarity and regularity in design, so that we are able to make full use of new resources by simplifying and adapting them to our requirements.

NATURE UNADORNED is today more than ever the foundation of the garden, which should be the result of a partnership between Nature and art. I realized that, if I wished to produce immediate results, it would be best to plant my trees closer than they really should be, and later, when the forcing climate of Ceylon made it necessary, to thin them out and transplant them from 25 to 75 feet apart, according to their size when fully grown. Thinning, cutting and pruning, in fact, should be a daily task in the tropics, though even there one should be careful not to overdo it. The vegetation hardly rests from one year's end to the other, but it is more active in the spring, and the pruning should be done at the end of the dry season, and repeated as soon as exuberant growth overcrowds the foliage and gives one an impression of untidiness and lack of method. Flowering shrubs when not sufficiently cut back grow mostly to leaf, and flower less freely. Let us take, for instance, the Hibiscus. Many species which I have trained as standards have to be pruned practically three times a year *a bois neuf*, so as to keep them in perfect shape and the best flowering condition. Such standards, on a straight stem five feet in height, grown from a cutting from which the leaves and lateral branches have been carefully removed, grow beautifully round-headed and flower in less than six months, they can be planted in lead boxes, or large vases of Italian design, and serve as an attractive ornament to formal gardens and terraces, taking the place of the familiar Cypresses. Few trees do not grow in Ceylon. They are replaced by Casuarinas (whip-trees), which can be pruned into almost any formal shape.



MANY ELEMENTS help to give expression and personality to the garden. Flowers give it light and brilliance; stone work, benches, bird baths, sundials, vases and columns constitute the furniture; the effects of water and sunlight, vistas and panoramas are its life. Peace and intimacy, which are the greatest charms of the garden, are found in masses of foliage and great expanses of lawn. The excessive use of ornaments and embroidered *parterres*, even when these are artistic, makes for monotony in the long run. Flowers that give unbroken masses of colour can also be employed to excess. Beauty and joy are born not of profusion, but of the conscious feeling that the loveliness and freshness of the flowers help to relieve the nakedness or the sombre hue of the background.

ON THE BACKGROUND the garden has to depend for its atmosphere. Backgrounds and "accents", by their precision, and their vivid or reposeful influence on the landscape, tend to give to the *ensemble* the happy appearance of simplicity. The impression of simplicity is obtained by a due ordering of all the constituents of the garden. Flowers, ornaments, background, colouring, accent, all combine to produce the effect of a well balanced *tout ensemble*.

*WE ARE BORN with an instinct which age develops. It impels us to regard, admire, and finally love all living and existing things. Views, whether extensive or circumscribed, should be given their full value by their setting.* In gardens, as in paintings, the multiplicity of colours, and their intensity, do not create the strongest impression. This is produced by contrast. We should always bear in mind that constant attention paid to the importance of backgrounds and "accents" will enable us to avoid many disappointments, and to realize the essential factors which often mar the effect of the whole.

*To be continued.*

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RAINFED CULTIVATION

## Short Duration Black-Gram (Ulundu)

IN TAMIL NADU, as many as 12 varieties of black-gram—Ulundu—have been developed and released for general cultivation. Among them Co. 1 and Co. 3 are recommended for cultivation under rainfed condition during monsoon season (September-October). These varieties are fairly long duration which matures in 105 and 85 days respectively. Hence attempts were made to develop short duration varieties suitable for rainfed cultivation which resulted in the variety Co. 5 which was released from the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University recently for general cultivation. The strain Co. 5 is a pure line selection from the

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Musiri local. It is a high yielding selection characterised by compact growth, determinate habit, photosensitivity and synchronous maturity with a duration of 70-75 days from seed to seed.

At University research stations under rainfed condition over five years Co. 5 recorded an average grain yield of 795 kg/ha as against 605 kg/ha for Co. 3 and 625 kg/ha for Co. 4. The percentage of increase being 31.7 and 25.4 percent over Co. 3 and Co. 4 respectively. Under farmers holdings in different districts of the State over five years as a dry crop, Co. 5 recorded a mean yield of 765 kg/ha compared to 610 kg/ha of Co. 3 the percentage increase in yield being 25.7. Under irrigated condition the potentiality of Co. 5 was of the order of 1,275 kg/ha as compared to 1,045 kg/ha of Co. 3 and 1,225 kg/ha of Co. 4. When tried under rice fallow conditions it recorded a mean grain yield of 930 kg/ha as against 715 and 710 kg/ha for ADT. 2 and TMV. 1 respectively with an increase of 30.2 per cent and 31.1 percent respectively.

