

# TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol. 28 No. 35 — October 13, 1984 — Rs. 4.00

## Next Week

- ★ **AID, TRADE**  
—And Poor Nations
- ★ **MONETARY SYSTEM**  
—World Crisis
- ★ **CONSULTANCY**  
—Malpractices
- ★ **TEACHERS' UNION**  
—Resolutions
- ★ **COST OF LIVING**  
—Dizzy Heights

## EXPLODING MYTHS . . .

MYTHS about the open economy are exploding. Nevertheless the euphoria about the many virtues of the unlimited free enterprise system introduced by the UNP in 1977 continues to befuddle the thinking of many who should by now have learnt to read the writing on the wall. The much-publicised version of the open economy vigorously implemented in Sri Lanka has not proved to be the panacea many were led to believe it would be. What is important is that it is only slowly beginning to dawn on people who should know better that the country is being

slowly pushed to the brink of the bottomless pit of foreign and domestic debt.

Inflation has risen steadily (in spite of occasional downward zig-zags) and in 1983 (according to an ILO survey of inflation in 1982 and 1983) it was the highest in Asia. It had gone up from 5.4 percent in 1982 to 21.4 percent in 1983. Government spokesmen have recently claimed that the deflationary austerity measures imposed in the first seven months of 1984 have brought the inflation rate down to about 11 percent. But ordinary householders who continue to battle with high prices take this claim with a pinch of salt. The rupee has been devalued several times since the open economic system was introduced. The Sri Lanka rupee is perhaps the weakest currency in Asia. Pundits in our Treasury, however, continue to repeat the IMF chorus that the Sri Lanka rupee is still "over-valued" and hint that a further devaluation will benefit trade (meaning the tycoons in the export and the smuggling trade and the tourists who want to have cheap holidays).

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel keeps shouting at every turn that this country was living beyond its means: that for every fifty cents earned Sri Lanka was spending one rupee for its import and export exercise. Whilst this happens, the poor are becoming poorer and the middle class who had considered themselves "well off" some years ago are being rapidly pauperised. Remittances from petro-dollar slaves help a fraction of the population but this inflow adds to the inflation. Vast imports have made our balance of trade chronically adverse and the recent windfall from the high world prices of tea cannot fundamentally change the situation. What is dangerous is the way the small elite flaunt five star style the new found open economy wealth. Little do they realise that they are laying the foundations for a social, economic and political upheaval.

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WHILST the high prices for tea have temporarily brought the country a certain amount of respite from the financial and fiscal pressures that still weigh heavily on our liberalised open economy, there are people in power who insist on unnecessarily pushing up the country's import bill. The *Sunday Times* on October 7 spotlighted on its front page a glaring example of the current malady of living beyond our means: "... A few weeks ago," said the *Sunday Times* report, "the bureaucracy decided that the country could afford the luxury of importing brand new vehicle tyres instead of good second-hand ones. A good second-hand tyre imported mostly from Japan will mean that the country spends only Rs. 162 per tyre in foreign exchange. The import of a brand new tyre will mean Rs. 1,500 in foreign exchange per tyre. Private transport operators have pointed out that the second-hand tyres imported from Japan were doing very well since the Japanese use the tyres only up to 30 percent of a tyre's lifetime. Official sources said that the decision to ban the import of second-hand tyres came as a Government directive. But no reasons were given for the imposition of the ban. But transport operators looking for second-hand tyres said that the ban was imposed after heavy lobbying by multinational corporations which want to sell their new tyres here. A new tyre for a mini-bus costs around Rs. 1,200 while a good second-hand tyre is sold at around Rs. 800. The Transport Operators' Association, it is understood, has pointed out that it will be well nigh impossible for most of their members to equip their vehicles with a set of brand new tyres which will cost around Rs. 12,500." The report disclosed that "multinationals" anxious to sell new tyres were behind this move. Multinationals want to make super-profits quick. They would have submitted "experts reports" to fool the powers-that-be that it will be cheaper "in the long run" to use new tyres than second-hand tyres. If this is how the "government" was persuaded to issue a directive to ban the import of second-hand tyres, the report put forward by the multinationals or their well-connected agents should have been put forward for comment by the actual users and even the public. *Tribune* does not know whether a new tyre at nearly three times the price will "in the long run" be cheaper. But our point is that the actual users alone are the best judges. Why was a ban imposed on the import of second hand tyres without giving all concerned parties a chance to present their case? What is alarming is that "multinationals" have begun to have a growing grip on our import and fiscal policies. The new import tariffs for dairy products at the behest of the multinationals have sent up the price of milk foods. The tyre multinationals have now stepped into the scene and with this monopoly the price of imported tyres will be pushed up. This will be an excuse for the local Corporation making tyres to push up prices. With the open economy not yielding the expected results new efforts are being made to prop it up with more privatisation. Insurance which was a state monopoly from 1960 is to be thrown open to the wolves of free enterprise. There were excellent and sound economic and political reasons why it was nationalised in 1960. And nationalised insurance has done well. What is the need to allow private enterprise to destabilise nationalised insurance? Will it not permit importers and exporters, as in the pre-1960 era, to indulge in rackets and siphon foreign exchange out of the country? Is it only to satisfy the world's bankers and private enterprise chieftains that Sri Lanka is now dismantling the well-run nationalised structure in the profitable sectors of the economy?



## By-Elections

The by-elections in Minneriya and Kundasale have not yet aroused major national attention. People are battling with high prices, the credit squeeze and the other consequences of the austerity deflationary measures now in force. But political circles all over the island have begun to speculate on how the voters in the two electorates—one in the dry zone (built on a colonisation scheme) and the other in a traditional Kandyan area—will respond to the slogans and manifestoes of the different parties and candidates.

One unexpected development is that 90 candidates have filed nomination papers. This took everyone by surprise. So far the largest number of candidates for any constituency was 14, and this was for the three-member constituency of Colombo Central. But even this was exceptional. The usual number for a three-member seat was only about 7 or 8. The general expectation was that the two by-elections would be three-cornered: the UNP, the SLFP and the SLMP (supported by the parties of "the Left and Radical alliance"). Two or three Independents in each electorate would have been normal. But ninety! It came as a shock even to the politically alert. On the day before nomination there was a deluge of deposits and the Elections Commissioner's ingenuity was put to the test. He had to gazette as many new symbols as there were deposits—60 for Minneriya and 40 for Kundasale. The number of legally approved symbols were not enough for this avalanche of candidates.

Most of the new symbols were new and strange for rural voters e.g., a kangaroo, a three-wheeled cab, water filter and other objects never seen or heard of in our rural countryside. A few nominations were rejected and some candidates failed to appear or turned up late. Finally 51 were nominated at Minneriya and 39 at Kundasale. With this sudden rush of candidates, the elections were postponed by a week to October 25. The Elections Commissioner now faces many logistic problems. The ballot paper for Minneriya will be a yard long and 18 inches long in Kundasale. He has also to redesign the election booths to accommodate 102 polling agents in each Minneriya booth and 70 at Kundasale. And with 5 counting agents for each candidate he has to provide for 450 agents at each counting centre.

It has been pointed out that most of the so-called "Independent" candidates who constituted all but the candidates from the three recognized political parties in the two constituencies are neither voters nor persons with any connection with the respective

constituencies. Many of them are said to come from Colombo and it was their first visit to the constituency. It is also reported that when asked, they said, they had been requested by the UNP and/or the SLFP top brass to proceed the previous night to the constituencies and "do their duty by the party". They had come in private vans with others. Some of the Independents at Minneriya, it is reliably learnt, were not from the constituency, and there were local persons disappointed at not receiving nomination from the UNP. Persons who were present at the nominations for Minneriya say that what was especially amusing was the way in which different sets of "independent" candidates applauded openly and loudly when objections against candidates from recognised political parties, especially the UNP, were rejected by the Presiding Officer. Many "independents" also joined the motorcades of the UNP and SLFP candidates throughout the constituency after nomination.

"Different theories have been put forward for this sudden plethora of candidates. Some pro-government commentators have seen this as a spontaneous mass upsurge of confidence in the democratic process, and especially in the fact that elections under the UNP government will be free and fair. In contrast several Opposition-oriented commentators have argued that what this phenomenon denotes is a loss of confidence, after the referendum, in elections ever being held again, and therefore a 'last chance' desire to take part in what may well be the last elections to be held in this country for a long time." What nearly all commentators agree on is that the phenomenon shows that, after recent experiences in the Presidential elections, the referendum and the mini-elections of early 1983—not to speak of the DDC polls in Jaffna—all candidates want to play safe and have as many agents as possible in the polling stations and counting centres. Their anxiety had been reinforced by the Government's recent change in the election laws to enable the Commissioner to declare a result even if polling in some polling stations has been prevented or obstructed". This is how the *Forward*, which reflects the views of the Left alliance, summed up the matter.

It went on, "Any notion of spontaneity behind this phenomenon is, of course, absurd. All the hard evidence shows that the decision to field a plethora of candidates was deliberate. It also suggests that the think tanks of the UNP were the main sponsors of this move, which was followed by the supporters of the SLFP. What brought it all on was mutual fear of the entry of the SLMP candidates (supported by the Left parties) into the fight, especially the contest of SLMP General Secretary, Vijaya Kumaranatunga, at Minneriya. Realising that both constituencies



were less-developed rural areas, where the voters had for several decades been presented with a simple choice between the Elephant and Hand symbols, and that the sudden appearance of a much-publicised Eye (SLMR) symbol could upset this apple-cart, the mutual think tanks of the UNP and SLFP concluded that it would be better if matters were thoroughly confused by introducing so many new symbols and names that the less sophisticated voters in their bewilderment would fall back on the erstwhile choice between Elephant and Hand." The *Forward* concluded its comments thus: "But voters are not as stupid or backward as the UNP and SLFP think tanks seem to assume. They are unlikely to be deflected by this new gimmick any more than they will be intimidated by the strong arm tactics that District Minister Nelson and his cohorts tried to display at Polonnaruwa on nomination day."

Whilst pro-Left and anti-Government seem to agree with the views of the *Forward*, the UNP circles have been strangely silent about this phenomenon. But Mrs. Bandaranaike has ventured to say that the SLFP welcomed the presence of more polling agents at the booths and representatives at counting centres as a safeguard against UNP thuggery and malpractices. But to the detached observer of the contemporary political situation, this proliferation of Independents at Minneriya and Kundasale is only further proof that some persons have begun to regard the parliamentary democratic process as an instrument of manipulative political operations to secure power. Parliamentary elections have been made a mockery of what the godfathers of the Westminster System had hoped it would be in this part of the world.

India and Sri Lanka are the two countries which endeavour to maintain the Westminster-type "democratic system". But in both countries they have been reduced to dynastic warfare behind a "Constitutional" facade waged by big and small pseudo-baronial chieftains, and big and small-time operators at the centre and the periphery. Even the Marxist left has for a long time pinned its faith in winning popular support and power through Westminster-type parliamentary processes and elections. Sections of the Left are now becoming disillusioned about parliamentary democracy as presently practiced.

What is unfortunate is that no serious thought has been given at any level as to what would be a better system of government. Everybody still thinks of reforming through new laws and amendments, to improve the Westminster system based on a mono-centric and mono-cultist ideology. What Sri Lanka and India (and also all countries in South and South-east Asia) need is a completely new system adapted to the modern needs of multi-racial, multi-linguistic

and multi-religious societies. Such a system will be difficult to evolve, but it can be done if people want to formulate a system of government that will eliminate confrontations that made a mockery of the government process. In our view, the pundits who have been nurtured on western ideological logic—conservative, liberal or even radical—will find it hard to do this. Ordinary people with common sense working from first principles can after discussion and dialogue find a way out of the present impasse. This is a matter to which *Tribune* will address its mind in the weeks and months to come.

