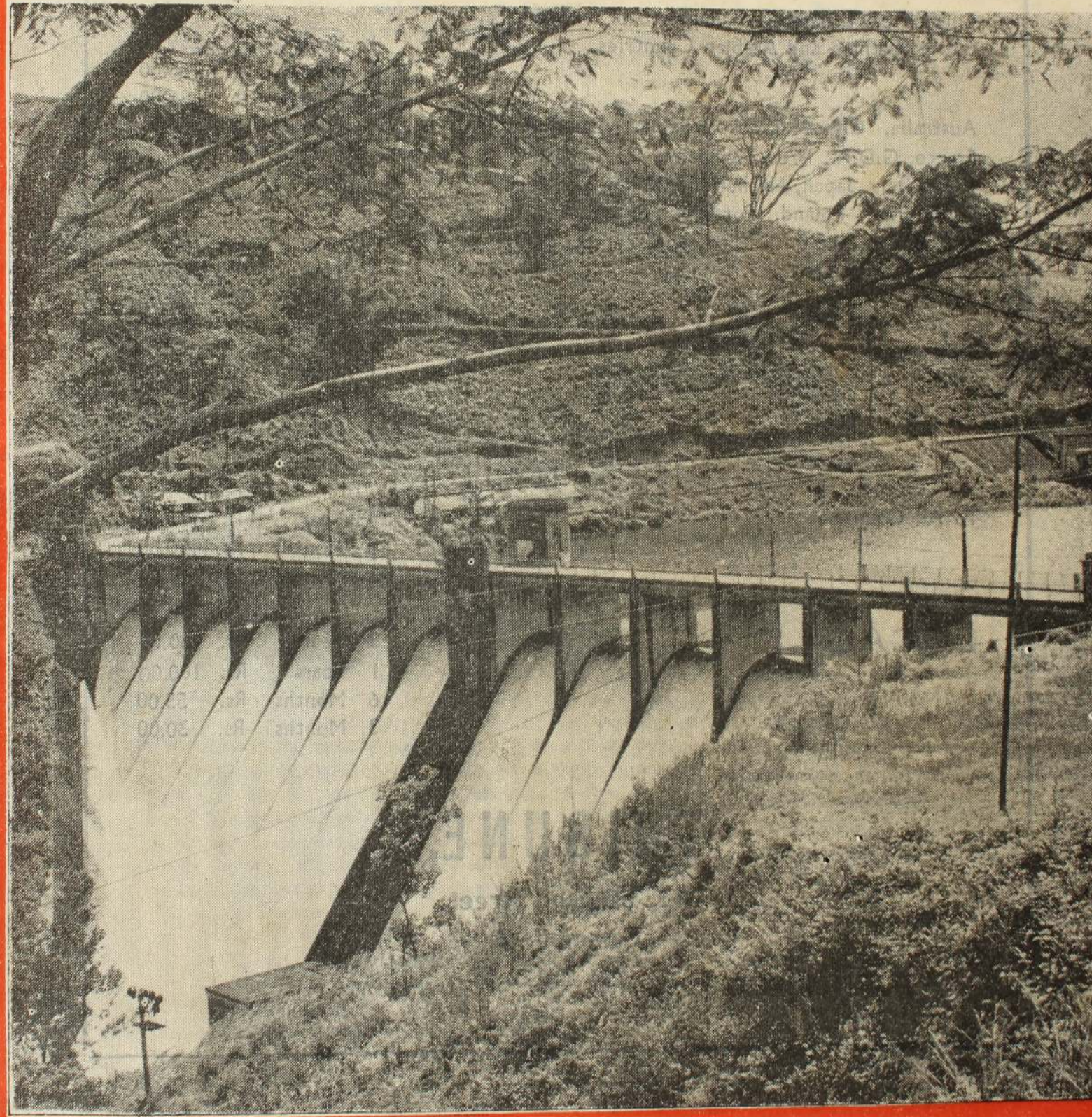


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Letter From The Editor

TRIBUNE does not usually seek interviews with Ministers and other VIPs because as a paper of analysis and comment we are content to base our observations on reports and statements in the daily and periodical press. But on one matter which we regard as very important we recently sought an interview with Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, now Minister of Lands and Land Development and Mahaveli Development, to clarify doubts that had overtaken us about some vital aspects about the Accelerated Mahaveli Programme. These doubts had arisen because of some statements made by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, on the eve of his departure (on Sept. 10) to Europe, America and Japan when he said ".....that the main purpose of his trip abroad next week will be to obtain the necessary aid for the accelerated Mahaveli development program and for the normal development programs of the Sri Lanka Government for 1979. Addressing a press conference at his Ministry office the Minister said that certain people were talking as if the money promised by the donor countries was already in the bag.....I want to put the record straight. These countries have only indicated their willingness to finance our projects. The money will be made available to us only after the Aid group meeting to be held in January 1979 '.....(Ceylon Daily News). Similar reports appeared in the Sun and the Daily Mirror and the point the Finance Minister stressed was that his trip was essential to ensure that the aid promised was actually handed over. The Sun newspaper alone questioned the Finance Minister on his statements and in reply he said that the newspapers had given an "exaggerated aid picture" of Mahaveli. He had also gone on to say "that people no longer believe the national newspapers.....the general attitude of the people is that newspapers tell lies....." The Sun had subsequently referred to Mr. Ronnie de Mel's own statement in the Parliament on June 6, 1978 in which he had expressed no doubts at all that the money for the Mahaveli had become as certain as the sun rising from the East. In several speeches President Jayewardene had also stated that the money for Mahaveli was already secured and assured. In the face of this we were puzzled by the Finance Minister's remarks about the aid for Mahaveli. Tribune has always been deeply interested in the Mahaveli Project and has published several articles about the Scheme some of which were highly critical about the viability of the so-called Accelerated Programme. But on the basis of ministerial and governmental pronouncements we had no doubts at all about one matter: that the money was assured from foreign donors and lenders for the Accelerated Programme at very low non-commercial rates of interest. But the Finance Minister's categorical statements, and the absence of any official statements contradicting him, made us ask Minister Gamini Dissanayake what it was all about. We do not propose to go into the details of his answers at this juncture, but we are satisfied that all the aid promised for the Victoria, Randenigala, Maduru Oya and Moragahakande Projects are assured and that the money for Kotmale has been promised and was as good as finalised. Mr. Dissanayake left for Moscow shortly after our interview to finalise the Russian offer to finance and help construct the Upper and Lower Uma Oya scheme in the lower stretches of the Mahaveli. Tribune was impressed with Mr. Dissanayake's grasp of the entire Mahaveli river development business including the original Master Plan for a 30-year Project and also of his determination to get things done. What he has undoubtedly achieved so far inspires confidence that Mahaveli Development is in good hands. We will refer to the aid for Mahaveli and connected matters in forthcoming issues.

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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

—Reshuffle Mystery:
E. L., Ranjan p. 2

QUIDNUNCs

—Peradeniya, FTZ, Tycoon p. 5

FOR THE RECORD

—TULF p. 7

IN THE TUB

—Alexander Humbled p. 8

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

—Sept. 17—Sept. 27 p. 9

JAFFNA FARMERS

—Floor Price p. 16

OF CABBAGES & KINGS

—This And There p. 19

THE WORLD TODAY

—Nicaragua, Arab, Israeli p. 20

ACID BOMB EXPLOSION—17

—Premonition p. 25

CATHOLICS AND EDUCATION

—In Sri Lanka p. 27

MINISTERIAL FUNCTIONS

—Gazetted p. 29

THEY HAVE PASSED AWAY

—Obituary p. 31

CONFIDENTIALLY

—Narcotics & Politics p. 32

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Thinking Aloud—On The Ministry Of Agriculture

AT LONG LAST the Gazette setting out the allocation of departments and functions as between the different Ministries was issued on Friday the 29th of September, 1978. The Sunday papers, on October 1, published a summary of what the Gazette contained. (Elsewhere in this issue we have published the note published in the *Sunday Observer*). There were no major changes as the paper noted, but there was one big surprise. Press reports, after the new Cabinet had sworn in on September 7 had indicated that Mr. E. L. Senanayake had been deprived of nearly all prestigious departments except the Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Research: that everything connected with Livestock, Animal Husbandry, the Milk Board, Oils and Fats etc. etc. had gone to Mr. Thondaman whilst Lands, Land Development etc. had gone to Mr. Gamini Dissanayake; that the PMB and the Fertiliser Corporation had been moved to the President's office; and that the fate of Timber Corporation and the Forest Department were very much in the air. The Secretary to the Ministry, Mr. Weerakoddy, had been moved to Mr. Thondaman's ministry, whilst his former Assistant Mr. Justin Abeygoonesekera was tipped to be the new Secretary of the much depleted Ministry.

The surprise in the gazetted allocations was that many departments were "restored" to EL and that a rank outsider had been pitchforked into the charmed circle of the higher galaxy of the hierarchical super-caste of Secretaries, namely

the very controversial figure of Mr. Ranjan Wijeyaratne who had headed an ubiquitous organisation known as the Agricultural Development Authority (ADA)—an organisation he is reputed to have fathered and sold to the new Administration.

Let us first examine what the new Ministry now consists of: the Department of Agriculture (without Animal Production and the Health Division, meaning the Veterinary Department), the Department of Minor Export Crops, the Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation, the Ceylon Fertiliser Corporation, the Agrarian Research and Training Institute, the National Freedom From Hunger Campaign Board, the Land Reforms Commission, the Paddy Marketing Board, the Fruit Board, the Agricultural Development Authority, the Janawasa Commission, the Agrarian Services Division, the Agricultural Insurance Board, the National Agricultural Diversification and Settlement Authority. It is quite a formidable array including such prize departments like the Paddy Marketing Board (PMB), the Fertiliser Corporation, the Sugar Corporation and the Land Reform Commission.

This rehabilitation of E. L. Senanayake after a shattering downgrading (through newspaper reports and not by gazette notification) has come as a surprise to many. This is probably the Dharmista way of inflicting chastisement on a wayward Ministers who do neither their homework nor their schoolwork but are satisfied with newspaper headlines every day and press conferences every other day.

Even the SLFP's *The Nation* of September 29 had this to say about EL's reported discomfiture and downgrading: "Mr. E. L. Senanayake, who was once a strong candidate for the position of Prime Minister, has now lost the Ministry of Lands

which was given to his younger colleague Gamini Dissanayake. Mr. Senanayake is now left with Agricultural Development and Research. The Livestock Board, the Milk Board and the Oils and Fats Corporations are under Mr. Thondaman, who is the new Minister of Rural Industrial Development. The President has taken over the Paddy Marketing Board from Mr. Senanayake. This drastic pruning of Mr. Senanayake's powers has surprised many political observers by its extent and suddenness, in view of the fact that Mr. Senanayake has long been considered a UNP stalwart, who had spent a great deal of his money and energy on behalf of the UNP."