This variety is found to be moderately resistant to powdery mildew and leaf crinkle virus, and moderately resistant to pod borer. It gives a net additional income of Rs. 770/- per ha. Under rainfed condition it can be grown in June-July (South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore districts) and in September-October (Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts) and under irrigated conditions it can be grown in February-March throughout Tamil Nadu. For realising maximum yield the following package of practices to be adapted. (i) Seed rate: 25 kg/ha; (ii) Fertilizer: 25N: 50P: 0k per ha for irrigated and half of the dose for rainfed cultivation; (iii) Spacing: 30 cm x 10 cm; (iv) Plant protection: (i) Spray any systemic insecticide twice on 10th and 20th day after sowing for controlling sucking pests, (ii) Spray endosulfan 0.07 percent or methydemeton 0.05 percent for controlling stemfly and pod borer. School of Genetics Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Coimbatore—641003.

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TISSUE CULTURE

## Papaya Saplings

PAPAYA (Carica papaya), though a fruit of high nutritive value and several medicinal properties, has attracted very little attention of scientists; specially its propagation aspect has suffered a lot. Farmers are still using the traditional method of propagation through seeds which is a slow, and costly process. To develop a quick and cheap process of propagation scientists of New Delhi—based Indian Agricultural Research Institute (Pusa Institute) were tinkering with different parts of the plant in laboratory for quite



some time. They tried to grow papaya saplings in laboratory from a particular part of the plant having healthy cells. This tissue was placed in a sterilized glass vessel having nutritive medium, which is a balanced combination of certain growth hormones and nutritive elements like sucrose, minerals, vitamins and amino acids. The technique is well known in scientific worlds as 'tissue culture technique.

Recently the scientists of the horticulture and fruit technology division have successfully grown papaya saplings in laboratory from the spical bud of the plant. According to Dr. Pandey the head of the department there were two main obstacles in restricting the production of papaya, in our country. First is that the male and female papaya plants cannot be distinguished at nurseary stage and as male plants bear no fruits they have to be discarded, thereby wasting the whole labour done; and secondly, a considerable number of saplings die due to virus attacks. By growing the sapling from apical bud both the problems are solved, because spical buds are generally virus free and a female apical bud would develop only in female plant. The quantity of papain, an important constituent, of papaya, can also be increased by this technique.

Thus, now we can get virus free, female saplings from laboratory. These saplings are genetically identical to the plant from which spical bud had been taken. This technique is quick, cheap and has shown promising results in fields. According to Dr. Pandey, with four technicians 20,000 saplings can be produced at every three weeks at a meagre cost of 86 paise each while saplings grown by traditional method cost Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 each. These saplings are yet to be released to farmers but their successful trial has been done in the institutes fields. It is hoped that this technique would bring revolution in papaya production in the country. Thus this good source of vitamin A and C would be available to poor families at low cost and would definitely raise their nutritional status.

Jagdeep Saxena.

## ● GIANT WORM

SCIENTISTS exploring a region of hot-water vents in the deep-sea floor off Ecuador, where they previously reported discovering a weird world of giant sea creatures, have recovered an eight-and-a-half-foot specimen of a sea worm related to worms that normally reach a maximum of about 12 inches in length. Pink with a brilliant red tip, the worm lives in a one-inch diameter tube and is the largest creature yet recovered from the area where hot water from the earth's interior squirts through fissures in newly solidified lava on the sea floor. The creature has no eyes and no mouth and has no means of locomotion because its protective tube is attached to rocks. *National Science Foundation.*

## SCIENCE, DEVELOPMENT and MAN

### NUCLEAR PLANTS

## Why Are They Being Abandoned?

By Prof. A. C. J. Weerakoon

The *Ceylon Daily News* of 21.6.84 carried an interesting news item entitled "N-Plant for Sale". Reading it soon showed that it was not a Nuclear Power Plant but only the very beginning of one that was being sold. Reuters report was quoted as saying that after the near-disastrous 1979 accident at the *Three Mile Island* reactor in the USA, the Jersey Central Power and Lighting Company had, in 1980, cancelled all further work on its proposed *Forked River* reactor, only 5 percent complete at the time. The report added that the "company had spent \$400 million on the project, and that its auctioneers were now hoping to raise something over \$1 million from sale of the scrap. What a staggering loss!—even if \$400 million was actually the estimated cost of the whole project, and the company had spent only \$20 million, or 5 percent, of this. *This news item reminds me that though I have attentively read the many recent newspaper articles for and against a nuclear reactor for Sri Lanka and have seen in them much information of all sorts—on construction and maintenance costs; and so on, I have not noticed in them any reference to what happens, and what the costs will be, when a reactor is abandoned.*