The Editor in his series of articles on the Ethnic Problem has already raised some pertinent questions on this matter. Judging from the feedback from some readers, it would appear that the series has provoked discussion and dialogue in many circles. This series of articles is now being translated; and copies in Sinhala and Tamil will soon be in circulation in rural areas. The response from the grassroots in the villages (there are 24,000 of them) will determine the final outcome of the search for a new system of government.

## 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.



A LETTER FROM THE

## Chairman, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation

Sir,

I have just seen your article titled "Official Purchasing" on page 24 of your issue of September 8, 1984. We have made and are still making every endeavour to include different types of crude other than the customary Saudi Light and Iranian Light for spot purchases. The need for this exercise had been occasioned by the unsettled war conditions in the Middle East affecting customary loading ports. Accordingly, in this particular tender, we included Qatar Marine and Oman Blend in addition to Arabian Light. We specifically deleted Iranian Crude in this tender because at this particular time Shipping Companies were reluctant to call at Kharg Island. On this tender we accepted a quotation for Qatar Marine because this type of crude is technically acceptable to the Refinery. However, while processing, it was found that the yield pattern was not what was expected and therefore we have temporarily suspended the inclusion of this type of Qatar Marine in our future tenders. It is accepted in oil industry circles that Qatar Marine is a far superior crude to Saudi Light and we have in our evaluation given weightage to this fact. There is no need to indicate yield patterns of different types of crude in tender notices as suppliers are well aware of such details. However, the crude oil called for should be compatible with our Refinery requirements.

With regard to your comment on Seller's option, we have right along maintained the position that any offers which are not conforming to our Tender Notice particularly on occasions where we resort to spot purchases are rejected because we have very little time to evaluate and award the tender on spot purchases. Seller's option are often a ruse adopted by bidders to ascertain competitor's terms before committing themselves to a binding offer. Accordingly, the offers which are on this basis of seller's option have been rejected. It should be appreciated that in this type of purchase which is finalised within a matter of hours of opening tenders, we cannot seek clarification from suppliers who have not made clear and definite offers. We have informed all the suppliers our terms and conditions and any significant deviation would mean that their offer is rejected.

With regard to your comment on Coastal that it is financially unsound we wish to comment that Coastal was not awarded the Trincomalee Tank Farm Project on grounds other than financial instability. They are

one of the biggest multi-national Oil Companies in the world and in fact their financial status is far superior to most of the other suppliers who are registered with us for the supply of crude oil.

**D. Wimalasena**  
Chairman

113, Galle Road,  
Colombo 3.  
4th October 1984.

—"*Tribune's*" comments on this letter will appear in due course Ed.

### THE POLITICAL SCENE

FOR SRI LANKA

## A 'No Poverty' Society - 2

By Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne

TO DO THIS, certain people have to provide leadership. We should not wait until somebody else does it. Individually, each one of us must take up this challenge, begin to understand who we are, what forces are within us, how our minds and bodies function. We must start the struggle from within. We are constantly receiving messages from outside. When they reach our sense organs, we call them sensations. When we recognize these sensations, we call them perceptions. From these perceptions, we build up certain mental formations, which come together to form one big mass of consciousness. This process is continually taking place in every one of us. Until recently, the energy involved in this process was largely ignored by the physical sciences. But today, Nobel Prize-Winning physicists are equating physical forces with the force of this consciousness. Recent books—"The Tao of Physics" and the "Aquarian Conspiracy" talk about the quantum mechanics of the thought process. These are written, not by idealists or social scientists, but by physical scientists, who know what they are talking about in the field of quantum physics. In other words, we must recognize a growing trend in which physical scientists are drawing closer and closer towards the type of consciousness that used to be the exclusive field of people in religion and social work. Science and spiritual values—two previously irreconcilable areas—may spon merge. If we can build up this type of consciousness into a critical mass, it will influence millions and millions of people.

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*This is what lies behind the concept of our movement in Sri Lanka. Sarvodaya—the awakening of all. Awakening of all is an ideal towards which our consciousness should be directed, individually and collectively.* The beginning lies within ourselves as individuals. When one individual can purify his mind and develop love and compassion towards anyone, this can change the most brutal of human beings. The leadership, the pioneering work, has to be done by a few of us. In the world today, many thousands of groups are working along these lines. A network must be built to bring these people together. This will mean getting into politics—not partisan or power politics, but one we can all engage in, which will not involve running for office, fighting anyone, or confronting anyone. In Sarvodaya, we have identified six objectives—or rather, one general objective of awakening divided into six areas.

*The first area* in the awakening of one self as an individual. I have to awaken first before I am to awaken others, so that whatever I do externally has a relationship to my own personality. Personality awakening can be done by influencing certain factors; for example, the physical and psychological environment of a child from conception, through infancy, early schooling and adolescence. From this, we move to the second objective, the awakening of the human family; then into the third, the awakening of the smaller community; fourth, the awakening of the larger urban community. Once these programs are going on, we can think of achieving the fifth objective, national awakening. Then at the international level, we can begin to think of awakening the world community. Thus we have six objectives, we have to evolve certain strategies.

WE SET ABOUT doing this in Sri Lanka twenty-five years ago. First, we tried to achieve a psychological infrastructure in different places. Groups of us from educational and government institutions and the general public—went into certain areas, whether rural or urban, where we set certain physical targets we wanted to achieve with a minimum of capital and a maximum of labour. With the available labour, we built roads where there had previously been no access roads to villages, wells where there were no wells for drinking water, dams and tanks to store water for irrigation. Where there were no schools, we put up semi-permanent buildings, recruited volunteer teachers and started our own schools. These have been adopted by the government and teachers appointed. Today, they are like any other schools. We did 6-8 hours of work daily, but found that another six hours should be set aside for non-physical work, that is, for us to get together as human beings. We called these "family gatherings". We would sit together, in a circle, mediate together

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irrespective of religion, caste, race or nationality; sing together, share our ideas with one another.

We also brought in a bit of ideological content from our own Sri Lankan culture; respect for all life. Under this fundamental principle, watering a plant becomes more than a mechanical job; one does it thinking that the plant has life, though not like ours and needs watering. Once into this frame of mind, our personalities become deeply affected. In the past, we did a lot of things that had no relevance to the growth of our inner personality or the awakening of our spiritual life. Spirituality, we left to the church. Once out of the church, it was a different life altogether. This split has taken us to very dangerous levels of our civilization. That is why we need to build up a psychological infrastructure in order to bring about a balanced philosophy.

*The second level* is to try to get different sectors—pre-school children, students, youth mothers, farmers, and others—organized into related groups according to their needs. We have identified ten basic needs: a clean and beautiful environment (both psychological and physical) a clean and adequate supply of water, simple clothing, food, basic health care, communication, basic energy needs, simple housing, total education and lastly, spiritual and cultural needs. Appropriate technology enters in the attempt to satisfy these needs. It is not something you can super-impose, but something that evolves to cater towards a particular need identified by a community, and towards which the community is working. Just recently, I talked with two of the great modern technologists, both professors who have worked all their lives in the area of computer science. A lot of the things in the market today sprang out from their brains. These two had arranged to see me because they believed in the ideas I had been expressing. They also feel that most of today's technology is too sophisticated and not within reach of ordinary men, except through a small group of people who manipulated it for their own ends. The area of communications is the simplest example we can give. The two professors believe that for a few cents—in other words, in a very inexpensive way—they can place in the hands of millions and millions of children in the world today a technology that would not be manipulated by anyone or any centre, but that could influence power centers through learning processes that the children would program or initiate. If this can be done, then even computer technology becomes appropriate.

MOST OF TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY is inappropriate because it brings about a total imbalance in every thing. This is because of centralization. Most of our ancient societies that reached very levels were extremely decentralized: small units, individuals,



families, the urban and village group. Yet they also had very strong co-ordination—which is very different from coercion or that sort of control. We have had an agricultural civilization for a long time—about 12,000 to 25,000 years. Three hundred years of industrial civilization followed. This has come to an end in certain countries, which are not in what some call the "post-industrial era". The next era, sometimes called the 'solar era' may last only about ten to fifteen years. So unless our existing systems consider and undergo change, social chaos will follow. In some countries, it has already begun.

All over the world, our environment has to be created anew. This is already happening; without our knowledge, we are contributing to it. But we also need to make a conscious effort by getting people together to build up a psychological infrastructure, to reorganize themselves in small ways, to relate themselves to appropriate technology. We have to provide training and learning opportunities for them. The Philippines, Indonesia and Bangladesh are more advanced than we are in certain aspects in this field. Our own strength is integration. Integration first has to do with the psychology and traditions of a nation. You cannot erase traditions—they are in our blood, and the memories have gone from generation to generation in spite of two to three centuries of suppression. We must integrate with our best traditions leaving out those that are bad

All over the world, we have a very good idea about social justice and human rights; our government has signed the human rights declaration. If we saw to it that this was implemented, we would have to accept that integration must respect the aspirations, traditions, customs and psychology of the people. These things are important. There are two examples of appropriate technology which are different from the windmills and other gadgets that are usually associated with it. I mention these two to show that appropriate technology does not have to be limited to machines; it must be developed in three areas: ideas, specific technologies and methodologies and structures.

First example, in our countries, a lot of money comes from loans, aid and grants from the outside. This goes down to the rural people in, for example, a nice concrete road to a village. This road can get villagers outside, and outsiders into the village. But not all people in the village will have the same mobility that an outsider has. It is easier for outsiders to come and take the villager's goods, this will soon empty the village of all its money. Some of the goods that the village gets in return are stocks prohibited in rich countries: poisoned goods sold openly because

we do not know they are bad and because various media advertise them as signs of development, modernity and advancement.

*Concluded*

## EXPOSE

SHERLOCK HOLMES

### ● Defence Tenders ● Nestle

#### Question:

IS IT TRUE Mr. Sherlock Holmes, that a recent circular has been sent by the Ministry of Defence to the Army, Navy and Police that with immediate effect all Tenders for equipment required for operational duties should be referred to the Ministry? That at present the Heads of these services are permitted by FR to approve orders up to Rs. 5 million by processing them through Departmental Tender Board? That under the present circumstances, it would have been more appropriate to increase this amount to Rs. 10 million in order to speed up the purchasing time, rather than impose a further element to delay? That the question being asked, however, is why is it that the Ministry of Defence wants to take on all Tenders?

#### ANSWER:

Why the Ministry of Defence wants to bring all Tenders under its cosy wings is anybody's guess. Your guess will be as good as mine. *Tribune* has published in its *Confidentially* column last week and this week a letter sent to some VVIP about Defence Ministry purchases. *Tribune* has suggested that the matters raised should receive top-level investigation. It will not be possible to undo what has been done, but it is necessary that precautions should be taken to prevent recurrence of actions detrimental to the country. The government is moving into large scale purchases of military equipment and unless proper standards are established, the integrity of the government will be questioned and its credibility adversely affected. It will also demoralise all ranks of the armed services. Already there are murmurings in the armed services and the police about the way the Defence Ministry is foisting arms on them—arms and equipment allegedly sub-standard.

It is also whispered that a few private individuals, obviously well connected, have more say in tenders than the top professional brass of the Services. If this allegation is true, it is a serious matter. There

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are stories of how the scions of some powerful VVIP dynasties contact suppliers in UK and USA for over-riding commissions on arms purchased. It is difficult to say whether these stories are true or have been concocted by evil-minded persons, but the fact that such stories should surface at this juncture is ominously significant. All these stories revolve on the fact that the Ministry of Defence has taken upon itself the job which should have been left to the professional expertise of the Service Chiefs whose units have to use them in the field.