The SLFP comment was no doubt an attempt to prod old UNPers into a little divine discontent, but the attempt was ill-conceived, because it is now abundantly clear that the Jayewardene way of reshuffles is not by chopping heads but by switching departments and taking over some himself for a while until the proper adjustments are made. Whether this method of running an Administration will pay long term or even short term dividends is hard to say, but there is no doubt that it makes for political peace and stability and enhances presidential power. The day of reckoning, however, will come when the voters will want to know whether the promises and pledges have been fulfilled. Will Ministers who survive on such (dharmista) manipulative politics be able to deliver the goods?

Without being unduly harsh, it must be said that one year of ministerial power has shown that EL had fallen down on his job. Agriculture and all the departments under him have not done what they could have easily done. A change was called for, and the President made it clear that he was determined to effect such a change. The President even di-

rected his Ministry of Plan Implementation to set up an Evaluation Team to examine the working of the public sector in Agriculture, and on August 15 the Team had come up with a first class report with some excellent recommendations. *Tribune* will deal with some important aspects of the Team's recommendations to rehabilitate a sick Ministry.

Among the matters which the Team was very critical about was the way the ADA and its bossman Ranjan Wijeyaratne had functioned and as a face-saving device had suggested that the ADA should be slowly phased out by assimilating its functions into a phantom division of the Ministry. Many had expected Mr. Wijeyaratne to fade out gracefully in the same way that Mr. E. L. Senanayake might be pushed up into the higher ethereal regions into which senior politicians retire with honour.

But this does not seem to be the way in Dharmista land—things curiously than the proverbial happenings in Alice's Land of Wonders have become commonplace in Sri Lanka. The man who was found wanting by a top Team set up on a presidential directive to investigate and report on the agricultural sector is chosen to fill the top most billing in the powerful Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research on which so much of the present and the future of the country depends.

Tribune is intrigued by what has taken place. A Minister who has not come up to scratch in one year—he was particularly weak in making policy decisions or issuing realistic directives—is once again placed in charge of departments and functions that can make or break this Government. To help him do the job is a dark horse who has earned very poor marks from the Investigating Team. Is it that the President has rejected the

findings and recommendations of this Evaluation Team? Or is it that he is still prepared to take a gamble with a go getter of a self-avowed management specialist who, by all accounts, only has the capacity to talk Mephistopheles off the ground? Is the President wise in taking such a risk?

These are questions which people, who have no axe to grind or have no vested interest in the matter—but who are solely concerned with the future of Agriculture in the country—have begun to ask. As for the *Tribune*, we must confess that we are lost in what appears to be an insoluble puzzle. We still have the fullest confidence that the President is capable of making correct decisions about men and matters, but unless this gamble (we consider it so) of bracketing E. L. Senanayake with Ranjan Wijeyaratne as Minister and Secretary (there are already many quips as to who will be the real Minister) works and produces worthwhile results our confidence in the President's wisdom will be severely shaken. Maybe he will learn to discover his mistake and make amends but this must be done before it is too late.

These are thoughts that are trickling through the minds of many people in knowledgeable circles (including ourselves) and this note is an exercise in thinking aloud. We have tried to marshal in our mind's eye the reasons that must have prompted the President to bring together two persons, one of the calibre of E. L. Senanayake (a jolly good sport and all that) and the other, the name-dropping (he's the President's man) typhoon (not tycoon), Ranjan Wijeyaratne, who seems to have trod on more corns than anyone else could have done in the short time the ADA has existed.

The President understandably probably has good reasons for sav-

ing the face of E. L. Senanayake by restoring him to a partially rehabilitated Ministry. He is one of the oldest and staunchest UNPers this country has. Over the years he has stood by the UNP through thick and thin. He has spent a sizable part of his family fortune on the election campaigns of the UNP. In seniority he is one of the very few who is closest to the President. The good host and the kindly man that EL is, he is not possessed of the ruthlessness that makes a successful politician. In one year as Minister he has also shown that he is neither a good Minister nor an Administrator. He has many weaknesses and failings which others around him have exploited. He has also not resisted the temptation to fill his Ministry and Departments with many who are allegedly on the family tree, and the data now being collected and compiled on EL's family tree will soon outdo the Ratwatte family tree. But the family tree business could have been ignored, or excused, if the departments under him had functioned with purposeful and meaningful activity after the holocaust of the Kobbekaduwa era. (It must be said that after the 15 months of the Senanayake regime, the Kobbekaduwa era with the supreme genius of Malinda Silva scores many plus points).

Agriculture is economically and politically so vitally important to the future of the country that many well-wishes are surprised that the President is willing to give E. L. Senanayake another chance thus endangering not only the well-being of the country but also the future prospects of the UNP. Has he taken this risk because he thinks that Ranjan Wijeyaratne is a giant who can do the work of two?

The President may have the fullest confidence in Mr. Ranjan Wijeyaratne, but *Tribune* investi-

gations indicate that the President's confidence is not shared by many. With his appointment as Secretary of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research the qualifications, record and capabilities of Ranjan Wijeyaratne has come into sharp focus.

What are the plus points in his favour?

He has an aggressive personality with a capacity to get things done, more in the style of an old-world kangany on an estate than with the finesse of a modern public-relations-minded management expert. He has a reputation for cleaning out Augean Stables very quickly and successfully, and many admit that he may be able to do the much-needed spring-cleaning in the public sector of Agriculture within a short time. It is also conceded that he has the capacity to ensure that files are attended to promptly and that they move fast. But, can he clean out all the cobwebs in the Ministry and the Departments with a Minister who is inhibited by a family tree and a total incapability to make principled decisions about persons and policies?

There is yet another plus point that has become a talking point in the higher echelons of bureaucratic power in this country. For long years the coveted post of Secretary to a Ministry has been the monopoly of the Civil Service, the CAS, and the SLAS. The last government opened the doors to a few select technocrats (eg. Nath Amarakone) and academics (eg. Doric de Souza). But Ranjan Wijeyaratne is the first from the rough and tumble of planterdom, where academic qualifications do not count as much as the capacity to "creep" all the way up to the top. Ranjan Wijeyaratne had reached the topmost rungs in estate management, but unlike many other successful planters he is a political animal capable of adopting Dudley as uncle and JR as President.

Whilst it is a good thing that the portals of Ministerial Secretarydom are opened to new categories of administrators, the question that worries many is whether Ranjan Wijeyaratne can rise to the occasion not only to pull the agricultural sector out of the mess in which it is but also to chart a new course to bring about the much-needed Green Revolution. This is where the minus points come in.

It is not necessary to examine his record as a planter or to delve into his activities in the Agency House business, but sooner or later someone is bound to refer to a few skeletons that had been left behind after a futile attempt to raise a multi-million private commercial loan from international bankerdom for the last government.

Tribune is not concerned with these matters that do not impinge on the outcome of an examination into the question as whether Ranjan Wijeyaratne is the best man from those available for the job.

But, going solely on the findings and conclusions of the Evaluation Team on the way Ranjan Wijeyaratne and the ADA had functioned, one can only say that the President must have had access to other information (not available to us) that made him appoint Ranjan Wijeyaratne as Secretary of this key and strategic Ministry. *Tribune* is at a loss to know how such a decision was made. Was it not necessary to reject the report of the Evaluation Team publicly and officially before making

COVER

HYDRO-POWER

ON THE COVER this week we have a picture of the sluice gates of the reservoir at Laxapana which was the first of the big hydro-power stations constructed in this country during the last forty years. The story of Laxapana is a legend in itself. Ceylonese engineers like D. J. Wimalasurendra had drawn up plans for generating electricity at Laxapana, Norton Bridge and other places in the Maskeliya Oya Valleys as early as the twenties and thirties of this century. The colonial administration did not favour this development because the British had felt that it would be better and cheaper for Ceylon to depend on oil which was then comparatively cheap. White planters had quipped that the natives would not be able to handle electric power and that there was grave danger that they would be electrocuted *en masse*. The same kind of argument is now being used in regard to third world countries' developing nuclear power and energy—the poor natives would either not know how to handle it or misuse it by making bombs.

After a measure of self-government was granted to Sri Lanka in 1931, hydro-power got off the ground and Wimalasurendra lived to see (a little time before he died) some of his plans fulfilled. We refer to this matter now because for the first time since hydro-power came of age in this island, it has been separated as a ministerial function from Irrigation. Power is a subject that can and must stand by itself because even if it is now intimately connected with Irrigation, Sri Lanka will soon have to reach out to bio-gas, solar power, nuclear power and other sources of energy. Power has been placed in the new Cabinet in the able hands of Minister D. B. Wijetunge, but why Highways should be tagged on to power is difficult to understand, and we hope that Posts and Telecommunications would not stand in the way of the fullest attention being paid to the all important question of POWER.

Ranjan Wijeyaratne the topmost Commissar in Agriculture with a weak Czar at the helm. (Some one will tell us that Czars did not have Commissars, but what is in a name?)

Tribune is deeply concerned with agricultural development that it has taken the unprecedented step of discussing personalities in relationship to ministerial and secretarial functions. The freedom of the press will have little or no meaning unless this is done on appropriate occasions. We will pursue this matter until we are assured that the agricultural future of this island is not jeopardised by the Minister or the Secretary.

A highly qualified management specialist or a successful estate superintendent cannot discharge the functions of a Secretary who must not only have knowledge of the entire scope of the agricultural activity but also the vision to know what is wanted in the context of the times? Will Ranjan Wijeyaratne be able to resist the temptation to tread on the corns of the technocrats and agronomists when pushing them to harder? Can he harness these men to activity that can produce results?

We have indulged in this exercise of thinking aloud under the umbrella of press freedom because something has to be done about Agriculture soon. There is a writing on the wall which cannot be ignored.

We had planned this week to review the press in Sri Lanka today, but with the surprise packet in the agricultural sector we have put off the examination to the next issue.

Concluding, it may well be that the presidential bracketing of EL and Ranjan may solve all the problems of agriculture, but the question that worries us is whether the gamble this experiment constitutes is justified at this juncture of our agricultural development.

QUIDNUNC S

● Peradeniya Scandal ● FIZ Tales ● Cheating Two Governments

***BOOKMAKER'S DAUGHTER AND THE UNIVERSITY.** A *Tribune* Quidnunc from Kandy has sent us a note with a tale about political skulduggery in the hope that a little publicity might help to nip the scandal in the bud. Here it is. The daughter of a bookmaker extraordinary had recently succeeded in gaining admission to the University to study biological sciences at Peradeniya. She had entered in the English medium as she was entitled to do as her mother was Indian though her father is a Sinhala. This young lady, it would appear, has developed ambitions of studying medicine like her sister who is studying medicine in an Indian University.

What stands in the way of her doing medicine at Peradeniya? She had come too far down the list to qualify for medicine. The Biology stream is way down, well below Dentistry, Vet. Science and Agriculture. Now, how does the father set about doing the job? Simple, says our *Quidnunc*. Get the top UNPers in town. Papa has way with politicians. He was a great favourite of the SLFP hierarchy in days gone by and now top UNPers are eating out of his hand. What do these UNPers in the bookmaker's bag do? They are making a bid to get the Minister of Education to issue a directive to the University that all students who enter in the English Medium be allowed to choose the subjects of their choice irrespective of their position in the list. If such a directive is issued, the bookmaker's daughter will get what she wants on the basis of a "rule"

and everything will appear above Board. This is a great refinement on former Minister Mahmud's directives to the University to admit particular students by juggling the standardised marks.