YES, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ARE ABANDONED; and for many different reasons, which fall into two main categories. In the *first*: The owner (State or private electricity supplier) may find during construction that his costs have overrun the original estimates so very much that he is unable, or finds it uneconomic, to raise more loans to complete the project. He decides to abandon it. *Provided* this decision is taken *before* the nuclear fuel is inserted then the plant can be safely left to deteriorate into a modern ruin. There are quite a number of these in the USA where they are looked upon by some Americans as "Monuments to Mistakes and Stupidity", and by other Americans as "Monuments to Good Management"—a good management which was able to abandon the project before it was too late! (The Chairman of our Atomic Energy Authority would, doubtless, prefer to call them "Monuments to Fearlessness"). In the case of the *Forked River* project.

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the owners had apparently decided to sell the "monument" for what little it would bring as scrap.

A more typical "monument" is the 2,260 Megawatt *Marble Hill* Nuclear Plant which the public Service Company of Indiana began to build in 1978 at an estimated cost of \$1.4 billion. By 1983 it was only half finished but had already cost its owners \$2.5 billion; and a revised estimate put the cost at \$7.7 billion on completion. Where-upon the company decided, in mid-January this year, to abandon the project. Its shares plunged from \$27 in 1983 to just over \$9 today; it has cut dividends of its shareholders by 60 percent, and raised electricity rates for its consumers by 14 percent immediately (with further rises promised for the near future) to help pay off the money spent on the project. Good management! *Another example.* The Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company of Ohio began building its 810 MW *Zimmer* power plant in 1972 at an estimated cost of \$240 million. It was due to be commissioned in 1975. By the beginning of this year (1984) it was not yet completed (97 percent done) and had already cost its owners \$1.7 billion, seven times the original estimate. Much of the work was below safety standards laid down by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and would have to be re-done. To do this properly would bring the final cost to \$3.1 billion (nearly *thirteen times* the original estimate) and would postpone completion of the project to 1986, fourteen years after commencement. In the meantime the company would have to continue paying about half a million dollars *a day*, in interest on loans already raised for the project. So, at the end of January 1984, it decided to cut its losses, abandon the nuclear project and to convert this "monument" into a coal-fired power plant. (This will be possible—at a price—because the plant had *not* yet been commissioned and was, therefore, not contaminated with radio-activity).

THESE ARE JUST TWO EXAMPLES of a phenomenon which is not unusual in the nuclear power industry. There are in the USA today not only the 82 operating Nuclear Power Plants (producing 13 percent of the electricity generated in that country), which we are often told about, but also a list of some 107 cancellations of nuclear Plant constructions, which we are generally *not* told about although it is important that we should know how commonly nuclear projects have ended that way in the USA. That does not mean that a Sri Lankan project must end as a "monument" too; but it is essential that every one of us, who is being called upon by the Chairman of our Atomic Energy Authority to discard our "fear of" any new technology and to support his persistent pressing for a Nuclear Power Plant for Sri Lanka, should be clearly told that *its fate* could be to end up as a "monument" to folly and that *our fate* could be to shoulder another huge electricity ur-

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charge, this one perhaps for the rest of our days. The enormous rises in project costs, often reaching 10 to 20 times the original estimate, which have led to most of these cancellations have been largely due to the need to reconstruct or replace items found by NRC inspections to be below its safety standards, and due to the resulting delays. It is not likely that we in Sri Lanka will be able to avoid similar cost-overruns and delays—unless, of course, we arrange to have a specially "accommodating" NRC, one "fearless enough not to be concerned over much with public safety. (Sri Lanka has no NRC yet, nor any authority corresponding to it in function).

THE SECOND MAIN CATEGORY of reasons why Nuclear Projects are abandoned includes the fact that after commissioning, a plant may develop defects which cannot be repaired at an economic price, and which cannot be left un-repaired without leading to unacceptable financial losses in operating the plant. Thus: the small, 100 Megawatt, *Niederaich-bach* Nuclear Plant in West Germany, built in six years at a cost of \$72 million and commissioned in 1972, was found to be operating, at best, at a mere 40 percent of its potential power-producing capacity, due to leaks that had developed in its heat-exchangers. The estimated cost of repairs was exorbitant and uneconomical. So it was decided to close down the Plant; and this was done in 1974. The nuclear-fuel rods were removed, and the Plant—much of it now dangerously radioactive as a normal result of its previous functioning—was sealed off and left to stand in a specially protected isolation: a procedure called "safe containment". It has cost the owners more than \$100,000 *each year* since 1974 to keep this small de-commissioned *Niederaich-bach* nuclear plant in "safe containment", and will for as long as it remains dangerously radioactive—and that could be a very long time indeed, even lasting several human life-spans. For radio-active nuclei cannot be eliminated by destructive treatments as can that other invisible source of danger to Man, the pathogenic bacteria. Radio-active nuclei do, of course, decay ultimately into harmless components *but* this decay can neither be hastened nor slowed by anything Man may do. Might it not have been cheaper to dismantle, de-contaminate what could be de-contaminated, and dispose of what could not be de-contaminated in the way spent nuclear-fuel, which is highly radio-active is disposed of?