*The Government will be well advised before the stink becomes too over-powering and names are named in public meetings (now they are only bandied about in pubs and the bras of five-star hotels) to take corrective measures to ensure that no room is given for such gossip talk that involves governmental credibility.*

**BELOW IS A FURTHER INSTALMENT** of the Milk Board-Nestle Agreement.

Section 6 entitled PRODUCTION reads as follows: 6.1. *Improvements:* The Company shall carry out such modifications and additions to the said plant as shall be recommended by Nestle in order to improve its efficiency, output or security; 6.2. *Transition period:* In order to keep the market supplied and allow for a smooth transition, the Company may for a period of up to twelve months after Takeover-day continue to pack and sell all or part of the Product under the same labels as those used prior to Takeover-day and sell same to the Milk Board for distribution. The Company's selling price to the Milk Board shall be the Milk Board's price to its distributors of the Product in force immediately prior to the Takeover-day or the full factory cost including depreciation, if any, whichever is higher. 6.3. *Manufacture for Milk Board:* If required by the Milk Board the Company shall manufacture for and supply to the Milk Board up to 50,000 cases per annum or 10 percent of production (whichever shall be higher) of the Product complying with the Company's specifications for sale by the Milk Board under a label and trademark designated by the latter. Any orders shall be placed by the Milk Board not less than eight weeks prior to the desired delivery date and the price (ex factory) shall be full factory cost (including depreciation) plus 5 percent, payable within 30 days after delivery. 6.4. *Fresh Milk Collection and Transport:* The collection of the fresh milk for the said plant (up to and including the operation of the collecting centres) shall remain the responsibility of and be arranged by the Milk Board. The Company shall inform the Milk Board from time to time of its quantity and quality requirements for fresh milk and the Milk

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Board shall use its best endeavours to timely and satisfactorily meet these requirements. The Company shall in turn use its best endeavours to utilize the fresh milk collected in the collecting centres relating to the said plant, subject to the Company's quality specifications and manufacturing programme. The price (ex collecting centre) to be paid by the Company for the fresh milk shall be negotiated from time to time between the Milk Board and the Company. The transport of the fresh milk from the collecting centres to the said plant shall be the responsibility of the Company. It is recognized that during plant break-downs and closure for effecting repairs diversion of fresh milk from the Milk Board plants to the said plant or to the new plant to be set up by the Nestle in Sri Lanka and vice-versa may become necessary. In such event the parties hereto and the Company shall act in collaboration for their mutual benefit.

Section 7 entitled MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION reads as follows: 7.1. *Distributor:* The Product may be marketed and distributed by one or more distributors as decided by the Board of Directors of the Company. 7.2. *Terms:* The detailed terms of the distributing arrangement shall be negotiated between the Company and the Distributor(s) and shall cover all marketing and distributing costs plus a reasonable commission. 7.3. *Trademarks:* Subject to the provisions of Clauses 6.2. and 6.3. hereof, the Product shall be sold in Sri Lanka under Nestle's trademarks 7.4. *Distribution for the Milk Board:* The Milk Board may on the same terms as those applicable to the Company use the Company's Distributor to distribute within Sri Lanka the Product supplied under Clause 6.3 hereof.

Section 8 entitled FINANCE reads as follows: 8.1. *Method of Financing:* Unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the parties hereto the basic principle of financing the Company shall be to cover net fixed assets by share capital or shareholders' funds and any requirements for working capital by overdraft facilities or loans. 8.2. *Security:* Should any bank or lending institution, in connection with the grant of overdraft facilities or loans to the Company, require a surety, same shall as far as possible be furnished by the Company but if any additional surety shall be required the parties hereto shall provide such surety in proportion to their shareholding in the Company.

*To be concluded.*

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## October 1 - 7

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*—Dinapattu; *CM*—Chinthamani; *WK*—Weekend; *RV*—Riviresa; *DK*—Dinakara; *EN*—Elenadu; *IS*—Island; *DI*—Divaina; *IDPR*—information Dept. Press Release.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 1:** The combination of wet and bright weather now experienced in the planting districts of Hatton, Watawala, Bogowantalawa and Dickoya has been ideal for tea cropping and with prices buoyant, there is a broad beam on the face of the industry. Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami has said he will ask the United Nations to help secure an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon when he addresses the General Assembly—*DN*. Leaks in the conduit electricity connections used in transmission result in a 20 percent loss of the total amount of electricity generated in the country—*DO*. Police Headquarters has called for an immediate report from the Polonnaruwa SP on the alleged acts of violence near the Polonnaruwa Kachcheri last Thursday, when nominations were accepted for the Minneriya seat. Government is to withdraw the armed forces from maintaining internal security and civil law administration in troubled areas, and replace them with specially trained police commandos of the Special Task Force (STF). Draft legislation is to replace proposals, to solve the country's ethnic problems, placed before the all party conference by President J. R. Jayewardene on September 21—*SU*. Government is expected to discuss in detail an amendment sought by Finance Ministry officials to a provision of the Contracts of Employment Bill compelling employers to give letters of appointment to all new appointees when the Bill comes up for government's approval on Wednesday. Illegal tobacco cultivation in the two new National Parks Somawathiya and the Flood Plains, is reported to be further reducing their dwindling animal habitat. The round table conference which resumed yesterday heard representations from 11 delegations and adjourned for November 15 and 16 when draft legislation to implement the proposals made will be tabled. An application was made by Mr. P. Udugampola, SP, Gampaha for the inquiry into the death of Keragala Jayathge Sirisena (42) alias "Cheena" be transferred to the High Court of Colombo—*S*.

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**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2:** About 30,000 candidates for the December GCE O-Level exam have not obtained their national identity cards yet and risk being shut out from the examination. The Soviet Union today congratulated China on its 35th anniversary of communist rule and said improved relations would benefit Moscow and Peking—*DN*. Sri Lanka has assured the International Monetary Fund that next year's budget deficit will be kept under ten percent of the Gross Domestic Product—*DO*. The national economy, propped up by a number of improving sectors, has been able to withstand declines in several key sectors in 1983 and increase real national income by 5.6 percent, the Central Bank reported yesterday. Swiss authorities can in future extradite Tamil refugees back to Sri Lanka if they are refused asylum in Switzerland, the Berne government decided today. A new variety of samba with a capacity of giving a yield of 100 bushels of paddy from one acre has been developed by the paddy research centre at Bombuwala. The Ministry of Lands and Land Development has appealed to the public to co-operate in preventing the illicit felling of timber which has been on the increase—*SU*. Government approval has been granted to government officials for unlimited travelling in state vehicles for the payment of merely Rs. 150 a month; the levy was first introduced in 1972 but travel was restricted between home and office only; now unlimited private use has been sanctioned. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali expressed hopes of settling the ethnic problem with the minimum loss of lives. Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi said he deeply regretted Sri Lanka has renewed relations with Israel; "I wish other non-aligned nations would not follow suit," he said—*S*. As a result of the bomb blast at the Kondavil Bus Depot on Sunday, the Ministry of Transport has instructed the Regional Manager, Mr. G. Kanagaratnam to immediately send all the buses to Colombo—*VK*. Several students studying in higher classes in colleges in the Eastern Province are reported missing and their parents have complained to the Police—*DP*.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3:** National Security Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, pointing out that the majority in any society is peace-loving, retold the recent incident of a Tamil woman in the North dissuading terrorists from planting a bomb on her road. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said after a one-hour meeting with US Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday that the United States had not yet taken a mediation role on Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon—*DN*. Lankans aspiring for jobs in the Middle East are being advised by government not to proceed until the visa endorsement to their country of destination is made in the passport—*DO*. Export earnings from tea in the first half of the year exceeded the total foreign exchange generated by this industry



in 1983. Government yesterday suspended the state-run bus service in the following another terrorist attack on the Kondavil depot. The Agriculture Department has mobilised its extension services personnel to monitor the build up of an insect called the brown hopper—the vector of the virus suspected to be the cause of the damaging paddy disease in the Hambantota district. The number of polling booths for the Kundasale and Minneriya by-elections has been increased to accommodate female voters. No recommendations or decisions have been made on proposed electricity tariffs, the Ministry of Power and Energy said yesterday—*SU*. The Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi has conveyed to Sri Lanka's President J. R. Jayewardene that India has no idea of invading Sri Lanka, informed diplomatic sources said yesterday. A deputation from the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party will this morning meet acting IGP Mr. Herbert Weerasinghe and Mr. R. Sundaralingam DIG (Ranges) who is in overall charge of the two by-elections at Minneriya and Kundasale, regarding an alleged incident in Minneriya. Distribution of poll cards will commence after October 11 for the Minneriya and Kundasale by-elections according to Mr. Chandrananda de Silva, Commissioner of Elections—*S*. The future of the bus services in the North will be discussed at the cabinet and a decision taken today—*DP*.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4:** More than 75 percent of Asians arrested in Europe last year for drug-smuggling and related offences were Lankans; the majority (80 percent) were Tamils, said National Dangerous Drugs Control Board Chairman, Hema Weerasinghe yesterday. UNESCO Director-General Amadou Mahtar M'bow said yesterday he would not step down in order to stop the United States or any other nation leaving the Paris-based UN agency—*DN*. Over 3,000 telephones in the city of Colombo are dead; according to officials of the Department of Telecommunications the telephones are out of order due to cables being damaged by private contractors laying pipe lines—*DO*. State bus services in the trouble-torn Northern province will continue to operate, the government decided yesterday. Security forces on anti-terrorist operations in north Sri Lanka have uncovered arms and ammunition of Indian origin in the possession of terrorists. Government will rebuild the wards of the Angoda mental hospital which collapsed two years ago and other dilapidated wards. All Ministries will be required to get Cabinet approval before accepting gifts from foreign governments. Saudi Arabia is expected to release the 10 billion rupee it pledged for the Maduru Oya development programme—*SU*. Police will strictly enforce at by-election meetings Section 29 of the Police Ordinance which empowers them to stop the use of loud-speakers by any party at election meetings if the speakers use abusive or insulting language. The

Sri Lanka Mahajana Party was yesterday expected to request President J. R. Jayewardene to delegate police powers to the Elections Commissioner to deal with any untoward incidents at polling booths during the Kundasale and Minneriya by-elections. Sri Lanka has asked the Indian authorities to replace the Colombo Correspondent of the Press Trust of India news agency, authoritative sources said today. The Cabinet yesterday decided to invest heavily in a long-term project to increase the production of subsidiary foods—*S*. Police Comrados have been sent from last Tuesday to serve in the Northern and Eastern Provinces—*DP*.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5:** The six passport counters of the Department of Immigration and Emigration are steadily catching up on backlogs, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday. The US airforce has been ordered to continue seeking a way to base nuclear missiles deep underground so they can survive a Soviet attack and be able to make a retaliatory strike—*DN*. The Ceylon National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (SNAPT) has opened a Health Education Centre at its headquarters in Colombo where an exhibition of photographs, posters and models to provide knowledge on TB is now being held—*DO*. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday that the government will continue with the development projects in the north. Indictments against 125 terrorist suspects will shortly be filed in the High Court, under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali announced yesterday. FEFIA has been entrusted the task of evaluating the damages caused to shops in Mannar following alleged army excesses. The air fare of 200 housemaids who were stranded in Bombay en route to Doha and other West Asian destinations, will have to be met by relatives, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday—*SU*. The TULF is in communication with Swiss Federal authorities over the Switzerland government's recent decision to repatriate Sri Lanka Tamils who are seeking political asylum in that country. The Sri Lanka Central Transport Board yesterday decided to close down the Kondavil Depot and distribute its fleet of 157 buses among the other four depots in the Northern peninsula. While large numbers of undergraduates are opposed to the proposed amendments to the Universities Act they are unable to protest at present because of their forthcoming examinations, an Inter-University Students Federation spokesman said—*S*. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has announced that it may be necessary to arrest political asylum seekers who will be extradited from Switzerland—*VK*.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6:** The government has set the wheel rolling to replace the outdated Colombo