In effect what would such a new directive amount to? Nearly 70 students in the English medium can opt to do medicine. A new Medical Faculty, teaching entirely in the English medium, for the children of the privileged, has to be set up. The Medical Faculty at Peradeniya refuses to do this. Already, the Medical Faculty has doubled its intake for this year and are at their wit's end to find staff and laboratory staff for them. And now, out of the blue, they are being asked to take in another 70 English medium students which is the number accommodated at the Jaffna campus and more than at Galle. The demand is that a Faculty of medicine in the English medium be created at a week's notice. This is a repeat of the 1960 episode when a new Arts intake was ordered at Peradeniya to accommodate the son of a VVIP. The SLFP succumbed to that sort of pressure from much higher quarters. Now the UNP seems to fall in for pressures from a mere bookmaker.

Our *Quidnunc* reports that Professor Kalpage has stood firm in the face of pressures. Then the pressure turned on the President of the Peradeniya Campus and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine there. And now, the power lobby has moved to Colombo to get at the Minister of Education to issue the above-mentioned directive.

The present quip in Peradeniya campus circles is that Dharmista Society is being drowned in the Kandy Lake? Does President Jayewardene know the story of the University and the Bookmaker's Daughter? It is no Cinderella story or a Fairy

Gale). He should call for a report from Professor Kalpage to see whether our Quidnunc has gone off the mark. What is at stake is the credibility of the Government and the validity of the dharmista way of life.

***TALES FROM THE FTZ.** Quidnuncs are full of dirty stories from the FTZ. One is about a big shot in the FTZ super-structure who had wanted to set up an industry (a block rubber processing plant) in collaboration with some foreign tycoons. Though this was a direct violation of the Charter of the FTZ (maybe section 8), the big shot did not care. And our Quidnuncs say that the President had to step in and issue an order that this project be cancelled. Is the President the only VIP really against corruption?

Yet another story is how another FTZ bigshot who had sold some vehicles to the organisation—the GCEC—is said to have collected a commission of Rs. 4000 on each car.

The question, quidnuncs ask, is whether such a person can collect such a commission. Photostats of the documents alleged to record these commissions are floating round town. What next?

***A MATTER FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION.** Quidnuncs have drawn our attention to a document circulating widely which is from an anonymous source. But the story unfolded is so staggering that the desire for anonymity is understandable. But Quidnuncs assert that this document should be brought to the notice of the Presidential Commission—because only a Commission of that sort could unravel the intricacies of this great tale of millions and plain and simple skulduggery. The extracts below are highlights from the note concerned:

"Land Reform Law No. 1 of 1972 came into operation on 26.8.72, and this law applied to all agricultural lands owned by any person. This law did not apply to lands owned by foreign companies. Grand Central London owned 32,000 acres in Ceylon at the time the Land Reform Law came into operation and the said Land Reform Law did not apply to the said land owned by Grand Central London. By Companies Special (Provisions) Law No. 19 of 1974, foreign companies were prevented from owning land in Sri Lanka. By Section 5 however of this law, a foreign company could incorporate itself in Sri Lanka and after this incorporation, lands owned by the foreign company could be transferred to a new company in Sri Lanka and the law further provided that such lands so transferred to the local company would not be included in calculating the ceiling under Land Reform Law. Further details could be had from the Cabinet Paper submitted by Mr. Ilangaratne in respect of the law certified on 19th June 1974.

"In October 1975 the Land Reform Law was amended by Law No. 39 of 1975 which provided for the vesting of land owned by all public companies. The day before the law was tabled, Grand Central Ceylon Company held an extra-ordinary meeting of shareholders and converted the company into a private company and the law therefore did not apply to the Company. The Ministry of Justice at that time was manned by Mr. Ratnasiri Wickremarajapakse who was also the Minister for Plantation Industries and he called for the file maintained in this connection. It was decided to acquire all these lands under the Business Acquisition Law. However, the then government decided to stop the proposed acquisition. It is said that the chief owner informed

the then government that he was prepared to hand over the land and in fact there was a ceremony of handing over. But there was no handing over of title. Had the land been handed over at that time the compensation awarded would have been very low. Then the land continued to be owned by this gentleman and he enjoyed all the mesne profits from the land. It is now said that the new government proposes to consider his application to pay compensation at the rate of Rs. 2,500/- per acre.

"The principal question for investigation are:— (1) How did the Sirima Government fail to take action to bring the 32,000 acres under Land Reform Law? (2) How did the owner of the estate hold an extra-ordinary meeting of the shareholders of the company concerned before the Land Reform Law Amendment was brought up before Parliament? It is evident that the owner converted the company from public to private at the shareholders' meeting and strangely the second Land Reform Law referred only to public companies. Obviously the then government leaked the information to this owner. (3) Did the then Government prepare the Company Law Amendment Law No. 19 of 1974 to help this owner? Can the present government taint itself by paying Rs. 80 million as compensation for these lands to an owner who has fraudulently evaded the law in collusion with VIPs of the then government.

"It is reported a Board has already recommended massive compensation for these lands because they were not aware that this country has been defrauded by the owners of the estate acting in collusion with VIPs of the last government. The files are in the Registrar of Companies and Plantation Ministry and Land Reform Commission. The Compensation

file is in the Ministry of Agriculture."

If this government does not investigate the truth or otherwise of this allegation, in the full glare of total publicity, it is the Dharmista way of life that will suffer. Quidnuncs who want the Jayewardene government to help Sri Lanka to progress are deeply concerned about these allegations which refer to personalities who cut across party lines. Will anyone dare catch the Big Bad Wolf (Tycoon)?

+ + +

FOR THE RECORD

Point Counter-point

—A Tale OF TULF Rhetoric—

FROM THE "WEEKEND" OF
SEPTEMBER 10, 1978

**Amirthalingam Over BBC:
'No support for DSRSL but
will fight for a separate
state'**

The Leader of the Opposition Mr. A. Amirthalingam in an interview broadcast by the BBC yesterday said that the Tamil United Liberation Front will not extend its co-operation to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka under the new Constitution introduced. However the TULF will attend Parliament and make use of it as a forum to put forward the claims of the Tamils for a separate state until the Tamils achieve their rights as independent citizens in the country.

Mr. Amirthalingam was asked by the interviewer whether the new Constitution had not provided some significant fundamental concessions, to the Tamils and he replied: "No doubt there were some concessions, but the funda-

mental concessions still made the Tamils subservient to the Sinhalese people. In any way these concessions were not binding on the Tamil people."

Asked whether the TULF hands were tied by the extreme youth groups, such as the Tiger Liberation Front, for adopting these unco-operative measures with the Government, Mr. Amirthalingam said: "No youth movement can influence us. Our decisions have solely been influenced by the mandate given by the Tamil-speaking people to the TULF to work for the sole objective of gaining independence for them in the interest of all."

Pressed for an answer whether the TULF hands were tied to any militant youth organisation, Mr. Amirthalingam said: "Our hands are not tied to any organisation. But our hands are tied only to the Tamil people who gave us a mandate to achieve a goal of self-respect for them." Mr. Amirthalingam's interview was broadcast yesterday over the General Overseas Service of the BBC in the magazine programme "South Asian Survey".

FROM A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT AFTER THE GOVERNMENT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1978

The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene told the Government Parliamentary Group today that the Government has informed Private Sector employers that they could deal with the employees in their establishments who would join the strike planned for September 28th by certain Trade Unions opposed to the Government in the same manner in which the Government has decided. In view of the political nature of the strike the Government has decided to consider as having vacated their posts

all employees who would join the strike. The President said that the Private Sector employers could consider those who joined the strike on September 28th as having vacated post. He hoped that the Private Sector would implement the Government's policy in this regard and assured that the Government would enact the necessary legislation if required in this regard.

The Government has received the full backing of the UNP sponsored Trade Unions. The UNP sponsored Unions today had nearly two lakhs of members among the working class and with their co-operation the strike was bound to be a failure.

The Government was always prepared to look into the genuine Trade Union demands. But they could not allow the Trade Unionists try to topple the Government in this manner.

The President also cautioned the MPs to be vigilant of attempts being made to rouse communal tensions at a juncture like this. "We should consider that there are 40 lakhs of Tamils living in various parts of the country. Every citizen be he Tamil, Muslim or Sinhalese should be free to live in any part of the country" he said. His Excellency also said that communal tensions are being promoted by certain disgruntled politicians. These tensions are roused after incidents of looting. He has already instructed the Police to arrest any person who attempts to loot.

He said that every person should be at liberty to live in any part of the country. The Government would settle Sinhala people in the North and Tamil people in the South. When they implement this policy the demand for Eelam would automatically disappear because

all Tamils want the freedom to live in any part of the country.

"If their own representatives play politics and do not co-operate with a Government which has solved all outstanding problems then we must go to the North and attend to the people's needs," the President said amidst applause. "If the Tamil MP's do not respond we will stop bothering them and look after the Tamil people ourselves", he added.....

FROM THE CEYLON DAILY MIRROR, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

TULF TO DISCUSS TIES WITH CWC

The General Council of the Tamil United Liberation Front will meet immediately after the return of its General Secretary, Mr. A. Amirthalingam from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Jamaica, to discuss its relations with the Ceylon Workers' Congress. Mr. M. Sivasithamparam, President of the TULF, said yesterday that one of the main topics would be to review TULF ties with the CWC in the context of Mr. Thondaman accepting Cabinet office.

Although the CWC had disassociated itself with the TULF's demand for a Tamil Eelam in the Northern and Eastern Province, it had still continued to be a wing of the Front. According to Mr. Sivasithamparam the forthcoming General Council meeting will also discuss the President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene's recent statement that under government's colonisation schemes, the government would seek to settle Sinhalese in the North and Tamils in the South to promote national amity.

IN THE TUB

by Diogenes

Alexandar Humbled

IT WAS in the early hours after midnight and before dawn. The room where Diogenes lay was in darkness except for a dim flicker from a lamp in the neighbourhood when the silence was disturbed by a Captain of the Forces and a Palace Boy who dismounted from their horses and repaired to the hut where Diogenes lay in deep complation.

The Captain spoke.

"Diogenes, Alexander the Great, the great Conqueror of Conquerors and King of Kings, commands your presence before dawn in his Palace."

"I do not know who Alexander is," said the Master, "Go tell him Diogenes walks the streets of Athens till noon and he has no time for him."

The intruders left and narrated to Alexander what Diogenes had told them.

Alexander, at dawn, when the rays of the sun were breaking into the room of the Master, presented himself before Diogenes.

"I am Alexander the Great", proclaimed the conqueror.

"I am Diogenes the Cynic," replied the philosopher..

"I am the Conqueror of Conquerors," continued Alexander.

"You have not conquered yourself," retorted Diogenes.