WELL, NUCLEAR ENGINEERS had *not* hitherto developed all the necessary technology to attempt such an operation on a de-commissioned commercial reactor but they feel that they are *now* in a position to design, make and operate the machinery (much of it will have to be remote controlled) needed to take the *Niederaich-bach* plant apart, de-contaminate the less radioactive and prepare the more radioactive parts



for safe, permanent, storage. It is now proposed to do this. The whole exercise is expected to take five years to complete (almost as long as it took to build the plant) and to cost \$36 million (half as much as it cost to build the plant). Together with the \$1 million already spent on "safe containment", the cost of abandoning the plant will be \$37 million and the total cost of the plant from start to finish will be \$109 million (in Rupees: 2.7 billion). All these millions of money for a lot of "non-energy" from a small 100 Megawatt Nuclear Power Plant! Can Sri Lanka afford anything similar? Can even West Germany really afford it?

It seems also that the problem of finally storing spent nuclear-fuel has not yet been solved though the nuclear power industry has been producing it for the last 30 years almost. In the USA it is proposed to seal the rods into foot-thick glass and then bury these vitrified blocks in disused underground mines, preferably salt mines. (Salt is favoured as indicative of long-continued absence of underground water in the neighbourhood). So far the U.S. Government has not decided on a permanent repository because, though apparently suitable sites have been identified in several of its States, none of them is keen on harbouring the stuff. In the meantime the spent fuel is temporarily stored at the Plant sites—much to the growing apprehension of the American public. Sri Lanka is a tiny country—with no salt mines. But our Atomic Energy Authority (A.E.A.), which seems so persistently to advocate a Nuclear Power Plant for our country, says nothing about this problem storing its spent fuel. Are we being left to presume that it has solved the problem? As we are left to presume that Sri Lanka has Uranium deposits when the A.E.A. Chairman airily writes, in the "Ceylon Daily News" of 15.6.84, that "uranium is being surveyed"!

I suppose we shall be told that we could arrange with China to take over our spent nuclear-fuel for burial beneath her Gobi Desert, as three West German nuclear engineering companies have recently tentatively arranged with her for the disposal of West European spent nuclear fuel—at \$1,500 (in foreign exchange) per kilogram. But since a 1,000 MW nuclear reactor produces about 30 tons of spent fuel, how much will such a method of disposal cost us?—even if it is a 400-600 MW nuclear power plant that Sri Lanka is persuaded to purchase? It is easy to be fearless when some one else pays.

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CHANGING TRENDS

## In Development Education

By Thomas B. Koehn

DURING A FAIRLY BRIEF FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, development education—or educating the public

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about international development issues—has emerged as a major thrust in the US private voluntary organization community. Many of the approximately 140 non-governmental organizations (called PVOs in the US), members of Private Agencies in International Development (PAID) and the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service (ACVAFS), have increasingly seen that solutions to poverty require efforts beyond community-level activities overseas—that they require, in fact, national and international policy commitments stimulated by an informed citizenry in the US. Although the development education movement in the US has accelerated rapidly, US private voluntary organizations still lag far behind European and Canadian counterpart agencies. Forward steps were taken at the Mohonk consultation in New Paltz, NY in early 1979 which brought together representatives of foundations, corporations, and governments with PVOs, and in the formation of Private Agencies in International Development in 1981.

BUT THE CRITICAL TURNING POINT in the US came in the summer of 1983. The PAID Task Force on development education organized a retreat at the Experiment in International Living in Brattleboro, Vermont. The retreat initiated a process which led to the publication of A Framework for Development Education in the United States. This report was a turning point because, for the first time, US PVOs had a comprehensive document which included (a) a statement on the meaning of development education; (b) programme guidelines for development education; (c) a plan of action. In August 1983, the Joint Working Group on Development Education was established by ACVAFS and PAID, bringing together previously established committees in the two agencies. This group of 22 representatives of PVOs and other specialists set only authored but became committed to the Framework report and its implementation. (The Joint Working Group led the way in unification of PAID and ADVAFS which plan to establish a new organizational entity in the summer of 1984). John G. Sommor of the Experiment in International Living and Rev. Gene Thiemann of Lutheran World Relief are co-chairmen of the Joint Working group.