Consumers' Price Index whose base year is 1952 with a 1982 based Urban Consumers' Price Index. Communist insurgents could take power in the Philippines within the next decade unless President Ferdinand Marcos introduce basic reforms, U.S. assistant secretary of defence Richard Armitage said yesterday—*DN*. Three British MPs have rejected the Indian government's apparent unwillingness to act on Sri Lanka's allegations that Tamil separatists were conducting terrorist activities against the country from Indian territory for political expediency associated with the forthcoming general elections in India, as totally unacceptable. India categorically denied today Sri Lankan allegations that it supports Tamil separatists with arms. Pesticides kill some 10,000 people every year in developing countries and an estimated 375,000 are poisoned by them, a Brazilian chemical expert said yesterday. The Employees Trust Fund has imposed a fine of Rs. 1.5 million on a Corporation for failing to remit ETF contributions on time—*SU*. The Ministry of Finance and Planning has instructed the Treasury to allocate Rs. 2,000 million for increased salaries of public servants in this year's budget estimates informed sources said yesterday. A compulsory quality standardisation will be imposed on several imported items from next year, said Mr. C. D. R. A. Jayewardena, Director, Standardisation, Sri Lanka Standards Institute. West Germany has agreed in principle to co-finance the Rantembe Power Project whose foreign exchange costs have been estimated around US \$ 110 million. Israel will maintain the interest office it opened in June in the Sri Lankan capital, a Foreign Ministry official said today; the official who insisted on anonymity, was reacting to reports from Sri Lanka that there were no more Israelis in the country—*IS*. The members of the Opposition have called for details of vehicles imported by 17 Ministries for use by those ministries from July 1977 to August 1984; this matter was raised in the Parliament—*DP*.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7:** Two state ventures will be replaced by new organisations which will enable the private sector to handle their respective operations; the National Milk Board will be replaced by MILCO—Milk Industries of Lanka Company Limited—to be formed at the beginning of next year. The Fisheries Corporation will be converted to a joint venture company with the active participation of the private sector to handle islandwide the collection, distribution and sale of fish "as it has been found that private sector participation will enable the sale of fish at prices lower than at present", Minister of Fisheries Festus Perera said. The first drop of water from the Maduru Oya reservoir will be ceremonially released for irrigation purposes on 15th October—*SO*. Glaring cases of wilful mismanagement at the University of Peradeniya have come to light following the disclosure by the Auditor-General through a "Gazette" notification; while the accounts of the University were

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found by the AG to be in a mess, according to reliable source there is organised thieving in which some high University officials too are involved. Air Lanka and Thai International Airways after discussion held in Bangkok recently concluded an agreement to operate a joint service every Friday between Colombo and Bangkok. The cause for paddy yellowing in the Southern Province has not been determined though research officers of the Department of Agriculture assume the "vector" to be brown hopper pest—*ST*. The opening of the Duty Free Shopping Complex to locals shoppers this week saw an unprecedented rush but nearly half of them did not make purchases. *Weekend's* exclusive exposure on September 30 under the headline "A Terrible Sight" which stated that lime packets claim more victims as officials turn a blind eye, prompted the Kandy District Development Council to introduce a by-law; the *Weekend* report figured prominently at last week's meeting of the Council—*WK*. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party when elected to office will have no problem in getting India to send back the terrorists taking refuge there, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike Leader of the Opposition told *The Island*. The Sri Lanka government has asked the representative of Aeroflot, the National carrier of the Soviet Union and the representative of the National carrier of Bulgaria, Balkan Air Lines to leave the country, *The Island* reliably understands. The Central Committee of the All-Ceylon Muslim League will meet today and discuss a proposed amendment to the league constitution that seeks to debar any Muslim League office bearers from holding executive or any other office in another political party or political body—*IS*.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

By Ariel

### Hong Kong

On September 26, in Beijing a historic joint declaration was initialled under which Britain agreed to return sovereignty over its prized crown colony of Hongkong to China on July 1, 1997 ending over 140 years of British rule. The agreement was reached after two years of intense and sometimes difficult negotiations. The declaration will be subject to ratification by both the Chinese and British Parliaments. Simultaneously with the joint declaration, two documents were also initialled with three annexures, the first on China's policy on Hongkong in 1997



and after, the second on the creation of a Sino-British joint liaison committee during the transition and third, the problem of contracts on land. The 15-page declaration running to 10,000 Chinese characters said that Britain held the right to rule Hongkong during the transition years up to 1997. Under the joint declaration, Hongkong will come under Chinese rule in 13 years and China will accept from 1997 onwards a unique government formula of co-existence of socialism and capitalism within the same country. Under documents attached to the agreement, China has clarified its plan to designate Hongkong as a "Special administrative area" in 1997 and thereafter, directly controlling foreign affairs and national defence but otherwise granting to the people of the colony the right of self-government. The documents say that Hongkong can maintain its independent economic and cultural relations with other countries under the name of "Hongkong China". China guaranteed Hongkong as an international financial centre by maintaining foreign exchange, gold and stock markets there. The economic profits of foreign countries in Hongkong are also protected.

THE DOCUMENTS GUARANTEE freedom of thought and speech in Hongkong without changes in existing social and economic life-style. Further, under the principle of government by the people of Hongkong, the administrative leadership will be made up of local people and the executive chief will be chosen by election or consultations. The Chinese National People's Congress (Parliament) is expected to approve the declaration and documents next month while the British Parliament is likely to approve them in November or later leading to the exchange of instruments of ratification by the end of this year. This is likely to be followed by a formal signing in Peking by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries. The agreement also contains a pledge by China to preserve Hongkong's economic and social system for 50 years after the handover in 1997. According to the agreement the current social and economic systems in Hongkong will remain unchanged and so will the life-style. Hongkong will retain the status of a free port, a separate customs territory and an international financial center. The Hongkong dollar will continue to circulate and remain freely convertible. While allowing Hongkong to handle its finances independently, the central government will not levy taxes on the special administrative region. Using the name Hongkong China, the special administrative region may on its own maintain and develop economic and cultural relations and conclude relevant agreements with states, regions and relevant international organisations. Economic interests of British and other countries in Hongkong will be given due regard. The government of the special administrative region may issue travel documents for entry into and exit from Hongkong. Maintenance of public order in

Hongkong will be the responsibility of the government of the special administrative region. The above-mentioned basic policies will be stipulated, in a basic law of the Hongkong special administrative region by the National People's Congress and they will remain unchanged for 50 years.

THE AGREEMENT has also provided for a Sino-British joint liaison group to be set up when the joint declaration enters into force in order to ensure a smooth transfer of government in 1997 and with a view to the effective implementation of the joint declaration. The document points out that apart from displaying the national flag and national emblem of the People's Republic of China, the Hongkong special administrative region may use a regional flag and emblem of its own. The government of the region may continue to employ public servants previously serving in Hongkong in all government departments including the Police Department and members of the judiciary. It may employ British and other foreign nationals previously serving in the public service in Hongkong, and may recruit British and other foreign nationals holding permanent identity cards of the Hongkong special administrative region to serve as public servants at all levels except as heads of major government departments including the Police Department, and as deputy heads of some of those departments. The special administrative region shall deal on its own with financial matters and that the central people's government shall not levy taxes on the region. It shall decide its economic and trade policies on its own. Subject to the principle that foreign affairs are the responsibility of the Central People's Government, representatives of the Hongkong special administrative region government may participate, as members of delegations of the Chinese government, in negotiations at the Diplomatic level directly affecting the region conducted by the central government. The region may, using the name Hongkong China, participate in international organisations and conferences not limited to states. The government of the region shall maintain the various kinds of rights and freedoms as provided for by the laws previously in force in Hongkong.

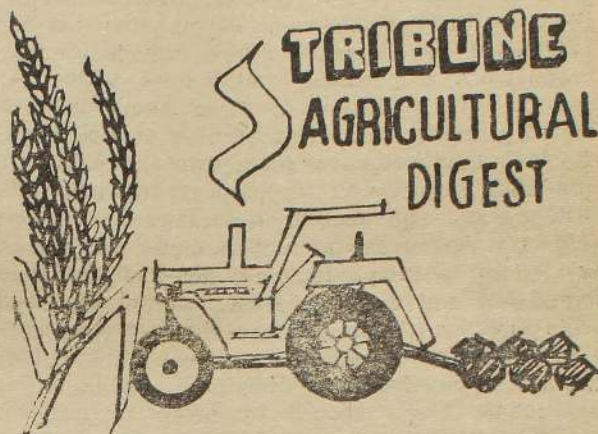
*This agreement has been described as unique in many ways. For one thing China has adopted the "one country, two systems" policy in guaranteeing Hongkong's stability and prosperity. United Nations Secretary-General Jerez Perez de Cuellar congratulated the Chinese and British governments for the agreement and said that such amicable way of settling differences was very much needed in the present international situation. The agreement, he said, respected not only China's sovereignty over Hongkong but also the economic system prevailing there.*

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He also commended the two governments for their remarkable and dedicated efforts over the past two years to achieve a negotiated settlement of "a very delicate and complex issue". "As Secretary-General of the United Nations", he said, "I strongly believe in the virtues of quiet diplomacy as a way of resolving differences between nations, both at the bilateral and multi-lateral level". He added: "At a time when tension and confrontation unfortunately seem to prevail in so many parts of the world, the successful negotiations on the future of Hongkong will undoubtedly be regarded as one of the most outstanding examples of effective quiet diplomacy in contemporary international relations. . . ." This agreement has been welcomed in Hongkong. The editorials of nearly all Hongkong newspapers declared that the agreement has solved a historical question between China and Britain that dates back more than a century. It has also decided the future of Hongkong's inhabitants. British newspapers also welcomed the joint declaration on Hongkong and called it a good and remarkable document which removed much uncertainty about the next 14 years. An editorial of the *Financial Times* described the joint declaration as a remarkable document which goes as far as reasonable, and a good deal further than might have been predicted, in prescribing principles and practices which should help maintain the stability and prosperity of Hongkong after the transfer of sovereignty of China in 1997. Describing the agreement as much better than many sceptics had thought possible, the *Times* Executive Editor, Kenneth Fleet writes: "It is the very accumulation of detail that is most reassuring" to investors in Hongkong". Internationally too, reaction was optimistic, if somewhat cautious. Among the first nations to welcome the accord were Australia, Japan and Malaysia. The sharpest words predictably came from Taiwan, where Nationalist Premier Yu Kuo-hwa branded Britain's co-operation with the Chinese Communists "a disgrace in human history". The Chinese Foreign Minister in a statement explained China's thinking behind the 50-year pledge. "If the economy in China keeps growing at the present rate," he said, "by the year 2047 we expect the standard of living on the mainland will be at least as high as that enjoyed by people in Hongkong, possibly higher. Then it will be much easier to find a solution. Of course, this is not a task for this generation, but the next. And I am sure the next generation will be much cleverer than this generation". *Whatever happens in the next 13 years and thereafter, there is no doubt that the agreement reached between China and Britain stands out a major historic achievement of this era.*

✕      ✕      ✕



#### A I C S RECOMMENDATIONS

### Poultry Production

THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND SUPPORTING STRUCTURES of the Government for the development of the poultry industry has now moved into the correct channels as discussed in para 2.6 and 2.7 (vide *Tribune*, 29/9/84) which discuss development plans and government support. It is recommended that greater implementational vigour should be applied within this framework of national policy for poultry. The present study indicates that there has been a shift of the poultry population from its predominant concentration earlier in the Colombo region to new areas outside. The reasons for this shift is not clear at the present time. It is also not known whether the character of poultry farming in the new areas falls within the traditional or intensive system. It is recommended that a separate in-depth study be undertaken to find out the causes that have led to the shift of poultry population and the nature of the poultry farming system in these new locations. The findings of such a study may prove valuable for working out strategies for further development of poultry farming in new areas in the rural sector.