"People call me the great Alexander, the Conqueror of Conquerors."

"I call you a fool. You are unaware of the path of true happiness. You are surrounded by place-seekers and sycophants. You take yourself too seriously. You are surrounded by persons who are

enriching themselves and ruining the City. They crawl before you and strut before the people. They flatter you and destroy many in your name. You do not know the difference between a rascal and a good man, and a fool and a wise man. Alexander, you are the biggest fool who has stood before me. Become wise before they destroy you."

"Diogenes, I am thankful to you for your advice. You have shaken me up. I want to save the City."

"Then save yourself from your friends."

"Am I then to embrace my enemies?"

"Listen to them and put them out of your way."

"With what am I to build this City?"

"With wisdom and compassion not only in your speech but also in your deeds. Be large, be fair, be kind to all men. Do not hurt the feelings of men. Visit the poor. See for yourself the needs of your people. Let your happiness depend on their happiness and not on the fortunes of those around you."

"Diogenes, what can I give you for the advice?"

"You can do me this favour. Do not stand between me and the sunlight," and the Master turned away from Alexander.

Alexander left the Master's presence a humbled but wiser man, and exclaimed, "Were I not Alexander, nill I will be Diogeres

FOREIGN POSTAL RATES

Foreign Postal Rates—
Air as well as Surface—
have been increased as
from October 1, 1978.
The increase is 25 cts. per
every half ounce.

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Sept. 17—Sept. 27

DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA
AND THE WORLD COMPILED FROM
DAILY NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN
COLOMBO.

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Times; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadipa; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa, DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chintamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release; DK—Dinakara.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17:

The results of a manpower survey just released by the Plan Implementation Ministry has revealed a 'heavy and Continuing demand' in certain job categories in the employment market despite the country's large number of unemployed; most private employers looked for people with a good knowledge of English; this was a normal requirement except for factory work. The government has decided that no leave would be granted to public sector employees on September 28 when several trade unions propose to strike. TULF MP's will take their oaths of allegiance to the constitution on Sept 21—SO. A definite upward trend in employment generation since the UNP government assumed office has been observed according to a survey carried out by the Ministry of Plan Implementation. Eleven judges who have not been re-appointed when the new constitution was promulgated recently are expected to receive monthly pensions like any other public servant. The 700 odd students who are to be admitted to the Polgolla Campus on

October 8 will enjoy all the facilities available to students at the Peradeniya Campus except residential facilities. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will lead the Sri Lanka delegation to the 33rd session of the UN General Assembly beginning in New York this month—ST. The total cost of setting up the infra structure for the FTZ has been estimated at more than Rs. 200 million. Mr. S. Thondaman, the new minister in the government, paying his first visit to his electorate after assumption of office told the vast crowd that President Jayewardene had invited him to join the government to achieve racial, religious and communal harmony in this country—WK. A number of flaws in the correction of exam papers in the GCE and NCGE exams have been discovered when students asked for re-scrutiny of papers—CM. The Education Ministry has decided to open one farm in a school in each electorate with the help of the Agricultural Ministry—SLDP. The government has decided to introduce a new law to ban the selling of liquor to youths under 10 years of age—RR. Egypt's press said today only a miracle could now save the Camp David Summit and raised the spectre of a fifth Middle East war. Mohamed Ali became the first man to hold the world heavy weight championship 3 times as he easily out pointed defending champion Leon Spinks—SO. About 6000 Israeli troops have moved close to the Lebanese border in the biggest military build up in the area since the 1973 West Asian war—WK.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18:

The greatest service one can render is to help in propogating the buddha dhamma; it is the greatest gift said the President speaking at a prize distribution yesterday. The Minister of Rural Industrial

Development and leader of the CWC called upon the estate workers to ensure greater output of work on September 28, the day of the proposed token strike. The IGP has alerted the country's 17,000 policemen to the activities of anti-government and anti-social elements who were attempting to make use of certain incidents to incite people to acts of violence—CDN. Sri Lanka will press for a commodity agreement on tea at the Conference of Tea Producers, Exporters and Consumers which begins in Geneva today. It was not my intention to set up a buddhist government in this country; but I shall concentrate on creating a society based on the principles of buddhism—a free and just society said the President speaking at the prize giving of the Vajiraramaya Daham Pasala—CDM. The government has given the go-ahead for the construction of four new remand Prisons next year. MP's who engaged in the implementation of proposals under the decentralised budget will in future have the assistance of a Development officer who will be released for this work by the GA of the relevant district. The government has sanctioned the creation of 23 additional posts in the various departments responsible for the conservation of national monuments and has provided Rs. 138,430 for this purpose—SU. Security operations are to be carried out on a district basis with the assistance of the army, navy and airforce—VK. Over 15,000 casual workers in government departments, corporations and boards are to be made permanent—DV. The Minister of Finance has pointed out to the President that the country's industries will not be able to compete with the goods that are produced in the FTZ—ATH. Rhodesia announced today it is to start drafting blacks into the armed forces to

fight the Patriotic Front guerillas. The Shah's PM said today that the martial law imposed nine days ago foiled a major communist plot to foment an uprising in Iran—CDN. 11,000 people lay dead today in the rabble of Northeast Iranian town of Jaba, flattened by an earthquake at supertime last evening. President Carter intensified pressure on the leaders of Egypt and Israel to achieve a west Asian breakthrough in the final hours of the Camp David Summit. Army Chief General Zia Ul Haq was sworn in as President of Pakistan yesterday—SU.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19:

The Minister of Labour said yesterday in a statement that the token strike on September 28 was trying to take credit for what the government intended doing i.e. they hoped to give a pay rise with the next budget but the strikers wanted to make out that they had achieved it. President will open the new Dumbara Campus at Polgolla on October 1, the second campus to be opened after the government assumed office. A catholic man was among the ninety two attorneys who took their oaths yesterday—CDN. The price of cattle feed would be reduced to Rs. 800 a ton from Rs. 1000 to 1,200 and the price of milk would not be raised said the Minister of Rural Industrial Development. About 15,000 families will be settled within a few weeks on 'Mahaweli' land—CDM. The ADB has officially approved a technical assistance grant to Sri Lanka for the Rural Credit Project—SU. Mr. Kasi Anandan and eleven other youths who were under arrest were released on bail but were re-remanded on another case that was filed by the police—VK. The Ministry of Education has said that 3 lakhs of people have applied for teaching posts out of whom 3,000

were qualified for the posts and if any teachers do not report for work on the 28 these people will be appointed immediately—DP. 5 armed youths got away with Rs. 10,000 in cash from the Tirunelveli PO yesterday afternoon. A 'helicopter hunt' was carried out yesterday to hunt out the ones who robbed the PO in the Middle of the day—EN. The government has decided to legalise the system of homeopathic medicine—LD. The estimated annual loss of the PMB is Rs. 10 million. The government is thinking of stopping the sale of the rice bought from Pakistan as rice consumption has gone up after the price increase in flour—DV. Egypt and Israel have agreed to try and sign a peace treaty within three months; Sadat and Begin had drawn up a 'framework for peace in the Middle East' at the Camp David summit meeting which ended yesterday. Rhodesian guerrilla leader Robert Mugabe yesterday accused Britain of using 'clandestine and disreputable manoeuvres' in an attempt to split the Patriotic Front—CDN. Rhodesia's announcement that it is to start forcing Africans to join its already predominately black security forces received a hostile reception from many blacks—CDM. Egypt's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Kamel and its ambassdor to Washington have handed in their resignations to President Sadat following the Camp David West Asian agreements. Government officials are facing a major problem in draining thousands of flood villages in Western Indi which could become breeding grounds for malaria—SU

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20:

Legislation will soon be introduced to establish a University Grants Commission and a University Services Appeal Board; such legislation will also provide for the establishment, maintenance and administration of universities

with their campuses and faculties and other higher educational institutions. The Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs has sent a circular saying among other things that all those who strike will have their posts filled instantly by others. Steps have been taken to ensure the smooth running of buses and trains on September 28 said the Minister of Transport. The JACTU which is planning to go ahead with the planned 24 hour strike is ready for a dialogue with the government but overtures must originate from the government said a spokesman for the committee. The General Secretary of the Jathika Sevaka Adyapana Sevaka Sangamaya has condemned the strike in a statement issued yesterday. An agreement has been signed to establish a telephone service to USA via satellite to London via Trans-Atlantic telephone cable soon—CDN. The PM will utilize the services of 10,000 unemployed youths drawing the Rs. 50 dole for the maintenance and improvement of about 20,000 miles of rural roads. The PM has directed the Commissioner of Local Government to expedite the transfer of the houses in housing schemes set up by the local authorities to tenants on a rent-purchase basis—CDM. The 'Triangle of Buddhist monuments' covering the area between the three historical capitals of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Kandy is to be developed under a massive 100 million rupee archaeological restoration and conservation project with UNESCO assistance. Directives have gone to all GA's to prepare their development programmes on a district basis and not on an electoral basis—SU. A warrant has been issued to arrest the TULF candidate for Kalkudah in connection with the boycotting of the new constitution. News has been received that a meeting

in which the leader of the Opposition spoke in London ended up in disturbance and tear gas was used; the ones who caused the trouble were the Tamil youth in London who protested that the TULF leadership was not working fast enough to achieve 'Eelam'—VK. The CTB is now taking steps to transfer workers as much as possible to their own villages—DM. Paddy farmers in Mihintale, Amparai and Batticaloa are unable to sell their yala harvests because of a lack of storage space. Over 12,000 passports were issued last month and 75% of these were for India—DV. A new nurses training school is to be opened shortly at a cost of Rs. 4 lakhs—LD. The world reacted in a swirl of emotion to the news from the Camp David Summit that Egypt and Israel were mapping a new path to peace in the Middle East; above all there was stunned disbelief. Judges throughout Italy started a three day strike demanding higher pay and asked for more public spending on courts and prisons—CDN. PM Menachim Begin assured the people of Israel that the Camp David Peace agreement with Egypt will assure the security of the Jewish state without sacrificing its ideals—CDM. Israel will soon withdraw a large number of troops from the Gaza strip and the west bank of the River Jordan under the comprehensive peace formula with Egypt. President Carter was nominated yesterday by Congressman Ronald Mottle for a 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for his mediator's role in the Camp David West Asia Summit—SU. The government of Sri Lanka has appointed Dr. Lal Jayawardene as Ambassador to Belgium—IDPR No. 180/78.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:

A crucial meeting having far reaching consequences on most development projects under way in