Support for development education programmes has increased, particularly in the last two years. Some PVOs such as CARE and Church World Service Committee, Oxfam America and others in committing their own private resources to development education. For the last two years, the US Agency for International Development (AID) has provided funds for development education under the Biden-Pell amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act. These funds have been expanded modestly in 1984. Approximately 30 grants have been made to date and others are expected in May or June. With the co-operation of the Council on Foundations Committee on International Grant-

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making and the Carnegie Corporation, discussions were initiated in February 1984 between private and corporate foundations and representatives of the Joint Working Group on the importance of development education. A Framework for Development Education in the United States has not only received widespread support in the PVO community, but it has been endorsed by national and international leaders. These include James Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF; Willy Brandt, Chairman of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues; the Honorable Andrew Young, Mayor of Atlanta; Harlan Cleveland, the University of Minnesota; Dante B. Fascell, Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Relations, and Benjamin Gilman, a member of that Committee; Marjorie Benton of Ave the Children Federation; and Denny and Marianne Rogers, Sponsors of the World Hunger Media Award.

The momentum for development education is still growing in the US PVO community and the tempo promises to increase in the years ahead. A major theme is emerging: that development education is a vital undergirding for all PVO international programmes—development assistance, migration and refugees, material resources and disaster aid. Without a deep understanding of the issues that bind us together in our interdependent world, the role of the private voluntary organizations will be diminished and ineffective. The Joint Working Group formulated action plans which need to be taken and is now initiating steps to implement these plans. Some of the activities which can best be done together and which will benefit member agencies in the PVO community are: (a) We need to know much more about the market, the media and the messages for development education. In mid-1984, the Joint Working Group is planning a market survey to determine what perceptions of development exist, which audiences are most strategic, which messages and media work best. (b) We need to increase the competence as well as the commitment of PVOs to development education. Some of the planned activities are publication of a "how-to-do-it" journal for development education practitioners; a work-shop on evaluation for development education leaders in other countries (Canada, Europe, Asia). (c) Putting development on the national agenda requires that PVOs learn how to work with other coalitions on critical issues. Forging new links with educators—at all levels of the formal school system—has been identified by the Joint Working Group as the first major coalition activity. As an initial step, a retreat of 40 PVO representatives and educators is being organized in July, 1984.

A Framework for Development Education in the United States will be available in printed form for May, 1984. Copies can be obtained by writing to:

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PAID, 2101 L Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20036, USA of ACVAFS, 200 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10003, USA.

## RELIGION, CULTURE LITERATURE

WORLD'S OLDEST LITERARY WORK

### Rig Veda

The Rig Veda, one of four Vedas compiled by sage Vyasa, is the oldest literary work in the world, according to a recent publication, reports PTI. The publication entitled "India, An Encyclopaedic Survey" says the Vedas were written in and around 3,000 BC. The Rig Veda, the language of which is the most archaic Sanskrit is the earliest Veda and the oldest book in the world the publication claims. The Rig Veda comprises 1,028 hymns to various deities and is divided into 10 volumes. The Sama Veda is a collection of Rig-Vedic songs and mantras, some of which are meant to be sung. The Yajur Veda is a book of prayers and mystical formulae. The Atharva Veda, a book of spells, incantations magical and medical prescriptions. According to Mr. P. N. Chopra, general editor of the Encyclopaedic survey, this vast Vedic literature is the main source of knowledge of the early Indo-Aryans—their religion, ways of life, thought, rituals, ideals. Its composition, he says, must have covered a very long time, possibly 2,000 years. The 340-page survey, an originally attempt of its kind, presents what its author call the most authentic, accurate and up-to-date information of India.

The survey covers almost all aspects of India's national life and activities—the land and the people religions, languages and literature, architecture and arts, travel and communications, flora, fauna, agriculture, irrigation and power, industrial scene, trade and commerce, fairs and festivals, sports and pastimes and the system of government. Profusely illustrated with 62 multi-colour pictures and about 100 black and white photographs, the book presents India's rich cultural heritage in a fascinating and captive manner. According to Mr. Chopra, each Veda and various Brahmanas or explanatory prose treatises relating to the Vedic sacrifices. They include the *śrautas*, the 'forest books' which interpreted the Vedic rituals symbolically and the Upanishads also called the Vedanta which deal with philosophical truths of the profoundest nature about life, death, the relation of man to nature, of soul, to God the ultimate spiritual oneness of all that exists. By now only 108 Upanishads have survived. They are all replete with spiri-



tual knowledge and the idea of an eternal impersonal principle—the Brahman or Atman.