The availability, quality and price of poultry feed is one of the biggest constraints in the development of the poultry industry. It is recommended that future efforts towards minimising the feed constraint should be directed on the following lines: (a) the feed processing facilities should be geographically distributed within the important poultry farming regions; (b) An early policy decision should be taken to either totally ban or restrict the export of feed ingredients which are essentially for the local provender industry. There has been no consistent policy on this matter. In this connection it is worth emphasising that while the development of non-traditional exports which draw



on locally produced commodities is desirable in itself, there are trade-offs between export promotion and indigenous development efforts which generate productivity, employment and income within the country. The balancing of these needs between export promotion and the availability of feed ingredients for the local provender industry should be kept constantly under review by appropriate inter-ministerial dialogue at a high level; (c) A package of incentives (e.g. tax incentives, production credit) should be worked out for the production of non-traditional feed ingredients and these incentives should be given wide publicity; (d) The quality of the feed now available to poultry farmers is inconsistent. This in turn has a decisive adverse effect on both egg and broiler production. Steps should be taken to maintain quality and consistency in poultry feed placed on the market by governmental or non-governmental organisations. For instance, the introduction of feed bags with the requirement that the levels of energy and protein in the feed mixture should be specified in the outer covering of the bag. Ensuring the quality of poultry feed through such methods as grading and testing feed efficiencies through feed trials are standard practices in countries where the poultry industry has attained a high level of efficiency. It is time that Sri Lanka also proceeded to adopt these practices through appropriate modifications in research, extension and marketing; (e) A problem in the marketing of poultry feed is adulteration which is said to take place between the production factories and the purchaser. One obvious way of eliminating these corrupt practices is to market poultry feeds in pelletized form. It also has the additional advantage of preventing wastage. The use of pelletized fertilizer for paddy cultivation in certain parts of the country has been in operation for a long period of time. However, pelletized fertilizer for paddy is imported as is in fact large quantities of other fertilizer. But in the case of the local provender industry, there appear to be no serious difficulties in establishing pelletizing facilities with relatively small investment; (f) The development of the local poultry feed industry will entail not only the provision of pelletizing facilities but also the establishment, according to regional and sub-regional needs of poultry farmers of provender plants, inexpensive feed mixing plants with distribution linkages and leaving many options to the farmers themselves to buy certain types of feed in their totality, or buy feed mixtures to which they can add their own recommended additives. This aspect of the poultry feed industry in Sri Lanka has not been studied so far in any intensive way. It is recommended that a study on these lines be undertaken with a view to rationalising and upgrading the feed production and marketing system according to regional and sub-regional needs principally of the small scale poultry producer; (g) The present network of retail outlets for poultry feed appear to be totally inadequate. It is

recommended that the network of retail outlets be expanded to cover regional needs.

AT PRESENT there are no special credit schemes for small poultry farmers similar to those that are available to the dairy sector as well as small and medium scale industries. A decision of the government has been recently announced that state sector banking institutions will be required to invest a percentage of their earnings annually in development activities in the rural sector which is today generating considerable savings deposits which appear to be channelled for traditional commercial lending in the urban centres. This process has to be modified. It is recommended that national banking institutions and specially the state sponsored banking institutions be directed to work out a spectrum of credit facilities for poultry producers specially the small scale producer in the urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

The Department of Agriculture and more recently DAPH has devoted a great deal of effort and resources towards establishing poultry farming on a viable basis in the rural sector. One important feature of this effort has been the breeding and distribution of day old chicks at subsidised prices. This is a programme that has been going on for a long period of time. However, the spread of small scale poultry farming does not appear to be commensurate with this long drawn out effort. It is recommended that it would be a useful study to identify even in broad terms the reasons for the relative failure of this extension effort. This recommendation is made not with a view to apportioning blame or praise but rather for the purpose of understanding the success and failures of this State effort for the purpose of drawing lessons in implementation of a broad poultry development programme in the coming years.

A LARGE VACUUM in the development of the poultry industry in Sri Lanka appears to be the absence of an institution which is devoted entirely to education and training specifically to the poultry industry. The Dairy Farming Training Institute at Undugoda in the Kegalle district is providing a very valuable service to the dairy sector. It is recommended that an institution on similar lines be established in a suitable location for training and educating official personnel as well as farmers in all aspects of poultry development. Such an institution should provide theoretically and practically oriented courses of very short-term and medium duration (e.g. one day to three months). The courses should deal with not only technical matters but also with the socio-economic conditions of small scale poultry producers, the marketing structure, pricing policies and governmental policy frames as they are developed from time to time. Such a school will help to provide a sufficient body of expertise in poultry development in the official and



that of the common Cabbage White, will strip Cassias private sectors and be instrumental in upgrading the technical and managerial competence of small scale and medium scale poultry entrepreneurs. The original structure of such a school should be designed in a manner flexible enough to draw on the expertise on poultry available anywhere in the island. The course, in fact, could be conducted not only at a central institution when established but also at regional and village levels.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that duck farming for eggs and meat be given high priority as a sub-sector within the poultry industry. The reasons for making these recommendations are explained in para 2.4.3 of the study. In essence, the reasons for recommending such an emphasis on duck farming are: (i) its is a relatively hardy bird which is more disease resistant; (ii) it thrives on wet, marshy lands and large extents of fallow lands unsuitable for other uses; (iii) management problems are relatively simple; (iv) feed problems are minimal, unlike in the case of high laying poultry or efficient broiler outputs while production (eggs and meat) is high in both backyard and commercial breeds of ducks; (v) the duck egg and meat are nutritionally no less efficient than the poultry products.

*in view of the special emphasis placed on the subject in the study, it is recommended that a small study group be appointed to examine and report on development of duck rearing in Sri Lanka in all its aspects.*

If the expansion as envisaged in this study and recommendations are to be realised, it will be necessary to consider stabilising and innovating institutional arrangements for the marketing of eggs and poultry meat for the benefit of both producers and consumers. It is envisaged that these recommendations will be considered as a medium term perspective.



THE GARDENS OF TAPROBANE

By The Count de Mauny - 5

## Snakes and Insects

January 6, TAPROBANE knows no snakes. The sacred cobra does not cross the strait—still, one never can tell. One fine morning in November my *appu* found a python, 13 feet long, curled around a coconut palm; it had evidently crossed the strait at low tide. The police were called in, and the inspector shattered the python's head. Two pairs of shoes are all that remain of the reptile. Scorpions, tarantulas, centipedes, which are common guests on the mainland, are not to be found on this "isle of dreams", but on  
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must be careful to inspect new *cadjans* when they are brought over, as they often conceal scorpions, centipedes, and even snakes. Mosquitoes, which dislike the salt air, make only a rare appearance after a spell of wet weather; then they are of the harmless species, and Weligama Bay was almost the only place spared during the last year's epidemic of malaria. But we have cicadas and grasshoppers of all kinds, as well as the Praying Mantis. Terribly human it seems, salamm-ing right and left with folded hands, hiding its sanguinary instincts behind its sanctimonious mask. It will fight its own kind in duels which often end in death. There is one Mantis on Taprobane in which I am particularly interested. We have become quite intimate. Being of the same emerald-green as the leaf on which it clings and feeds, it can be detected only by the bows with which it honours my approach. I call it, and it turns its triangular head towards me, stares at me with its round eyes and salaams. Yesterday it indulged in the familiarity of jumping on my arm and settling there, and after a while it deliberately walked back to its favourite leaf. I have imported some Leaf insects, fascinating creatures which lay eggs that look like nasturtium seeds. They are so exactly like leaves that other insects, I am told, will nibble them.

DO NOT SPEAK TOO LOUDLY OF ANTS, for fear of attracting their attention. Their name is legion and they are a great trial. White ants—which, by the way are not ants at all, and do not bear the slightest resemblance to them—will spread, in a single night, a sheltering layer of earth over the bark of a tree or piece of wood which takes their fancy, and if undisturbed they will demolish it in no time. They have a way, especially in thundery weather, of smerging, equipped with wings, from a hole in the ground. They invade the house, extinguish lamps, shed their wings and die. They are eaten by the coolies, with curry or by other insects. They disappear as suddenly as they appear, leaving no trace but their wings behind them. Millions of tiny ants spend their time walking to and fro across the paths and up the trees and walls, settling on old leaves and fragile shoots. They do no harm whatsoever but are rather a nuisance, for they seem to delight in cocktails, and have a knack of getting into the glass almost as soon as it is filled. Beware of the detestable red ants, which furrow the paths, watch you coming, and pounce upon you. Their bite is so painful that it will cause palpitation of the heart. Only a strong concoction of oil and soft soap will check them for a time, but nothing dismisses them permanently except a change in the weather.

CATERPILLARS are a pest. A vulgar-looking black and white caterpillar attacks the Spider lilies, and eats the flowers and foliage, leaving behind it, when its murderous work is done, a disgusting black mess. The only way to destroy it is to remove it by hand and throw it into the sea. Another caterpillar,



of all their leaves in a night, and it does not spare the buds and flowers. I tried spraying and other remedies without success, and finally wrote for advice to the Peradeniya Gardens. "Import birds," was the answer; easier said than done. The other day I discovered, hanging by three threads from an Oleander branch, an object exactly like an aluminium lantern, about an inch in height. Two medium-sized caterpillars, brown with horns, mounted guard on a leaf nearby. A tiresome little golden insect settles on the back of the new Ipomoea leaves, when it perforates and poisons them. The leaf, brown and rotten, falls the next day; the only remedy is to catch the creature and crush it.

Every evening, at nine, Raman comes with his torch, and we start "poochi" hunting. To take life is against his principles so the dirty work falls upon me. Nothing escapes him when his plants are in danger, and the insects, being hypnotized by the light of the torch are an easy prey. We find on the path especially before or after a shower, a number of hermit-crabs of all sizes and shapes, some looking like large snails, others in turret shells. They do no harm to the garden, but they are unpleasant customers if caught the wrong way, when they use their sharp and poisonous pincers on your fingers. I have a mongoose, and two Persian cats—Mr. Blue and Miss Black—which I call my garden coolies; they are passionately fond of spiders, hunt for them all night, and deposit their game on the steps of the loggia.

ATTRACTED BY THE FLOWERS, THE BIRD-BATH, and the carefully chosen trees, the birds have made a sanctuary of Taprobane, and each season brings new species. What a blessing they are! Not only do they add to the beauty of the garden by their plumage but they also enliven it with their twittering voices for the birds of Ceylon make no attempt to rival the nightingale. They are moreover excellent gardeners, for they eat all sorts of insects. What should I do without the birds? Everything must be done to induce new species to remain. They have made the bird bath their meeting place, and they loudly discuss who is to have the privilege of the first dip. Kingfishers, Golden Orioles (especially at this time of the year), Honey birds and Barbets are regular bathers. After their ablutions and their toilet they need a constitutional, so they fly from tree to tree, sipping nectar. They go on chattering and exercising all the morning, and some of them—the Golden Oriole, for instance—do not rest even when Nature, at midday, goes to sleep. A couple of Golden Orioles settled on the island last week, and are noisily busy the whole day, discussing, no doubt, the problems of next building. A dozen glorified Honey birds, twice the size of the ordinary ones, feast on the golden flowers of a Tecoma and seem to enjoy themselves, thoroughly. A white Paradise Fly catcher,

with its swaying tail, consisting of two long feathers, has made his appearance today for the first time. Sea birds sometimes fly around the island, and usually herald rough weather. My ambition is to induce the parroquets to come; they will do so, no doubt, when they have discovered that the island can provide seeds to their liking.