South and West Asian countries opens in Colombo on Sept 25; it will draw administrative experts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The President of the World Bank, Mr. Robert McNamara is expected here next month. Parliament will today elect a new Speaker and Chairman of Committees when it meets at 2 pm. The writing of Sri Lanka's history from 1935 to February 4 1978 will begin today—CDN. Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis, Minister of State has ordered a probe into the activities of the Ceylon Hotels Corporation. The 15,000 students in the eight campuses of the University of Sri Lanka will have to carry their identity cards in the campus. Plans have been finalised to set up a Sinhala Chamber of Commerce—CDM. Government yesterday decided to make provision for state employees to stay over-night in their offices on September 27 to avoid any inconvenience or excuses for not being able to report for work on September 28 the day fixed for the token strike. A complete overhaul of the Postal Department with Police assistance is to be undertaken immediately in view of the losses of cheques, valuable parcels and goods received from abroad; estimated losses were placed at several million rupees—SU. When the national flag was hoisted on September 7 in connection with the new constitution at Trincomalee Hindu College it burned down; the Principal and two teachers of the school have been suspended—DP. TULF MP's who set out for Colombo to take their oath of allegiance to the new constitution were surrounded by a group of youths at the railway station who pleaded with them to refrain from taking the oath—VK. A team of experts from Pakistan is scheduled to arrive in the island today to examine

and recommend ways and means of improving the Railway Department on a request made by the Minister of Transport—IDPR No 34. The Minister of Plan Implementation has requested heads of Dept, and corporations as well as secretaries to ministries not to employ anybody other than those approved by the Job Bank—LD. Sri Lanka's first regional broadcasting centre is to be set up at Anuradhapura—DM. The TULF has strongly condemned the government's decision to use only English and Sinhala in the courts in the Tamil areas—LD. The government has not been able to get a firm promise from Canada for its aid for the Maduru Oya project—ATH. Saudi Arabia rejected the Camp David Middle East peace formula describing it as an unacceptable formula for definite peace.—CDM. The UN General Assembly opened its 33rd regular session by admitting its 150th member—the Solomon islands. Rescue workers yesterday dug out more bodies from Iran's worst earthquake disaster; the death toll rose to 16,000—CDN. South African PM John Vorster announced his resignation after leading his country for 12 years. Rhodesian troops have launched an attack across the border in Mozambique against black nationalist guerilla bases. Syria today urged its allies in the front opposed to President-Anwar Sadat's peace moves to give it military and economic aid to thwart Israel's Camp David agreement with Egypt—SU.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22:

President told the Government Parliamentary Group that the government had informed private sector employees that they could deal with the employees in their establishments who would join the strike planned for September 28 by certain trade unions opposed

to the government in the same way in which the government had decided. The PM yesterday threw out an open challenge to the politicians behind the proposed token strike scheduled for September 28 to try and make it a success; he added that anyone who failed to report for work on the 28 would be replaced the next morning. Mr. M. A. Bakeer Markar first MP for Beruwala was yesterday unanimously elected Speaker of Parliament; Mr. Norman Widyaratne was elected Deputy Speaker and Mr. Edmund Samarawickrema Chairman of Committees—CDN. At yesterday's meeting of the Government Parliamentary Group the President cautioned all MP's to be vigilant of attempts being made to rouse communal tensions at the present juncture—CDM. President told Government Parliamentarians that if the Tamil MP's in the North kept playing politics and refused to co-operate with the government, the government should go to the North and attend to the needs of the people there; he said the 4 million Tamils were living in various parts of the country and that every citizen should be free to live in any part of the country, and that government would settle Sinhala people in the North and Tamil people in the South. All galleries in Parliament were cleared last afternoon by police following a bomb scare. The proposed salary increase which is to be granted in November's budget will be Rs. 120 for those earning Rs. 360 and below and Rs. 75 for others. TULF MP's took thier oath of allegiance to the constitution when the Parliament resumed sittings yesterday—SU. The price of a tractor has been increased to Rs. 100,600 while the price of a hand made tractor will be Rs. 24,000—ATH. The Arab world's anti-Egyptian bloc opened a summit meeting last night aimed at wrecking the Camp David agreements

isolating President Sadat and forging an effective counter-balance to Israeli military might. A West German scientist charged yesterday that last week's Iranian earthquake which killed at least 16,000 people was caused by a Soviet underground nuclear test. A two day meeting of commonwealth finance ministers opened yesterday with a call for prompt changes in the world economic order—not only to help the poor but to sustain the rich—CDN. In an emotional speech to 2000 American Jewish leaders in New York Israeli PM Begin declared that Jerusalem would remain the capital of Israel for as long as the Jewish people shall live. The Soviet Union depicted the Camp David Summit as a victory for Israel and a defeat for Egypt—CDM. PM John Vorster in a statement explaining his resignation said that South Africa would go ahead with a modified version of its own independence plan for the Namibian people—SU.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23:

The PM yesterday warned trade union leaders behind the proposed token strike next week that reports reaching the government indicated there were certain elements waiting to create communal disturbances through a work stoppage. Mr. B. A. Jayasinghe, Special Commissioner, Colombo Municipality died at his residence in Colombo on Friday morning; he was 58. An island wide program to instill a national consciousness and patriotism among three million school children in Sri Lanka will be launched by the government soon.—CDN. The PM yesterday appealed to trade unions not to allow themselves to be made the pawn of certain outside forces who apparently wanted to take advantage of the situation created by the proposed token strike on September 28. JVP leader Mr. Rohana Wijeweera yesterday dissociated his

movement from the decision to stage the proposed token strike on September 28 and advised the working class not to have faith in trade union leaders like L. W. Panditha, Alavi Moulana and Batty Weerakoon—SU. The government is considering a proposal to give rice instead of the Rs. 50 dole to those who prefer that. The Ministry of Higher Education hopes to open restaurants in all the campuses of the University—LD. The US asked Saudi Arabia to back the Camp David Middle East accords and was told that the influential oil producer wanted to continue a dialogue on the subject. The question of close ties with the Soviet Union figured high on the agenda yesterday at the Damascus Summit of hardline Arab states.—CDN. Israeli soldiers yesterday forcibly dismantled an illegal Jewish settlement on the Jordan west bank and were poised to break up two others—CDM. The South African government's decision to hold elections in Namibia from November 20—24 was taken in disregard of the UN proposals. Libyan leader Gadaffi and Yassar Arafat the PLO Chief arrived in Jordan from Damascus to try to make King Hussein side with hard line Arabs in rejecting Egypt's Camp David peace agreement with Israel. PM Menachim Begin received a hero's welcome when he returned home from the US—SU.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24:

Private sector employer's representatives who met the President yesterday had told him that they were prepared to consider those who do not attend work on September 28 as having vacated office. More trade unions have announced that they will have no truck with the one day token general strike being planned by opposition trade unions. Finance Minister Ronnie de Me told the Commonwealth Finance Minister's Conference which

opened in Montreal on Friday that Sri Lanka's dilemma was to maintain the present physical quality of life while at the same time accelerating economic development and growth. Free Sky Airways, now seeking landing rights in Colombo will offer a round air trip to UK and back for only Rs. 4800 (160£)—SO. The government considered the so-called token general strike on September 28 as a beginning of an attempt to overthrow illegally a democratically elected government; where did the Universal Declaration of trade union rights and ILO convention endorse such action in democratic countries; this was asked by the President in the course of a blunt reply to the General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions who had cabled the President protesting against the decision of the government to treat the threatened strike as illegal. Tight security measures will come into effect from tomorrow to prevent saboteurs from causing damage to public property, machinery or to the transport services. 4278 out of the 14,445 persons who appealed to the committees appointed by the Cabinet to probe political victimisation during the previous regime will either get their job back or be paid Compensation or have their pensions enhanced. The Compulsory Service Act is to be amended shortly with particular reference to loopholes which medical officers make use of to leave the country; about sixty doctors have apparently left the country within the past three months without completing their compulsory service period. The Minister of Fisheries has appointed a five member committee to recommend a scheme for the sale of fair-priced fish by the Fisheries Corporation—ST. All rabble rousers and subversive elements will be arrested from today onwards; instructions to this effect were issued yesterday by the

IGP to all police stations throughout the country. Twenty five couples in veddah territory, some with grandchildren, who lived together as man and wife according to their age-old customs entered legal wedlock last wednesday. The Minister of Labour said yesterday that he was prepared to enact special legislation through parliament or by Emergency Regulations if necessary to consider those who do not attend work on September 28 as having vacated office. The Engineering Export Promotion Council, a quasi-Indian government body announced at the end of its fact finding mission to Sri Lanka that Indian participation in joint ventures here within the next three years would amount to around 30 million US dollars (45 million Rs.)—WK. The Minister of Agriculture speaking in Batticaloa said that the scheme whereby pensions would be granted to farmers will come into effect soon and details of this would be released to the press —VK. The statement that the President made about the government going to the Tamil speaking areas to work for the people has apparently perturbed TULF MP's; they have asked the government to delay the appointment of District Ministers till the leader of the TULF returns from abroad—CM. 32 old students who ragged freshers of the medical faculty have been suspended from attending classes—EN. The Arab world's anti-Egyptian front has agreed to form a joint political and military command to co-ordinate moves against Israel and Egypt after the Camp David accords—SO. The Organisation of African Unity called for tough economic sanctions including an oil embargo against South Africa because of its rejection of UN proposals for a Namibia settlement—WK.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25:
The government's machinery is

being put into top gear to synchronise with the District Minister's administration scheme scheduled to come into effect during the second week of next month. The National Milk Board, which comes under the purview of the Ministry of Rural Industrial Development, will hand over its Lakspray packing plant to the Ministry of Trade. Work on the massive Maduru Oya Scheme will commence with the help of one lakh of youth who will do sramadana work at the site; the first batch 360 drawn from various parts of Colombo left yesterday morning. Police have rounded up an armed gang which was terrorising places in the NCP—CDN. The government has banned the export of vegetables to Middle East countries from today; the acting Minister of Shipping said that this would prevent any further increases in the price of vegetables. The Open University which begins this year should be an independent educational institution formulating its own courses, conducting its own examinations and granting its own awards and it should be given a separate grant by government; so states a report of the committee appointed by the Ministry of Higher Education. While the government is going ahead with its plans to deal firmly with the token strike of September 28, the rank and file of certain trade unions which had decided to participate in the strike are now having second thoughts—CDM. JVP leader Rehana Wijlweera was struck by a stone during a disturbance at the JVP mass rally in Jaffna last evening. The IGP has assured all employees reporting to work on September 28 that they would be afforded maximum protection on their way to, at their places of and while travelling from their places of work. The two suspects wanted in connection with the recent bombing of the AVRO aircraft at Ratmalana are

believed to have fled the country. The Minister of State has called upon the police to assist in curbing the influx of foreign narcotics peddlars and hippie types who are said to be spoiling the tourist image of the country. The Minister of cultural affairs has announced that the Maligavila area in the Moneragala District, where the biggest Buddha statue in Asia is, will be declared an archaeological reserve shortly—SU. The final decision regarding the token strike on September 28 will be taken today at a meeting to be held at Hyde Park—DP. The leader of the JVP speaking in Jaffna said that he had a very good opinion of the Tamil speaking people and even when he was in prison it was a Tamil who helped him; he said he will keep visiting Jaffna often and no one can stop him. The Minister of Justice stated that if a Tamil area ceases to exist in this country it is because of the TULF leaders—VK. The JVP leader speaking in Jaffna said that they were for self determination rights class distinctions were only for capitalists and not for the workers and they opposed class distinctions in whatever form they came—EN. The Minister of Cultural Affairs said that the export of historical monuments etc will soon be banned and anyone who tries to destroy them will be dealt with severely. The PMB is taking steps to sell paddy stored in warehouses at 94 cents a pound in order to empty the warehouses before the Yala harvest—DV. The President has asked the Deputy Minister of Agriculture to take steps to stop political interference in Janawasa and Land Reform Commission work as he had received a large number of complaints to this effect—DM. 45 million yards more of synthetic textiles have to be produced for the country to become self-sufficient in this product—LD. Arab hardliners last night announ-

ced they were breaking off all political and economic relations with Egypt. Vast crowds of Egyptians hailed President Anwar Sadat yesterday as the peace maker of Camp David and showered him with rose petals as he returned from the Camp David Summit to a tumultuous welcome in Cairo. Parts of Rhodesia came under martial law yesterday by proclamation of the transitional government—CDN. King Hussein of Jordan said yesterday a separate peace treaty between Israel and Egypt would seriously affect Jordanian-Egyptian relations. Nicaraguan guerillas who led a two week rebellion in four major cities against President Somoza took to the hills before forces launched fierce air raids—CDM. The Israeli Cabinet accorded overwhelming approval of the Camp David agreements following a long drawn out debate in the Cabinet—SU.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26:

The Joint Action Committee of trade unions yesterday decided to 'defer' the 24 hour token strike planned for Thursday after a five hour discussion; the decision was unanimous; a spokesman for the 17 TU organisations said the committee would review trade union action later; what apparently made them decide on a temporary cancellation of the work stoppage of Sept 28 was the 'direct illegal threat' held out by the government. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has offered storage space for 5.6 million bushels of paddy as only 20 of the 102 tanks oil in China Bay are being used at present by the Corporation for storing oil and the others are free. There are 20,000 vacancies for teachers in government schools and of these 3000 were for graduates said the Secretary to the Ministry of Education. Sri Lanka will soon be establishing an Administrative Reforms Commission which will continually examine and review every

aspect of administration said the PM. The Jaffna District Agricultural Producers Association has requested the Minister of Trade and shipping to ban the import of onions and chillies except in the event of acute shortage; it has also requested the Minister to fix a reasonable and realistic guaranteed price on chillies and red onions before the forthcoming Maha season. Ceremonies at the Horogolla Bandaranaike Memorial this morning will be the highlight of the 19th Bandaranaike Day this year—CDN. The government has decided to lift the ban on private sector imports of fertilizer. The PM plans to construct 18,000 houses at a cost of Rs. 348 million next year. 150,000 handloom weavers in the country face the loss of their means of livelihood because of the steep increase in the price of yarn according to a report by textile experts to the Ministry. The TULF leadership which urged Tamil children to boycott school on Sept 7th when the new constitution came into effect now unshamedly prepared to take their oaths to the self same constitution and one wondered what logic was behind this move said Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam Jnr. at a meeting of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress at Thunnalai—CDM. Banque de L'Indochine et de Suez, the largest private bank in France signed an agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka last Friday to establish one of its subsidiaries in this country and to become operative from January 1979. The World Bank is to enter into a completely new field of operations in Sri Lanka—to streamline the customs service and gear it to meet modern requirements especially of the proposed FTZ. The Chief of Air Staff of the Royal Air Force, Air Chief Marshall Sir Michael Beetham arrives in Sri Lanka tomorrow on an official visit; he will be the first RAF Chief Marshall

to visit Sri Lanka—SU. The leader of the JVP speaking about the stone throwing incident in Jaffna when he was presiding at a meeting said that those who did it were not Tamils but some red shirted characters who had come from the South—DP. The Ministry of Higher Education has made all arrangements to set up the open university; UNESCO has already gifted 390 million dollars for this project while a Swedish firm has presented Rs. 55 million worth of equipment—LD. The withdrawal of Jewish settlers from Sinai in exchange for peace with Egypt is formally recommended by PM Menachim Begin. King Hussein of Jordan will shortly make a tour of several countries for talks on the recent Camp David accords—SU. President Sadat sent a senior official to Geneva to put Egypt's position on the Camp David agreements to King Khalid of Saudi Arabia and try to overcome secret opposition to the accords—CDM.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27:

The CTB has totted up a loss of Rs. 33.5 million during the first three months of this year; fifty depots have been responsible for losses amounting to Rs. 30.1 million during the first three months of this year while ten depots have shown a profit of Rs. 2.6 million; seven depots had not sent in their returns even by the end of July. The CTB has paid salaries to 2,488 persons who were not in its employ in December 1974. The Fisheries Ministry will soon introduce a local substitute for maldivian fish under a project financed by the Norwegian government; the substitute which retains all nutrients found in fish will contain about 84% protein and will be known as 'Rasajeeva'. The customs yesterday clamped down on the large scale flow of imported goods from Sri Lanka to India—CDN. The Indian High Commissioner

made an on-the-spot inspection during the weekend of facilities provided at Talaimannar for repatriates to India. Work has begun on a master plan for the development of the University of Ruhuna; it is expected that the entire scheme will cost over Rs. 150 million—CDM. The government is to ensure that any decision for strike action in future is taken by the rank and file of the membership of the trade unions at a secret ballot and not by a handful of union leaders behind closed doors—SU. The Minister of Land and Land Development thanked all workers and trade unions who refused to join the token strike and stood by the government—VK. The former IGP Mr. Stanley Senanayake testifying before the Special presidential Commission said that the police and army during the 1971 insurgency had the permission to get rid of all bodies secretly without informing relatives or anyone else—DP. The government has decided to import 345 buses immediately from India and another 1000 will be imported from Japan next year and the CTB hopes to get Rs. 360 million from the World Bank to develop transport facilities. All airmail postage rate will be increased by 25 cents from October 1. The World Bank and the WHO have said that rubber prices will improve considerably in the next two or three years as the requirement of rubber in the world market is expected to increase by 1/2 million tons—DM. The Colombo Amenities Board on a directive of the PM has launched a scheme of upgrading slum tenants houses in Colombo—IDPR No. 55. India's ruling Janata Party will hold its first organised election in December since the party was formed last year. Egypt is opening direct contact with Israel in preparation for peace negotiations President Anwar Sadat announced. The Hindu and

Buddhist holy town of Gaya and Buddha-Gaya were submerged today by a fresh wave of floods—CDN. At least 140 people were killed when a jetliner and light plane collided and plunged in flames onto a crowded residential area; it was the worst disaster in US aviation history. Vietnam said yesterday that China has massed large numbers of troops and deployed hundreds of tanks and aircraft along their common border. Rhodesian troops striking across the border into Mozambique are believed to have killed hundreds of black nationalist guerillas a military spokesman said—CDM. Martial law imposed by the Rhodesian government on individual areas now covers about 80% of the country according to an official review. China today suspended talks with Vietnam one day after Hanoi accused the Chinese of using troops, tanks and aircraft on their common borders—SU.

+ + +

SNIPPETS

The finest art, the most difficult to learn, is the art of living.

—John Macy

—O— —O— —O—

One half of knowing what you want is knowing what you must give up before you get it.

—Martine Steed

—O— —O— —O—

Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people.

—Warren Fitzherbert

—O— —O— —O—

Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.

—Dag Hammarskjöld

—O— —O— —O—

FLOOR PRICE FOR CHILLIES AND ONIONS

A Plea From The Jaffna District Agricultural Producers' Association

We publish below a few selected documents sent to us by the Jaffna District Agricultural Producers' Association, primarily on the question of onions and chillies. The Association has only recently been formed. In our view similar independent Associations organised by farmers in other agricultural districts will serve a long-felt need for the farming community.

The first document is a memorandum dated September 12, 1978 submitted to the Minister of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali and to the Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Research, Mr. E. L. Senanayake, on the question of a floor of price for dried chillies and red onions. The second is a copy of the Minutes of the first Committee meeting of the Association held on August 2, 1978 which sets out clearly some of the problems confronting farmers in Jaffna. Third, we have estimates of the cost of production per acre for Chillies and Onions in the Jaffna district for Maha 1978. The estimates were prepared by: Mr. S. Padmanabha, President, Jaffna District Agricultural Producers' Association in consultation with the following: Professor S. Rajaratnam M.Sc (Econ) Head of the Department of Economics, University of Sri Lanka, Jaffna Campus, and Mr. K. N. Jayaseelan B.Sc. (Lond), B.Sc. Agri. (Poona) M. S. A. (Toronto) Retired D.A.E.O., Jaffna.

—Ed.

FLOOR PRICE FOR DRIED CHILLIES & RED ONIONS

I am addressing this appeal to you, as President of the above Association which at present has a membership of 723 members.

You are aware that the Jaffna District traditionally cultivates Red Onions and Chillies. In the past the marketing of these produce was mainly done through Governmental or Semi-Governmental organisations such as the CWE, the MPCS, and the Marketing Department at guaranteed prices fixed by the Government. In the recent past labour wages and other agricultural inputs have gone up in Rupee value and the Guaranteed Price Scheme for these produce no longer operates, and the

prevailing prices are much higher than the original guaranteed prices. These prices vary with the supply and demand. When such a condition prevailed the Government imported buffer stocks of chillies and onions and thereby increased the supplies. The result was a fall in prices. The chillie cultivators abandoned their chillie crop after a first few picks, and the acreage under onions diminished as the cultivators feared that it would be uneconomical to carry on with these crops in the context of the Import Policy of the Government.

Sir, as the President of the above Association, I am earnestly appealing to you to—

1. To ban imports of onions and chillies except in the event of the acute shortage.

2. To fix a reasonable and realistic guaranteed price for Grade 1 chillies and Red Onions before the forthcoming Maha Season.

3. To organise a marketing system with accessible purchasing points whereby individual farmers will be in a position to sell his produce direct to a governmental or semi-governmental organisation thereby eliminating the middleman.

I may mention in this connection that the Hon'ble Junior Minister for Trade S. Amarasiri in his recent visit to Jaffna has seen personally the conditions under which farmers produce these crops. He also had discussions in various places. Various bodies had given him figures for cost of production, so that he could arrive at the solution which while being beneficial to the consumers will also be helpful for promoting local production of chillies and onions.

I am addressing this appeal in the fervent hope that some quick decision will be taken before the forthcoming season which will ease the uncertainties in the minds of the farmers in Sri Lanka who grow these crops so that they could go ahead in the planning and production of chillies and onions for the people of this country and the greater good of the country with confidence.

The Peninsula and the near mainland produces 65% of the chillies and 90% of the onions produced in the country. The total area under these crops would amount to about 15% to 20% of the national acreage. The high productivity in the North is entirely due to lift irrigation, high inputs, intensive care and personal management. While productivity is high, the costs are also proportionately higher, and unlike his Southern counterparts who may cultivate the two crops as subsidiary to paddy or in chenas, the Northern farmer

is solely dependent on market gardening confined to one or two crops. It is therefore the Northern farmer who determines the market price of the two commodities. If the Northern farmer should be given the inducement of an adequate price, he will sustain production at the present level and if he has a bigger margin of profit, he may increase his input and increase production even to the point of complete self sufficiency. If the price is not satisfactory, he may substitute other crops which may result in a national calamity.