Mr. Chopra claims that 'Mahabharata, consisting of 220,000 lines of verses, is not the work of any one single person, nor was it written at one time. 'Mahabharata is the story of the great war between the cousins, the Kauravas and the Pandavas—a heroic poem in 18 parvas (Volumes). In the account of the battle of Kurukshetra is interpolated the Bhagavad Gita, the great spiritual discourse made by Krishna, the divine charioteer, to Arjuna, on the battlefields of 'Kurukshetra. According to the survey, the other epic, the Ramayana, is probably much older than the Mahabharata, but in its present form it is Puranic and its traditional author, Valmiki, may have written the original story. The survey also gives a lot of interesting facts and figures about India and its people.

According to survey, India has a large number of economically useful minerals. Next only to the United States and France, its iron-ore deposits, in the form of hematite constitute one quarter of the world's total known reserves. About two-thirds of its iron lies, in a rich belt along the border of Bihar and Orissa. Other hematite deposits are located in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa, Magnetite iron are found in Tamilnadu, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh. India, according to the survey, has the world's largest deposits of coal, estimated to be between 120 and 150 billion tonnes Bituminous coal deposits are found in Jharia and Bokaro in Bihar and Raniganj in West Bengal. Lignite coal deposits amounting to over two billion tonnes are located mostly in Tamilnadu. The survey says next to Soviet Union, India has the largest supply of manganese, an export commodity. Deposits estimated at 160 million tonnes are found throughout the country. The more important manganese mining areas are in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and in the Bihar-Orissa area. Chromite deposits totalling 800 million tonnes are in the Singhbhum district in Bihar, Keonjhar and Cuttack districts in Orissa, Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Hassan district of Karnataka, and Goa and Maharashtra. India produces three-quarters of the world's mica. Several bits of high-quality sheet mica are found in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

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IN CEYLON IN 1892 AND 1895

## Andrei Krasnov

By V. Yakovlev

ANDREI KRASNOV, an outstanding Russian scientist, was born in 1862 in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad). At the age of 23 he graduated from the

university with honours as an expert in botany but later took to geography. Krasnov travelled in many countries, including India, China, Japan and Indonesia. He visited Ceylon two times: in 1892 and in 1895 (as a member of a research expedition going round the world). Krasnov persuaded the Russian government that it was possible to cultivate in the south of the country many useful plants of subtropical zones of Asian countries, above all, tea. He wrote that the warm and humid climate as well as soil in Colchis—that is the ancient name for the vast areas on the Black sea coast of Western Transcaucasia—provide conditions similar to those in subtropical regions of Asia growing a multitude of crops unknown in Russian agriculture. The scientist's persistence was crowned with success. A special expedition was organised and sent abroad for a year to investigate into the problem. That was a very fruitful trip. The members of the expedition benefited by the local experience of growing heat-loving crops and brought to Russia the seeds and seedlings of "12 Oriental gifts", as Krasnov called the cultures he intended to introduce into the soil of the Black Sea coast. These were tea plant, mandarins, lemons, bamboo and other useful plants. All of them struck root, and grew well in the region of the Black Sea coast. "This area allows fabulous metamorphoses. One is safe to say that Colchis will have its own tea," predicted the Russian scientist. Krasnov came for the first time to Ceylon when he turned 30, but he had already earned home and world recognition for scientific works. His first tour to Asia included, apart from Ceylon, also Japan, China, Singapore and Indonesia. In Java he studied the experience of botanists from the Bogor botanical garden. Three years later he left the expedition for a temporary visit to Ceylon which wasn't on its route but unfortunately he managed to stay there only for 12 days. "The pearl of the Indian ocean," he wrote in his diary, "resists me and I am doomed to cast only secret glances at its mysterious paradise of nature." As a botanist and geographer, he divided Ceylon into three zones: the warm and humid Western coast, the Eastern arid part and the humid and cool upland he attributed to sub-tropics similar in climate to the Colchis region on the Black Sea coast in Russia. However, Krasnov was interested not only in the island's scenery and climate. He scrutinised and described Lanka's history, customs and art, habits and religions, economic conditions and the British colonial set-up. His diary contains many notes in regard to all these matters.