Knowing how fond I am of birds—except crows—a friend of mine presented me with two charming Egrets, but their shrieks were thoroughly unpleasant, especially when my dog went for them. Besides, they had a fishy smell which did not harmonise with the perfume of the flowers, and finally I found them, one evening comfortably settled in my bed. This was too much for me, and I gave them away to a friend who had a pet crocodile. He may have found the happy trio lying on his pillow. Another friend offered me a couple of beautiful golden and silver pheasants. I could picture them sweeping the lawn with their princely tails, blending the precious gems of their plumage with the hues of my flowers. How attractive it sounds. Unfortunately, they insisted upon being treated like pashas; hot early breakfast, imported seeds worth their weight in gold and unheard-of delicacies for tea and early dinner. My new Boarders would have meant an extra servant. Such luxury was hardly seemly in these days of depressions and abortive conferences, and I gave up the idea of keeping pheasants, however beautiful they might have looked in my garden. I nearly fell back on peacocks, but as this would have meant giving up flowers, I did not hesitate, and gave up peacocks, having come to the conclusion that one has to be very careful in the choice of birds and animals before giving them the *entree* to a garden.

*To be continued*

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EASY AND EFFECTIVE

## Storage for Vegetables

Potatoes, root vegetables and cabbage are a part of the staple diet in all temperate countries and many tropical regions. They are expected to be available in reasonable quantities throughout most of the year at a modest price, and to be of high quality. Efficient storage procedures are thus vital in the agricultural trade in this produce. *The International Organization for Standardization (ISO)* has just published **ISO 6822: Potatoes, Root Vegetables and Round-Headed Cabbages—Guide To Storage In Silos Using Forced Ventilation**. This International Standard describes a method of storage which relies on the most recent procedures and has as its objective a reduction of losses of the products, and saving in man-hours. The method applies to vegetables grown

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for seeds and for fodder, as well as for human consumption. It is particularly efficient in moderate climate where the average night temperature during harvest is from 0 to + 20°C.

In this form of storage, a shallow pit is dug and covered with a wooden trellis. The crop is stored on this trellis and covered, leaving a ventilation opening at the top. The pit is ventilated by distribution channels in such a way that air passes through the crop from below. Silos may be quite small—as little as 3m by 15m—or up to 25m by 100m. The new ISO standard outlines the basic requirements for efficient application of this storage method, given the usual proviso that the crop be suitable, i.e. usually of a late variety, healthy, and grown without abundant water or abundant nitrogenous fertilizer. The preparation of the site and construction of the silos are described, as well as the system of forced ventilation itself, which is quite simple but requires close control.

Certain factors related to construction of the silo have to be taken into account, such as the provision for loading and unloading the produce. The ISO standard deals with these requirements, which also include reference to important procedures in loading. The standard specifies necessary measures for checking of the storage conditions and the crop, and preparation of silos before the storage season. ISO standards provide general guidance on storage for a wide range of agricultural products, including potatoes, round-headed cabbage and a number of root vegetables such as onions and carrots. Specific requirements for storage in the open of potatoes and round-headed cabbage have also been published. *ISO is based in Switzerland at: Case postale 56, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland. Tel: (002) 34 12 40.*

*This method of storage could be tried in the Nuwara Eliya and other high elevation places in Sri Lanka.—Ed.*

## GOVERNMENT NOTICE

### Lease of Boutique sites on the Route to Sri Pada—Ratnapura District.

N1024:

Boutique Sites on Sri Pada Route in Ratnapura District will be leased by Public Tender on 31.10.1984 for a period of 10 years commencing from 1984/85 Pilgrim Season.

For details please see part I section (II B) of the Gazette No. 319 of 12.10.84 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
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## SCIENCE, DEVELOPMENT and MAN

DARWIN CENTENARY

### I. Before Darwin

(Extracted from His Martin Wickremasinghe Trust Lecture)

By Prof. A. C. J. Weerakoon

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, in 1882, there died in England one of the world's greatest scientists Charles Darwin. Few men have had a greater effect than he—with his theories about the evolutionary origin of living beings—has had on our science, our cultures and our very lives. All peoples of the past have believed that the Universe, the Earth and its living things, including Man, have come into existence by one or more acts of creation by some supernatural power; all peoples, with one exception. That exception was the Ionian Greek people who flourished from the 7th to the 5th century B.C. The cosmogonies of the Ionian natural philosophers were primitive by modern standards, but they did attempt to explain what happened in the universe and world around them by the interplay of natural forces. For example Anaximander (611-547 B.C.) of Miletus, a flourishing Ionian city-state on the Mediterranean coast of what is today called Turkey, basing himself on what he knew of the processes of the kitchen, the potter's yard, the smithy, and so on, concluded that in the beginning, a long time ago, there was the "apeiron", a single substance which was the origin of all things. It had all properties and also an eternal motion within itself. As a result of this motion the properties gradually separated—into a spherical envelope of Fire on the outside, within which were, in sequence, envelopes of Mist, and of Moisture round a spherical core of Earth. With time the Moisture layer, warmed by the Fire, gave rise to more Mist and itself decreased in amount, permitting the Earth to emerge.

LIVING ORGANISM appeared in the concentrating remnants of the Moisture. The Mist, added to from the Fire-warmed Moisture, pushed the Layer of Fire outwards, more and more, till at last it burst, leaving tracts or wheels of Fire, enclosed in tubes of Mist, revolving round the Earth. Through holes in these tubes we saw the glowing Fire as the stars, the planets, the moon and the sun. Temporary blocking, partial or complete, of these holes we saw as partial or total eclipses of sun or moon and also as the wax-



ing and waning of the moon. Life was inherent in all matter, being its motion; as it got concentrated with evaporation of the Moisture, living organisms became recognisable. Fish appeared first. As Earth emerged and dried into land, some of the fish, finding themselves on drying Earth, adapted themselves to life on dry land and became air-breathing animals and, ultimately, Man. These Ionians often found strange stone fishes—fossil fish we would call them today—miles away from the sea. They explained them quite simply, and correctly, as being the remains of fish that had lived in ancient seas which had once, long ago, covered these Ionian lands. Their dead bodies had been buried and preserved in the silt. When the sea retreated and its bed was raised up to form dry land the silt was converted into rock and with it, the fish-bodies into stone. *But this period of enlightenment and of bold self-confident inquiry did not last. As the Ionian city-states of free men gradually changed into city-states organised more and more around the labour of slaves, so all scientific inquiry became the pursuit of men of leisure who did not work but maintained themselves off the labour of slaves. Not surprisingly this was reflected as a change in their outlook.*

PLATO (427-367 B.C.), one of the greatest of these new Greek philosophers, argued that it is not the man who makes a thing but the man who uses it who has or can acquire true knowledge of it. (Naturally, for the maker was a slave). And Plato taught that the only way to acquire that true, "scientific", knowledge was to look inwards, into one's self, with one's mind's eye. Observational and experimental studies were neglected and despised; reality itself was devalued; the stars and other celestial bodies became objects of worship. The evolutionary ideas of the Ionians were derided; Plato, for example, claiming in his book *Timaeus* that "... the fourth kind of animal, whose habitat is water (was created) from the most utterly mindless of men". So much for Anaximander who had taught that fish had gradually evolved into Man. So, from about the 5th Century B.C. until the publication, about 24 centuries later, of Darwin's theories in 1859, the view commonly accepted by men was creationist: species were created by supernatural powers, and once created remained unchanged through countless cycles of birth, growth, death and decay.

And the fossils—what of them? On the authority of Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), another of the post-Ionian Greeks, fossils were said to be the products of a mysterious force, the *Vis Plasticus*, which modelled in stone the forms of various animals and plants. (This force was claimed by some to emanate from the stars). Later, on the authority of the Biblical story of a great Flood unleashed by an angry God, a rival theory arose; according to which fossils were

the petrified remains of living things drowned in that Deluge. The species of today were either new creations or descendants of the earlier creation who had survived the Flood; in either case a species once created did not change. For hundreds of years it was unsafe to advocate any more natural explanation for fossils than one or other of these two rival theories *Vis Plasticus* and *Deluge*.

THE CENTURIES ROLLED BY. Man climbed showily and painfully back to rational attitudes. Before he was ready to consider explanations for the natural development of the Earth and of its inhabitants, he had first to change his attitude towards the celestial bodies and to learn to understand their movements on the basis of natural and calculable forces. This he achieved by the beginning of the 18th Century through the work of many great astronomers, physicists and mathematicians some of the most important of whom were Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Giordano Bruno (who was burned at the stake in 1600 A.D., for this part in Man's upward climb), Galileo (who escaped a similar fate in 1633), Kepler and Newton.

In his *Principia Mathematica* (1687) Newton enabled Man for the first time to picture a Universe which worked quite independently of supernatural forces; and a great liberation of men's minds followed upon this. It was only after this liberation that men were in a position to examine with any reasonableness, explanations of the natural origin of their world and its inhabitants. In 1796 the astronomer Laplace explained, in his "Nebular Hypothesis", how the Sun and the planets including the Earth, had gradually condensed from a huge rotating gaseous mist; in 1830 the geologist Lyell showed how the structure of the Earth itself gradually changed, enormous geological features being the result of long-continued operation of small, quite ordinary, processes; and in 1859 Darwin published his Theory that species were not immutable but had themselves arisen by a slow and natural process of change.

*To be continued*

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WORLD WAR THREE

## May Bankrupt U. S.

Washington. World War II bankrupted Britain and World War III may bankrupt the United States, according to the latest figures. The US is now spending nearly 30 billion dollars on defence annually. Yet it can hardly fight a major war for 30 days. The US Administration says this is a great improvement on the situation four years ago when it could fight only

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for 14 days. To achieve a capability of fighting a major war for a month it has, since, spent over 1,000 billion dollars. The goal is to be able to fight for 90 days the time required to put the US on a real war-footing. According to Assistant Secretary of Defence Lawrence J. Korb, it will take seven more Reagan defence budgets to reach that standard. To pay, feed and clothe an American soldier costs 35,000 dollars a year which means that the US will have to spend 420 billion dollars on manpower alone to return to the World War II force of 12.1 million.

Active duty military personnel account for only one-fourth of the defence budget. This means the total defence cost in a major war will be over 1,600 billion dollars a year and there is no way of raising that kind of money. Nuclear war offers a shortcut but after initial resistance Administration scientists are examining computer models furnished by well known scientists in the US and elsewhere which show that all life will be extinguished on the planet if even one-fourth of the existing weapons are unleashed. Administrations confidence that nuclear rubble would not blot out the sun's life-giving energy from the earth, has been based on an earlier study which said that when cities burn, as did Hiroshima and Nagasaki, at most half degree temperature change from average can be expected from a 10,000 megaton nuclear exchange. But the scientists had only figured the problems created by dust. Incredibly, they forgot about the soot. Dust only scatters sunlight but soot absorbs it. Scores of scientists now back this new conclusion. If the new calculations show a significant climatic effect from soot, nuclear winter would mean the end of civilization. No country would survive, possibly not even a family. . . . PT/.

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## DEVELOPMENT AND

# Transnationals

Calling transnational corporations "the most dynamic, yet destructive agents in the world economy", over 100 leading critics from throughout the world have announced a major new initiative to organize a "transnational citizen" movement to counter corporate abuses and promote alternative forms of development. The announcement concluded a four-day conference in Washington DC, entitled "Meeting the Corporate Challenge", which was organized by the Institute for Policy Studies/Transnational Institute and attended by representatives from the Nestle Boycott campaign, the Inter-faith Center on Corporate Responsibility, the American Friends Service Commi-

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tee, Corporate Campaign, Inc., and from countries as distant as Brazil and the Philippines. The conference brought together academics and activists from around the world representing workers, consumers, churches, environmentalists, women's groups and indigenous peoples—to discuss the role of transnational corporations in the global economy and to propose steps to counter their harmful effects. Funding for the gathering was provided by church and private foundation sources.