From every point of view, self sufficiency, conservation of foreign exchange, employment and earnings of farmers at large, a guaranteed price will have beneficial effects.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE JAFFNA DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

1. The first committee meeting was held on Wednesday the 2nd August 1978 at 10 a.m. at the Farm School, Thirunelvely with Mr. S. Padmanabha in the Chair. Eleven Executive Committee members were present.

2. The minutes of the inaugural meeting were read and confirmed.

3. The Chairman addressed the Committee on the present state of the distribution of Agro Chemicals and Fertilisers. He stated that Jaffna District uses more Fertilisers and Agro Chemicals for subsidiary food crops and paddy compared to other districts. It was regrettable that traders were adulterating Fertilisers with dust, ash etc. and that the quality of Agro Chemicals sold by them was also poor. The prices of these products vary from place to place and time to time. The Chairman suggested that to safeguard the

farmers' interest the Ministry of Agriculture and Research should authorize only certain registered dealers to trade in this product and that their business should be supervised and any adulterated products should be confiscated and such dealers severely punished. Mr. S. K. Velauthapillai moved that this be brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Research for necessary governmental action and this was seconded by Mr. K. E. Kumarasamy and was unanimously accepted by the Committee.

4. Mr. S. Thambiayah proposed that farmers at present were getting Rs. 6 to 7 for a pound of dried chillies whereas the cost of production was almost Rs. 9/- per pound. And therefore the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade should rectify this anomaly by fixing a reasonable and realistic guaranteed price per pound of Grade I dried chillies. This was seconded by Mr. Jeyagunaratnam and was unanimously accepted by the Committee.

5. Mr. Thambiayah proposed that the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Hon'ble Minister of Trade fix a reasonable and realistic guaranteed price for onions as otherwise the cost of production including the high cost of seed and the intensify of labour will make it unprofitable for producers to continue raising this crop. This was seconded by Mr. Arasaratnam after much discussions as to the fixing of this low floor price it was yet decided by he Committee that for a beginning they will abide by this floor price.

6. Mr. K. E. Kumarasamy proposed that in the Jaffna District since potato cultivation is confined to one season which commences in Mid-November, it was very essential that seed potatoes be made available from 15th November to early December and

Office Bearers

Patrons

M. Srikantha C.C.S; OBE
Retired Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Lands, Irrigation & Power.

S. Kanagaratnam
Retired Deputy Director of
Agriculture.

President

S. Padmanabha
Padmas Farm, Palaly Road,
Kondavil.

1st Vice President

K. E. Kumarasamy
Kopay.

2nd Vice President

S. K. Velauthapillai
Ghandhi Nilayam
Uruthirapuram.

General Secretary

P. Sittampalam
No. 90, Stage II
Visuwamadu.

Joint Secretary

E. Jeyakunaratnam
Komathurai
Valvettithurai.

Treasurer

J. D. Senathirajah
Kadduwan South
Kadduwan.

that since in the past seed potatoe distribution was mismanaged it was very necessary that the distribution be handled by the MPCs and APC at village level under the supervision of the AGA and A.I. This was seconded by Mr. P. Sittampalam and unanimously accepted.

7. Mr. S. Pathmanabha proposed that the Association request the Government Agent to invite a representation of this Association to participate in the Jaffna District Agricultural Committee meetings.

This was seconded by Mr. P. Sittampalam and unanimously accepted.

8. Mr. K. E. Kumarasamy proposed that this Association thank the Jaffna Lions Club for the help it rendered to form this Association and the financial help given to this Association. This Association also extends its warmest thanks to Mr. Lionel Fernando, Government Agent Jaffna, and to Mr. K. Siva Murthilingam, DAEO Jaffna, for all assistance and help rendered in forming this Association. This was seconded by Mr. P. Sittampalam and unanimously accepted. The Chairman directed that a copy of this proposal be sent to Jaffna Lion's Club with Association's Warmest thanks.

CHILLIES — COST OF PRODUCTION PER ACRE FOR MAHA 1978

1. Land Preparation :

Disc ploughing/	
Mamoty work	200.00
Tyne Tilling/	
Mamoty work	160.00
Main channel	60.00

2. Manure and Manuring

3 lorry loads of Farm manure & Transport @ 1100/- per lorry load	3300.00
Unloading and spreading	200.00
Tyning/Mamoty mixing	160.00

3. Planting

cost of plants—	
20,000 seedlings at 2 cts per plant	400.00
Lining and marking	60.00
Planting	224.00
Hand watering 3 times per day for one week	300.00
2 cwts urea application and stirring	260.00

4. Furrow Irrigation

Opening furrows and ridges	160.00
4 cwts of chillies mixture application & stirring	380.00

5. Bed Irrigation

Mamotyping the areas, making beds and channels	160.00
4 cwts chillie mixture, application & stirring	380.00
2 cwts urea application and stirring	264.00
Loosening soil and hand weeding (4 times)	500.00

6. Irrigation and Distribution of Water by Contract

Irrigation including pump hire and turning water	2600.00
--	---------

7. Pest and Disease Control

Components of spray:	
1. Insecticides	
Cost of 16 oz.—90/-	
2. Fungicide	
Cost of 16 oz.—40/-	
3. Miticide	
Cost of 16 oz.—12/-	
Labour cost per sprayer 1/-	
Average spraying for 6 months 25 times (Spraying 40 gallons per acre)	2500.00

8. Harvesting

8 picks @ 25 women per pick (labour Rs. 6/- per day)	1200.00
Drying, Grading etc	350.00

9. Rent of Land on Lease

	1200.00
	<u>15,018.00</u>

Yield per acre is 15 cwts.	15,000.00
Cost per cwt	1000/-

Cost per lb	8.93
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NB. The interest of 14% on the Bank loan for capital investment is not included in the C.O.P.

ONIONS—COST OF CULTIVATION PER ACRE FOR MAHA 1978.

1. Land Preparation

Disc ploughing/	
Mamoty work	200.00
Tyne Tilling/	
Mamoty work	160.00
Main channel	60.00

2. Manure and Manuring

Two lorry loads farm yard manure @ 1100 per lorry load	2200.00
Unloading and spreading	200.00
Tying/Mamoty mixing	160.00

3. Planting

20 cwts @ 250 per cwt	5000.00
Making beds and channels	320.00
Planting labour	324.00

4. After care

3 weeding (hand weeding by women) 40 women per weeding @ 6/- labour (240/-)	720.00
Fertiliser 6 cwts @ 85/-	510.00
Labour for application	60.00

5. Pest and disease control

Insecticides and Fungicides	600.00
Labour for spraying	250.00

6. Irrigation and distribution of water

Pump Hire and Turning water	1200.00
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7. Harvesting :

Labour for harvesting	250.0
Preparing for market	500.00

8. Rent of Land on lease

	300.00
	<u>12,914.00</u>

Yield 100 cwts per acre but this includes a driage reduction of 15%. Hence net yield is 85 cwts

	<u>12,914.00</u>
Cost per cwt	151.93
Cost per lb	1.35

ISSUES, SOLUTIONS
TRENDS-3

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS

by
Shirley J. Payoe

THE NATIONAL EFFORT: Readers—boned up on our history will now be ready with answers to our cosmic poser: Was there a 25-year period in our history during which a sustained national effort was made to develop the country? What we had in mind was a long-term effort unconnected with race, religion, language and tank-building. Leafing through history books, we come across several rulerships of over 25 years. That child of destiny, Pandukabhaya who built Anuradhapura, ruled for a biblical 70 years, Devanampiya for 40, Elara for 44 years while Dutugemunu had a stint of only 24 years. However, their stories are misted with folklore.

During 09-1508 AC, a period of 1499 years, less one of Interregnum, we had 138 reigns, not counting rulerships of less than a week but including those of two horse dealers, one door keeper and a nymphomaniac who somehow managed to gain footholds on the throne. This gives our sovereigns before the advent of the foreigner an average stint of 10.86 years on the throne, which is more than double the 5-year cycle of leadership that has prevailed under the party-system in the post-independent era. Only one recent government has lasted for 7 years and that has come to be recorded as a period of constitutional blight.

In fact, during 09-1508 AC there were 14 monarchs who ruled for over 25 years, not counting those who missed the set term by a few

months. These 14 kings aggregated 522 years which is nearly a third of the 1498 years under study. In other words, this means a reasonable probability of our ancient kings ruling for over 25 years. A startling fact is that, by comparison, our modern constitutions guarantee that no rule lasts for more than 6 years; especially because the 'free exercise of the vote' ensures that a change of the political pillows take place for every nick in the neck that the voter feels could be cured by a change in the government.

With history thus reduced to mere statistics, let us proceed to fill the blanks in the review. The average reign per monarch was as short as 10.86 years not because of virus, coronaries and old age which got at our kings, but because the reigns were cut short by the court intrigues of royal brothers, nephews, uncles, aunts, consorts clansmen and chieftans. The Uvarajahs who ruled the provinces on behalf of the Maharajahs in the capital harboured thoughts of grandeur and often sought foreign predators to support their unfounded claims. The chieftains sold their loyalties likewise for more extended privileges to anyone willing to buy their political merchandise. Meantime, the multiplicity of wives our kings had (as a pastime and a precaution against barrenness on the part of the official queens) led the 'unofficial queens' to try to suppress the royal blood line. Family bandyism is nothing new and was a practice dating from ancient times.

When we turn from ancient history to the modern there is no escape from the fact that political posturing today has evolved into a fine lucrative art. Contempt would make us list the antics of politicians who live by hoisting slogans before voters, but pity pre-

vents us from doing so. Readers can do this job for us by drawing instances from their own experiences.

Suffice it to point out that in every opposition we have had in Parliament there has always been a political elements which assumed, by design or by accident, a vulture's role. Each and every opposition party has sought opportunities to embarrass, sabotage, subvert or topple the existing party in power rather than to suggest, evaluate, modify and constructively criticise any long-term plans in operation. This peculiar system led to a class of professional carrion eaters who hoped to thrive on the national difficulties, embarrassments and de-stabilisations. The overall welfare was of little concern to them. The second startling fact arises from the situation which enables a negative-role-playing opposition to receive a monthly salary and an eventual pension. The rationale behind this beats us!

We hope readers will readily find evidence that post-independent politicians had (like our kings of yore) become victims of a system which compelled them to place their survival ahead of the welfare of the general citizens and ahead also of national priorities. The effect of this political tendency was to saddle the country with a monstrous welfare system of subsidies for the rich and the poor alike, from the cradle to the grave with direct and indirect handouts, which was completely unworkable. If a system was required to destroy the national economy, to undermine work-attitudes, to destroy quality in schools, hospitals and offices, nothing better than this same system devised by the politicians could have been found. When the system was tied up with favouritism, language and race, it accomplished the destruction of the

national structure, both in the public and private sector, within a very short time.