But the major task on his mind was bringing home the secrets of making tea. So he observed the cultivation of tea shrubs, the picking of leaf and its processing into tea. He went to the tea regions of the country and studied the tea business at the Dikoya plantations at the foot of Adam's Peak, penetrating

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into the smallest details of the technique, from sun-drying, and curing to packing. He made notes in his diary about everything he saw and learnt. His diary contains detailed extracts from the book *"The Tea Catechism, or The Tea Plant From Grain To Bowl."* The scientist described tea varieties citing as the best Orange Pekoe and Flowery Pekoe. "The Ceylonese method of tea production is undoubtedly the cleanest and the most rational in the world," noted the scientist. At the same time, comparing the quality of tea grown in different Asian countries, Krasnov offered the suggestion that its astringency and lower aroma are rather due to climate rather than its processing. An eager scientist and curious traveller, he felt the urge to penetrate deep into the country.... So he reached Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura, Kandy and struggled through the jungles of the eastern coast toward the Veddhas. The mountainous area of Nuwara Eliya attracted him. Having spent two days at its tea plantations, Krasnov noted that the moderate warm and humid climate of Nuwara Eliya is remindful of the climatic conditions of Russia's Black Sea coast while its reddish-brown lateritic soil is like the soil in Colchis. He made the conclusion that plants growing in Nuwara Eliya—above all, tea could be cultivated in southern regions of Russia. In the botanical gardens of Nuwara Eliya, he studied the experience of acclimatising various plants, writing about the need to establish contacts with botanists in the gardens. The Russian scientist thought of creating the same gardens near Batumi located at the Black Sea coast. As a man infatuated with nature and working for its conservation, Krasnov criticised the rapacious cultivation of Ceylon's mountainous areas under British plantations. "It is only on hilltops that luxurious virgin jungles are to be found with the untouched splendor of their landscapes," he wrote.

To Kandy siting the Buddha Tooth Temple, Krasnov went by train. Describing the emerald-green town with a lake in the centre, Krasnov claimed that, perhaps, only Bogor in tropical Java could view with Kandy as to its beauty. The traveller spoke at length about Buddha's tooth and those precious caskets and bowls it is kept in. From Kandy he went to Anuradhapura. As far as Matale he went by rails and then changed to carriage to reach Dambulla. There he visited the cave temple and described the gigantic statue of the lying Buddha. Krasnov covered his way from Dambulla to Lanka's first capital in a bandi (a cart). He made notes of the ruins of *"The Copper Palace"*—a whole forest of 1,600 remaining granite columns. From Krasnov's book *"Under The Tropical Of Asia"* Russian readers learnt about the huge platforms of Anuradhapura, the sacred mission with which Mahinda arrived in the ancient capital of the Sinhalese kingdom and the conversion of its inhabitants into Buddhists. Krasnov spoke with regret about the

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British colonial authorities disregard for the preservation of unique antiques.

The Russian traveller vividly described the island's inimitable nature and the appearance of the Sinhalese village with its rice fields, palms and huts. "No wonder that the soft, carressing and at the same time powerful nature left its mark on the character of village dwellers.... Every peasant behaves in an amazingly soft and courteous manner." Krasnov tried to penetrate the mentality of local people. He preserved and committed to paper their religious rites, the cult of demons and ritual dances in masks.

Having quitted in 1912 his well-paid job of professor at the Kharkov university where he had spent most years of his life, Krasnov moved to Batumi to become the director of the botanical gardens and the acclimatisation station. There he was engrossed in research and practical work on the acclimatisation of plants brought from Asia. "At the first tea-tasting we offered leaves dried on a kitchen frying-pan", he wrote. But despite that primitive way of preparation, tea aroma appealed to the tasters. Now the Batumi botanical gardens boast of bamboo groves, eucalyptuses and a palm alley. All the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus became a continuous plantation of heat-loving verdure. Suffice it to say that in 1982 the area yielded about 540,000 tons of tea and about 250,000 tons of citrus fruits. APN.

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## ● PROTEIN POWDER

At present, petroleum-derived proteins are manufactured in the form of a cream-colored powder, with no taste or odor, like dietetic yeast. This can be used as dietetic yeast. This can be used as a fortifier for flour, baby foods, pasta, and the like. In most European countries, petroleum-derived proteins are accepted as cattle feed, which helps indirectly with the human food situation: every ton of yeast used to feed calves frees two tons of powdered milk for human consumption. It is believed that at least 20 million tons of pure protein could be produced annually with an outlay of some 40 million tons of petroleum—about 2 percent of the world's oil production. There is no petroleum in the yeast that produces the proteins. The microorganisms of yeast merely draw their sustenance from the petroleum, just as plants feed on fertilizer. *UNESCO Features.*