The conference saw transnational corporations as playing a role dominating jobs, resources, economic decision, making, world trade, production and the distribution of goods and services. In this, they are seen as acting frequently at the expense of people's needs—at the expense of workers in general and female workers in particular. Many of their practices were called into question during the conference. Participants discussed and assessed the effectiveness of local, national and international campaigns (such as the boycott of Nestle products) and other efforts to influence corporate behaviour, and highlighted areas where future work and broader popular alliances are needed. Plans were made to establish a global clearing-house to facilitate future research and action by corporate critics. To be based initially at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, the clearing-house is intended to amplify the effect of individual groups by helping them to share information and to strategize and act in concert.

Specific objectives of the new initiative include: (1) disclosing transnationals' operating methods and behaviour; (2) developing tools for regulating their activities at the domestic and international levels; (3) replacing the development model dominated by transnational capital with one based on cooperation, democracy, and respect for the diversity of cultures, nations and ways of organizing production, finance, and society; (4) examining, and acting to halt, the role of transnationals in the world-wide expansion of militarism; (5) exploring ways to regain popular control over the development and dissemination of technologies so as to serve the needs of people rather than profit; (6) developing resources and expertise to communicate the issues and consequences of transnational corporations to the news media and the general public; (7) establishing in North America and other regions transnational information exchanges linking corporate researchers with workers' organizations and other social groups concerned with corporate power. *Development Forum* (A UN publication).

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## Foot Power

Humble as it is, the bicycle may be ushering in a "power revolution" in the Indian countryside. Research carried out at the Rural Appropriate Technology Centre at Guindy in Madras has clearly indicated the successful possibility of the power of the human feet, applied through the pedals of a bicycle being used for a number of agricultural and home applications. Even some small industrial machines can be operated by pedal power. A most remarkable machine is the pedal powered paddy thresher, similar to the Japanese one-man tread type. The threshing is done by a rotating drum, the shaft of which is connected by a V-belt to the pedalling mechanism. As the pedals achieve about 70 r.p.m., the drum rotates at 490 r.p.m. The contraption can thresh about 600 kg of paddy in an eight-hour period. Its threshing efficiency proved to be 100 per cent in field trials as against 85 to 90 per cent in hand, foot or animal threshing. A ground-nut decorticator with 97 per cent efficiency, which can decortify 40 kg of pods per hour has also been successfully tested.

Another innovation is a pedal powered pump. A commercially available piston pump of 25 x 18 mm was activated by pedal power, generated by a modified bicycle. Field tests have shown that upto 1000 litres of water can be lifted by this machine. This pump can be used to get water for household purposes and irrigation on a small scale. A wood working lathe and wood cutting saw have also been fabricated. The lathe can turn our legs for cots, tables, chairs etc. The saw can give wooden scantlings and planks upto a thickness of 18 mm. A meta-working lathe of three feet size also has been fabricated. All these have been successfully field tested. A wet grinder, with an in-built pedalling system, worked by one person is another innovation. It has a capacity of 1.5 litres and it can grind soaked rice or pulses into paste in 20 minutes. Since a bicycle is common enough on the Indian countryside and since it can be used with little or no modifications to operate these machines, it is hoped that pedal power will make itself felt on the Indian countryside in a big way. An added advantage is that these require virtually no maintenance. Small and marginal farmers, those seeking self-employment, village artisans, housewives and all those people who either have no direct access to commercial sources of energy or have not the financial capability to go in for energised machines stand to gain a lot by pedal power.

Yojana

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## RELIGION, CULTURE BOOKS

TAO TE CHING

### Living By The Tao

By Denis Wright  
in the Hemisphere

*Empty yourself of everything.  
The ten thousand things rise and fall while the  
Self watches their return.  
They grow and flourish and then return to the source.  
Returning to the source is stillness, which is the  
way of nature . . . .  
Being at one with the Tao is eternal.  
And though the body dies, the Tao will never pass  
away.*

THIS IS ONE of the many beautiful and perceptive verses of the *Tao te Ching*, a guide to life written in China twenty-five centuries ago but which has perhaps more relevance now than it has ever had before. *Tao te Ching* means 'the Way and its Power', and from this source the philosophy of Taoism evolved. To those who seek an existence free from the trials and stresses of modern living, the *Tao te Ching* offers a way of understanding the real nature of things which can be applied to everyday life. The *Tao te Ching* was reputed to have been written by *Lao Tsu*, who, if he was indeed a real person, lived at about the time of *Confucius*, in the sixth century BC. The classical sources are quite definite about his existence, but there is nothing which proves conclusively that such a man ever existed. The story goes that *Lao Tsu* discovered the meaning of existence towards the end of his life, but knowing that the reality of existence could not be explained in finite terms, he was unwilling to attempt to put into words what he had discovered of the Way and its Power. So, the story goes, he intended to depart this life with his secret intact, but was persuaded in the last moment as it were, to write down as best he could his philosophy of life. The *Tao te Ching* was the result. Whether the story is true or not hardly matters, but the profound and remarkable verses of the *Tao te Ching* are a living testimony to a great mind at work.

WHAT THEN is the *Tao*, or the Way? The term is used by *Lao Tsu* to describe the perfect but mysterious workings of the universe, and the approach which people should take to act in accord with it. But to

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get the message across to others is an extraordinarily difficult, nearly impossible task. 'Those who know', says *Lao Tzu*, 'don't say—and those who say, don't know!' But all is not lost. By the use of some beautiful images, the sage has managed to give some insight into the Way to those who are receptive to it. The message of the *Tao te Ching* is transmitted through several principles and concepts, amongst which the most important are what might be called the law of eversed effect, the concept of no-action (*wu-wei*), the *yin-yang* theory (which relates to the unity of opposites), and the images of water and the Un-carved Block. The law of reversed effect concerns the principle that the harder one struggles to achieve something, the more hopeless the task tends to become. The swimmer who panics will not be able to save himself even though he would have the capacity to do so in a relaxed state of mind. The singer who strains for the high note often fails to achieve it; he or she has to learn the natural process of producing high notes. When you try to float on the water, you sink; but if you relax, it comes naturally. Or, in spiritual terms, 'whosoever would save his soul shall lose it'. *The implication in all these examples is not that people do not have the capacity to achieve what they want, but that they usually go about it the wrong way. They fail to understand the real nature of the thing they are trying to do. The Taoist is the person who attempts to understand the true nature of things, and where one stands in relation to those things.*

BY CONTRACT, modern society tends to seek the solution of force rather than understanding. That is the very nature of the modern phenomenon of ecological pollution. For example, the earliest forms of soap were composed of natural substances such as animal fats and abrasives, but present-day specialised detergents contain all sorts of powerful and inorganic chemicals. Certainly the product may make the sink sparkle, but what happens to the waste beyond the drain-pipe? Modern science develops drugs—refined chemicals which tend to have side effects the researcher may never be aware of. The Taoist seeks herbal and other natural remedies which produce the useful effects of the refined drugs without the unhealthy side effects. The herbal basis of Chinese medicine and the wonderful knowledge of human physiology and nervous system which goes into the medical technique of acupuncture were strongly influenced by Taoist philosophy throughout Chinese history. *Western society with its philosophy of science tries to classify knowledge and compartmentalise it, and this approach carries over into every aspect of life. To compartmentalise knowledge to the Taoist is rather like trying to wrap up a parcel of water, because all categories of things are likely to be inaccurate and incomplete.*

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To every rule there is an exception. The Taoist solution is deceptively simple: make no rules and you will have no exceptions. Make no laws and you will have no wrongdoers. Understand the true nature of things and there is nothing more that you need to know. 'All can know good as good only because there is evil.' This of course, ill sound unsatisfactory to those who have been conditioned to living in our sort of society, but there is much more to it than this. The point Taoism stresses is that striving at the wrong time or in the wrong way will lead to the wrong result. The oak tree, says the *Tao te Ching*, will be uprooted in the fury of the tempest, although it has tremendous strength. The reed, soft and flexible, will bend with the most violent wind and survive.

*Attending fully and becoming supple,  
Can you be as a new born babe?*

A baby does indeed 'attend fully' i.e., it is totally aware. Its senses and instincts have not been blunted by the socialising process through which life will take it. If people can retain the naturalness of the infant as far as that is possible, then true awareness will be part of normal consciousness and not just buried somewhere deep in the sub-conscious mind. The general idea is that ill-considered changes made by man to his total environment will ultimately produce the wrong result, and unhappiness is bound to follow. To the Taoist, non-action is the principle which guides one's life.

*Tao abides in non-action,  
Yet nothing is left undone.  
If kings and lords observed this,  
The ten thousand things would develop naturally. . . .  
In the universe the difficult things are done as if  
they are easy.  
In the universe great acts are made up of small deeds.  
The softest thing in the universe.  
Overcomes the hardest thing in the universe.  
That without substance can enter where there is  
no room.  
Hence / know the value of non-action.*

As may be seen from these verses, 'non-action' does not mean 'inaction' or 'doing-nothing', but relates to the earlier point about the law of reversed effect. It means doing things in what may best be described as a 'natural' way. It is necessary to understand or be in accord with the natural laws which govern the universe, not those which we arbitrarily make for ourselves. When applied to the mind, it is a state of what may be described as 'creative quietude', or 'total consciousness', of which our normal sensory-intellectual consciousness is just a part. The artist does not create under stress. Our



best thoughts often come when we are not consciously thinking about a particular problem. What might be called the sub-conscious mind (for want of a better term) has grasped the whole problem and not just one conception of it. In this state the whole self is, in other words, in a state of harmony, receptivity and awareness.

*To be continued*

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BOOK REVIEW

## Constitutional Crisis In Sri Lanka

**SRI LANKA, THE CRISIS OF THE ANGLO AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL TRADITIONS IN A DEVELOPING SOCIETY**, Radhika Coomaraswamy, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., Rs. 95. In this small but interesting volume, which is an incisive analysis of the constitutional framework of Sri Lanka, there is a brief epilogue which epitomises the essence of the work it relates to the ethnic violence that broke out in July and this is what the writer has to say in many ways the 1983 riots signalled an end to the "liberal" consciousness which had been the basis of elite decision-making. *The hall-mark of this liberalism was the tolerance extended to the cry for a separate State, a tolerance reminiscent, for example, of the Canadian approach to Quebec nationalists. That tolerance is no longer a reality in Sri Lanka.* The author has described the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution as one done "in haste". Of the army, she says that it is no longer the loyal servant of those in power. "The Sandhurst trained commanders have gradually faded away and are being replaced by new officers who perhaps see for themselves a different role in national affairs". A point which President Jayewardene should have to take note of. There is a timely warning that if the Indian initiative on the Tamil problem which may lead to positive result fails, the cycle of violence "will only escalate". "The ideas and institutions spelled out in the text of the book will be of no significance in a Sri Lanka where rational dialogue and democratic decision making have given way to irrationality and authoritarianism".

TAKING THE 1972 CONSTITUTION for a searching probe, the author has said that it did not embody a concept of separation of powers and despite the probe, the author has said that it did not embody a heralding of parliamentary sovereignty (in the Republican Constitution) Parliament had become more of an instrument for "ratifying" the decisions of the supreme policy framing body, the Cabinet, than the forum where the Government and the Opposition

would normally seek to accommodate each other. And in the words of the author this state of affairs aided by large parliamentary majorities would characterise Sri Lankan political life in the 70's and 80's. Further comments is superfluous. And it would be interesting to note that under the 1972 Constitution "a declaration of emergency limited parliamentary scrutiny of executive acts, prohibited judicial review and suspended the Bill of Rights protecting individual citizens". In short the executive was given power to rule without accountability. *Tracing the history of the 1972 Constitution to "the Sinhala Only policies of the Fifties" the author says that despite the constant agitation of the Tamil political parties, the Constitution enshrined the expectations of Sinhala Buddhist nationalists "without a single concession to the Tamil-speaking minority". The Tamil political parties united under the banner calling for a separate state of Tamil Eelam in the North and East precisely for the reason that the Government totally disregarded their demands culminating "in the growth of youthful political movements which were soon to use violence as a means of political expression. This is a highly realistic assessment of the position.*

FOLLOWING THE UNITED NATIONAL PARTY'S LANDSLIDE VICTORY in the 1977 elections under the leadership of "an iron willed strategist such as J. R. Jayewardene a new Constitution came into being in 1978. Its main concern was stability which found expression in the introduction of the presidential system of government and an electoral scheme of proportional representation. Even granting that developing societies require stability the author has given expression to the feeling that the presidential system is not so much the "last instance of democracy but the first step towards dictatorship". There is also the fear that the concentration of power in a highly exalted office may have disturbing consequences. The author has been severely critical of the 1978 Constitution though praise has been showered on some aspects of it, *first* it is remarkably unconcerned with technological improvements which would update the institutional processes of government. *Secondly*, it displays in its text an unusual fear of an independent judiciary and an independent public service. *Thirdly*, neither Parliament nor the bureaucracy has been granted incentives to create processes which will meet the challenges of a modern nation State. *Fourthly*, the Constitution as enacted did not contain any structures for participation at the local levels though legislation for decentralised participation to meet some of the demands of the Tamil minority was instituted at the end of 1981.

BUT THE DISTRICT COUNCILS, the author affirms, did not allow for much autonomy at the local level since the national executive and Parliament maintained strict control. With the Tamils demanding

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a separate State any scheme of decentralisation was seen by the Sinhalese mainstream as being a concession and it is in this context the author would have it that the possibility of further decentralisation to ensure maximum participation and autonomy at local levels would require a conceptual separation of the issues of decentralisation from those of ethnic rivalry. The author approvingly quotes the warning of F. A. Hayek that a "free Constitution is a licence to the majority in Parliament to act as arbitrarily as it pleases to describe the situation in Sri Lanka" from 1971 to the present. A stimulating work covering other aspects such as political participation, fundamental rights, women's status etc., and dealing with some of the ideological conflicts which find expression in the Sri Lanka Constitution. The text of the 1978 Constitution finds a place as an appendix and there is a useful bibliography for those interested in a further study.

M. Pattabhiram in *The Hindu*.

## FOREIGN PRESS and SRI LANKA

A BRITISH VIEW

### Call In The Professionals

*London:* Supposing you are a small country with not much of an army and you find yourself having to deal with an increasingly confident band of guerrillas. To whom do you turn for advice? Sri Lanka first looked to Britain, the former colonial power, and to the United States which, it assumed, would wish to help a pro-western government keen on free enterprise. Neither showed eagerness to send advisers. So Sri Lanka appealed to Israel. "Israel was Sri Lanka's last resort", the Sri Lankan defence minister said on August 25th. The number of Israeli military advisers in Sri Lanka is officially put at 10, but there are probably about two dozen, training Sri Lankans at a military establishment near Colombo. They belong to Shin Beth, the Israeli internal security agency and a cousin of Mossad, the intelligence service. It takes a long time to train someone in counter-insurgency, and it is unlikely that any Israeli-taught men have gone into action against the Tamil guerrillas fighting for a break-away state in northern Sri Lanka. Yet such is the Israelis' reputation for toughness that already acts of violence are being ascribed to them. Last month some buildings in a Tamil village near Jaffna were deliberately set on fire—by the Israelis, said some Tamils, for isn't this the way they deal with opponents at home?

It was the Tamils themselves, said Sri Lankan officials, who did it to discredit the army, and this is quite possible: Tamil guerrillas have committed a number of ruthless acts, including the murder of

Tamils holding government jobs. If the soldiers did fire the village it was probably as a result of indiscipline and ill-temper not of a deliberate order. The weaknesses of the Sri Lankan army units in Tamil country are that they are inexperienced, do not speak the local language and feel that they are surrounded by a hostile population even though most Tamils are law-abiding and disapprove of the violence. The government is anxious to make plain that it does not condone army misbehaviour. Some 36 officers have been confined to barracks pending an inquiry into allegations that the army went berserk in the towns of Mannar and Point Pedro after six soldiers had been killed in an ambush. At the very least, Israeli training will make the Sri Lankans more disciplined.

*All the same, the use of the Israelis has produced political problems for the government.* Sri Lanka does not have diplomatic relations with Israel and formally supports the Palestinian Arabs' cause. It was acutely embarrassed when the *Jerusalem Post* published an interview with a visiting Sri Lankan official, Mr. Douglas Liyanage, in which he was quoted as saying that, if Arab states could have diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka, why not Israel? Mr. Liyanage has denied saying this, and has resigned. President Jayewardene has sent a somewhat crawling letter to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia reiterating Sri Lanka's support for the Palestinians.

The Tamils' Eelamist People's Radical Front has close ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Its guerrillas have received training in PLO camps in southern Lebanon. A number of them were detained when Israel over-ran the camps during its invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. This PLO link swayed the Israelis when Sri Lanka came shopping for advice.

Under an agreement with the United States, Israel is not supposed to help other governments with their security unless Israel's own security is involved. As Tamils are being trained just across Israel's border, this condition was felt to be met. The Americans made up for their own cold-shouldering of Sri Lanka by providing a go-between, General Vernon Walters, who helped to draft the agreement it signed last May with Israel. The government is able to justify calling in the Israelis on practical grounds, and at least the majority Sinhalese are not likely to object. The worst aspect of the conflict is that it is taking on the habitual pattern of separatist struggles. A well-meaning government is trying to come to a compromise with peaceably-minded Tamils, while less accommodating Sinhalese and Tamil extremists continue to raise the temperature. On September 10th six soldiers were killed when a lorry hit a landmine. On the same day four guerrillas were reported to have been killed. Sri Lanka is not yet at civil war. But chaos is doing well.

*The Economist, September 15, 1984.*



## DEFENCE TENDERS — 2

IS IT NOT TRUE that the letter we published in this Column last week about "Defence Ministry Tenders for the Purchase of Rifles" has compelled certain big shots to jump out of their seats? That before we come to this we propose to set out the continuation of Appendix One of the letter? That the first part had appeared in our last issue? That it went on to say: "It is said that a total outsider who knows nothing about rifles (in relative terms) has been invited by the Ministry to criticise the Army's selection because the US Army and the Canadian Army has selected the M16A2. If this is true, it is a flagrant violation of professional ethics, and might constitute adequate reason to question the motives of the Ministry. It is also understood that the Army Commander has addressed a strong letter of protest concerning this and has also refuted the criticisms levelled at the Army. With regard to the purchase of the M16A2 rifle by Canada, it has now been revealed in Defence Journals that this was tied to a barter agreement between the Canadian and Belgian governments, involving an understanding that Canada would purchase the FN Rifle if the Belgian Army purchased the Canadian made Iltis Jeep vehicle. The Belgian Army however, on their own evaluation selected the Mercedes Benz Jeep vehicle, and as a result the Canadian Government purchased only the FN made Minimi light machine gun. (By the way, an endorsement of the quality of FN weapons is evident from the fact that the FN made Minimi machine gun has been adopted by both the US and Canadian armies, and also by the Sri Lanka Army which selected it before both the US and Canadian forces). It is also pointed out that if it is to be considered that Canada has purchased the M16A2, then it must also be considered that Sweden, Indonesia and a number of other armies including Sri Lanka has purchased the FN rifle. Indeed, the fact that the Sri Lanka Army has selected the FN rifle is more than adequate reason for the Navy to do the same. The FN rifle has been in use for the past four years. The M16A2 rifle (in the present configuration) came into production only in late 1983, and has so far been selected for purchase only by the US army, Canada and the Sri Lanka Police. The Sri Lanka Police was ordered by MoD to purchase a Singapore made 5.56 Calibre rifle in 1983 despite the Army having reported adversely on this rifle. About 150 or 250 of these were purchased without any evaluation and it is reliably understood that these have since been condemned and that M16A2 rifles have now been purchased, also without any form of evaluation. The police were not consulted before either of these purchases, and in fact, a senior police officer who dared to question was summarily transferred. Why is the

MoD so concerned that the Army, Navy, Air Force and Police should all purchase the M16A2? If it is for standardisation, the logical choice should have been the FN weapon selected in 1983 by the Army, as there are already 1,800 rifles of this make in service. In addition to this, the bulk of the rifles of the previous standard, i.e., 7.62 Calibre in the Army, Navy and Air Force are FN designed rifles produced under licence in UK, Australia and India. Are we to be recipients of US Defence Aid like the Philippines, South Korea and others? Even if this were so, such aid should not be frittered away on sub-standard equipment like the M16 rifle which even today suffers numerous operating defects. Both the Navy and the Army will be totally demoralised if this weapon is foisted on them. The Army, Navy, Air Force and Police Officers who are aware of the lobbying by the Ministry to purchase the M16 rifle are naturally disgusted with the unwarranted interference by the Ministry on matters.

THAT APPENDIX Two on OTHER KNOWN INTERFERENCES IN PURCHASES BY MINISTRY reads: It is commonly believed that the Air Force was not consulted and nor were they involved in any evaluation which should have preceded the purchase of two helicopters recently for the Air Force. The Army had decided in 1983 to purchase a number of Armoured Personnel Carriers based on Land Rover chassis; the choice of the Army was a vehicle made by British Leyland Ltd., of UK, a Firm which is controlled by the British Government. However, just before the purchase was made, the Ministry of Defence ordered that a vehicle made by a different Firm should be purchased, and finally the order was split 50-50 between the two firms. The vehicle selected by the Army is presently in use in Ireland by the British Army, and in addition to having been in production for the past 20 years or so, has been in use by the Sri Lanka Air Force for the past 12 years. On the other hand, the other vehicle is built by a Firm specialising in bulletproof limousines, and their experience with construction of armoured carriers is only about four years. Having now used these for about four months, the Army is said to be dissatisfied with this particular vehicle. Notwithstanding the dissatisfaction of the Army, the Ministry on its own has ordered a number of these for the Police Special Force. This too without asking the Army at all, despite the fact that the Army has been using these vehicles for some time now. It is said that a large number of bulletproof vests have been purchased by the Ministry for the police, but that when tested these did not meet the required ballistic specifications and are therefore to be discarded. If this is correct, how were these ordered without evaluation?" *What next? Should something not be done to investigate these allegations now circulating freely in political and commercial circles in Colombo?*



# **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**



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

1. The Chairman, Tender Board, Common Amenities Board, 1st Floor, National Housing Department Building, Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 2 will receive tenders up to 9.30 a.m. on 24.10.1984 for the following works.
  - (a) Laying water line and providing 08 Nos. taps including Stand Posts & basins at Uswatte Housing Scheme, Kelaniya.
  - (b) Erection of separate waste water systems for Block Nos. A12, A13, A14, D, E, F, J, K, & L, at De Soysapura Housing Scheme, Ratmalana.
  - (c) Metalling and tarring of new roads in De Soysapura Housing Scheme, Ratmalana.
2. Tenderers should be registered for similar works for Rs. 125,000.00, Rs. 200,000.00 and Rs. 250,000.00 respectively in the Common Amenities Board or in other Government Departments/Corporations and should produce proof of such registration before the Tender Forms are issued to them.
3. Tender documents will be issued by the office of the Chairman, Common Amenities Board till 3.30 p.m. on 22.10.1984 on payment of Rs. 150.00 Rs. 200.00 and Rs. 250.00 respectively in cash and on production of the receipt thereof.
4. Tenders will be opened on 24.10.1984 at 10.00 a.m. Tenderers may be present at the opening
5. Tenderers should keep their offers valid for acceptance for a period of 60 days from the date of closing of tenders.
6. The selected Tenderer will have to provide a security deposit of 2 per cent of the accepted tendered amount which will be refunded after the satisfactory completion of the work.
7. Tenderers in respect of tenders from private companies should declare the names of the shareholders and in regard to public companies the names of the Directors of the Company.
8. Any further information can be obtained from the under mentioned.

**Chairman.**

10. 10. 1984  
Common Amenities Board.