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CONFIDENTIALLY

## DEFENCE TENDERS

IS IT NOT TRUE that a letter from 13 Domsday Lane, Colombo has been sent to all VVIP of the Government who should be concerned with Defence Ministry Tenders for the purchase of rifles? That the writer has used a pseudonym and says: "I wish to apologise to you for addressing you under a pseudonym, which I have done because there is no other alternative. I am doing this because not only I, but the vast majority of the officers in the three services and the Police are thoroughly disgusted with the blatantly criminal manner adopted by the Ministry of Defence in disposing of tenders. I am doing this in the best interests of the three services and the Police, as the salvation of our Nation will depend on these institutions being properly equipped...." and concluded the letter: "This letter is being addressed to you as we feel that only timely investigation by you could check the rot that has set in at the Ministry of Defence." That this letter was chiefly concerned with the purchase of rifles? "This is with reference to an article in the *Daily News* recently, concerning the purchase of rifles from the USA. As a concerned member of the Armed Services, I wish to place certain facts concerning the choice of rifles to be purchased for the three services and the Police force during the past two years, before you for serious consideration. I do not wish to make accusations without positive proof, but am merely placing these facts before you to enable you to arrive at your own conclusions after first verifying the correctness or otherwise of these facts. Since you are both busy persons, I shall be as brief as possible. The heads of the three Services and the Police are professional, capable officers. If they have made recommendations to the Ministry Tender Board concerning the purchase of certain items, they would have done so after detailed study, taking into consideration a number of factors peculiar to each Service which the members of the Ministry Tender Boards would be unaware of; specially matters of a technical nature, as would be applicable to such items as aircraft, naval craft, armoured vehicles and weapons. The Service Commanders are able to draw on the collective experience and knowledge of specialists in each of such fields to form evaluation committees which therefore would be the best qualified to determine and recommend the type of equipment best suited to our defence forces, taking into consideration both the technical factors as well as the operational requirements. The advice of such committees should be seriously considered, and if rejected out of hand, will constitute a breach of traditional norms which can only lead to demoralisation and suspicion within the services. During the last two years, certain officials in the Ministry of Defence have been resorting to such practices with increasing

frequency. Certain civilians, it appears, have been co-opted wittingly or unwittingly to criticise and in certain instances reject recommendations made by the service commanders and the IGP with regard to purchases of service and operational equipment. I am setting out just a few of the more important of such instances, which figure prominently in the slanderous accusations levelled at the Ministry. Some of these may not be strictly accurate, but since they are believed to be true, sufficient moral damage is done to create considerable dissatisfaction concerning the Ministry. As much damage and demoralisation is caused by such rumour as is caused by wilful disregard of the opinion of the service commanders by the Ministry.

IS IT ALSO NOT TRUE that appendix One reads "It now appears that the Army had decided to convert to this calibre as far back as 1981, but the first rifles were ordered only in 1983. The weapon selected by the army is manufactured by Fabrique Nationale (FN) of Belgium (Govt. owned, no local Agents, Orders handled by an Hon. Consul of the Belgian Consulate). It had been selected because of certain special features it had at the time which made it twice as effective as any other 5.56 calibre rifle then available. This selection in 1983 is therefore indisputable. These characteristics, which were researched and developed by FN were considered important enough for NATO to decide to adopt them. As a result, all NATO countries have now adopted these including the UK and USA. In 1983 the army purchased about 1,800 FN rifles. In 1984, the US firm, Colt Industries put out a modified version of their M16 rifle incorporating the features perfected by FN. This was the M16A2 rifle. The M16A2 is a modified version of the M16A1 rifle, which in turn is a modified version of the basis M16 rifle; the modifications being necessitated as a result of complaints of unreliability by US troops which precipitated a Congressional Inquiry. The M16A2 is therefore a twice modified weapon. The Navy, having studied the evaluations done by the Army, recommended the purchase of the FN rifle in 1984 but has now been ordered by the Ministry of Defence to purchase the M16A2. The army which has already purchased 1,800 FN rifles and has apparently carried out the infrastructural adjustments necessary for converting to a new weapon, has been ordered by the Ministry to purchase the M16A2. The fact that both the FN rifle and the M16A2 are the same calibre means nothing, as the rifles and the training etc., required for each rifle and the associated infrastructural necessities are totally different. The Army in 1984 merely wishes to purchase the annual requirement to continue the process of conversion, but has now been asked to switch over to an entirely different rifle. ...."

To be continued

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Notice

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

#### NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7.

Ref. No. 3257

The lands/land described in the Schedule below have been acquired. For further particulars please the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 316/3 of 24. 09. 84.

#### SCHEDULE

- Situation of Land* : Ward No. 2,  
Mahaweediya within  
Weligama U. C.,  
Weligam Korale West,  
Matara District.
- Name of Land* : Wedagewatte, Paranawatte,  
Hunumullawatte,  
Abeysooriyawatte  
and Bimbirigahawatte
- Lot & Plan No.* : Lot No. 1- 10 in P. Plan No.  
3257/1127

**L. G. R. Karlyawasam**  
Acquiring Officer  
Matara District.

The Kachcheri,  
Matara. 17. 09. 1984.



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