It is against this background that we wish to stress the immense value of the nation-building role assumed by the President. Out of all the politicians, he alone had asked and planned for such a role at the polls. Now with 141 MPs out of 160 he and his party have got the job of reconstruction.

At the time of writing, just 365 days after the polls, he has done the initial spade work and generated a groundswell of enthusiasm for his long-term development plans. Good. We wish him luck in the many tasks that now lie ahead.

We believe that a mutation in the political genetic code alone could have led to the evolution of such a personage as the President who stands well above narrow sectarianisms and common trivialities as he surveys and plans the future welfare of the nation. We salute him today for that. We believe that production is the key to our development and we therefore commend to him a simple and effective Japanese principle of management: "Double pay, for treble output."

We also believe that all work and low pay makes Punchi Appuhamy a very glum man indeed. Forty years of mouthing leftists slogans—as well as running wild on May Days—have got our workers nowhere. The President and his party can ensure that the take-home hire is rational and worthy of the worker.....

Port Cargo Corporation: On 1st August the Port of Colombo celebrates the completion of its 20th Year of operation. We are happy to record this.

Nationalised in 1958, the Port was soon allowed to fall into the

doldrums typical of government undertakings. It became the paradise of shirkers, touts and tormentors of those who had any business discharging or loading cargo. It became the playground of the upper crust trade union tacticians who visited their offices only to draw their monthly salaries. Pilferers and thugs ruled an area which had a direct bearing on the national economy. However, no one bothered when the country's image was tarnished in international shipping circles; no one noticed the valuable cargo that rotted in the port or the demurrage which sometimes mounted above the f.o.b. value of the goods being imported.

When the tough-minded Minister of Shipping & Tourism, Mrs. Wimala Kannanagara, put an end to this madness in the Ports she accomplished a man-sized job. She gave us a strike-free X'mas last December and together with the equally tough-minded Chairman of the Port Cargo Corporation, Mr. D. P. R. Rajapakse, she set about pulling the ports back into shape. Their work of re-structuring the port was simplified by the active co-operation of all workers, including port labour who form the backbone of any port. Our information is that the Port of Colombo has made a handsome profit, although Galle and Trincomalee still continue to operate at a loss. When the Single Ports Authority gets into swing, we can expect further improvements.

CHRIST IN THE EXCHANGE CONTROL: Ever heard of a Christ in the Exchange Control? We have. We have been told about him by several parties. Maybe if you need exchange in a rush, for an emergency, you should try to locate him. We have ourselves never applied for f.e and do not see possibilities of our doing so. When you are really in a rush, is

when you really begin to think that the little sharks and vultures that hover around an office can be of help. But that is also the time when delays seem deliberately planned to humiliate and harrass you. When you get this sinking feeling, don't scatter bakshi, just try to locate Christ.

Be warned, however. We are also told that this gentleman can like a Police narcotic dog, sniff out the rogue, racketeer or fraud! He has little time, so be brief and to the point when you meet him. Just ask for Mr. A. R. Fernando.

ENOUGH. Well, that's that. Enough is enough.

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THE WORLD TODAY

Nicaragua: Middle East

NICARAGUA: A DICTATOR'S WAR AGAINST PEOPLE

THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA CONTINUES TO turn against the dictatorial rule of President Anastasio Somoza. Forces opposed to the Somoza regime virtually controlled the entire north-west Nicaragua for a number of days. The rebels have withdrawn but have not been defeated. The struggle as is known, was touched off by the daring raid of Sandinist guerillas on the national palace forcing the release of a large group of political prisoners. The retaliation launched by the Somoza regime following this has now ignited a war between the forces opposed to the Somoza regime and the loyalist troops. Regular fighting started on September 1.

The guerillas are not fighting alone. The Frente Ampilo—the Board Front—a political organisation that includes various democratic parties, has since taken up the cause and transformed the fight into a popular uprising. It had given a call for strike to the Nicaraguan workers which it began on August 25.

Who is this Somoza and why are the people so opposed to him? Somoza is a crony of the US administration. He graduated from the West Point (USA) military academy in 1957. The Somoza family has been ruling the country from many years now. During his father's regime, the present Somoza became the commander-in-chief of the Nicaraguan troops and after the death of his father, he himself became the ruler. Now his son is leading the Nicaraguan army—in true family tradition.

According to the Latin American press, the dictator has the blood of over 20,000 Nicaraguan patriots on his hands. Venezuelan newspaper *Ultimas Noticias* reported recently that the Somoza family has had killed hundreds of thousands of people. For Somoza law and order means the right to rule his country as if it were his fief. The dictator controls 85 per cent of the national economy, while the Nicaraguan people pine in abject poverty and have no economic or political rights. Altogether 36 per cent of the self-employed population are jobless and 70 per cent illiterate. In such districts as Matagalpa and Jinotega illiteracy is total. The infant mortality rate is 130 per 1,000.

Any discontent is ruthlessly suppressed. The national guards torture women, old people and children. Repression is used against political and trade union leaders, students, intellectuals and clergy, in short, against all those who

in one way or other disagree with the policy pursued by the regime.

Somoza maintains two special battalions to victimise his opponents. They kill rebels without charge or trial. Citizens who are suspected of contacts with guerillas are buried alive. In concentration camps prisoners are denied water and food, bound up with barbed wire, tortured with electricity and hung by their arms from the ceiling.

In 1977 US military aid to Nicaragua was estimated at 3 million dollars, whereas this year the Somoza regime has already got a credit of 12 million dollars. The US Congress is going to consider now a bill on a 150,000 dollar subsidy for the military training of the Nicaraguan national guard.

—Sadhan Mukherjee in *New Age*,
New Delhi, 24/9/78

MIDDLE EAST: ARAB REACTIONS

The countries of the Arab "Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation" announced here last night they were breaking all economic and political relations with Egypt. The break was announced in a communique at the end of a conference called to try to undo the results of the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel. The Front consists of four countries (Algeria, Libya, Syria, and Southern Yemen) plus the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). A "declaration of principle" accompanying the final communique said the Front had decided to form a "high command". The four heads of State and the PLO leader would meet every six months, or whenever the need arose, and would decide on setting up a "unified military command." The Front members also asked in their communique that the headquarters of the Arab League be moved from Cairo to some other country.

The Front assigned Syrian President Hafez El-Assad to make contact with the Soviet Union to examine "the possibility of strengthening the USSR's ties with the Front so as to re-establish the military and political balance in the region." Mr. Assad was also to make a tour of Arab capitals to explain the Front's decision and to work up a maximum of support for the hardliners. The Syrian Presidents should also see whether a summit meeting could be called, convening all Arab countries except Egypt. The communique invited other Arab nations to join the Front to foil "the American - Egyptian - Zionist plot. It said they should "shoulder their responsibilities and take firm attitudes toward the defeatist results of Camp David."

The Front stressed the need to support the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It called the results of Camp David "illegal" because "they do not recognise Arab and Palestinian rights." Turning to Lebanon, the Damascus conference reaffirmed support for "its unity, its Arabism, and its independence."

As the Front members ended their "summit", which began here Wednesday night, Mr. Assad virulently attacked Egyptian president Anwar Sadat for having perpetrated "the most horrible crime ever committed" in putting his signature on the Camp David agreements. He said Mr. Sadat had not only made separate agreements with Israel "but also sold Arab land and sold out the Palestinian cause." He added that he hoped to see the day when Egypt would rejoin "the Arab ranks to carry out its national obligations."

Saudi Arabia has told the United States there can only be peace in West Asia if there is a comprehensive settlement involving all

the parties to the conflict, the official Saudi Press Agency said in Riyadh to-day. It said the Saudi position had been put to the US Secretary of State, Mr. Cyrus Vance. The Saudi agency, quoting an official Foreign Ministry source, said Saudi leaders questioned Mr. Vance about the failure of the Camp David agreement to mention Jerusalem.

King Hussein of Jordan said in Amman on Saturday that a separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel could seriously affect Jordanian-Egyptian relations. He added he would not close any doors that might lead to a comprehensive peace settlement between the Arabs and Israel. He also denied press reports that he had been subjected to pressures from Mr. Vance, to take a favourable position on the Camp David agreement or from hardline Arab States to reject them. At a press conference he again reiterated conditions under which Jordan was ready to join in peace talks and said he would not bargain on Palestinian rights. The King listed conditions for a just and comprehensive peace, including total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, recognition of Palestinian rights and the return of Israeli-occupied Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty. He rejected the idea of the internationalisation of Jerusalem insisting that this should not apply to the Arab sector alone but to the Jewish sector as well. President Sadat has no right to feel more concerned over the West Bank than we do", the King said.

The United States President, **Mr. Jimmy Carter**, said on Saturday in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, that unless the Palestinians and King Hussein joined West Asia peace talks, "the progress we can make will be limited." But Mr. Carter said Egypt's President pledged to him in writing to continue negotiations on the status of the Pales-

tinians and the West Bank even if Jordan withholds its support. Mr. Carter said he hoped a self-governing Palestinian authority on the West Bank could be set up in the next two or three months, as soon as Egypt and Israel concluded the peace treaty they committed themselves to at the Camp David summit.

President Sadat, riding in an open limousine, received an exuberant hero's welcome home from the Camp David summit on Saturday from more than 100,000 Egyptians. Dancers whirled on the sidewalks, women gave the ululating cry of victory and banners strung across the motorcade route proclaimed the Egyptian leader a "hero of peace." The entire Cabinet all members of Parliament and a delegation of foreign diplomats greeted Mr. Sadat after his aircraft touched down after a four-and-one-half hour flight from Morocco. Mr. Sadat flew from Morocco to Cairo via Spain and Italy, a route that carefully avoided the Libyan air space.

In Tel Aviv several hundred right-wing demonstrators rallied outside **Prime Minister Menachem Begin's** home early to-day to protest against the Camp David accords, Israel Radio reported.

The protesters were stopped by security officers about 50 metres from Mr. Begin's doorstep.

After being hustled away from the Prime Minister's house, some of the demonstrators gathered outside Interior Minister Joseph Burg's house. Mr. Burg is a member of the National Religious Party.

Some protestors tried to climb the stairs to Mr. Burg's home and were arrested, the radio said.

Speaking in Jerusalem at a closed door meeting of her Labour Party, former Israel Prime Minister Golda Meir criticised the peace accords

saying she would have handled things differently.

—Reuter, Damascus 24/9/78

EGYPT: OPPOSITION TO SADAT

In a bitter attack on President Anwar Sadat, an Egyptian left-wing Opposition party declared today that the Camp David peace agreements with Israel could set off civil wars in the Middle East. The Unionist Progressive Party (UPP) accused the Egyptian leader of going back on promises that he would not establish diplomatic relations with the Jewish State before a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. The UPP said that under the Camp David accords, Egypt would establish full relations with Israel within three to nine months after only a partial Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai desert. The agreements reached between President Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin 10 days ago could start 'racial, sectarian and tribal conflicts and even civil wars in which the Lebanese civil strife would be trivial in comparison,' the Opposition party declared in a statement. 'President Sadat has repeatedly stated that the question of relations with Israel has to wait for at least another generation,' the UPP said.

The Opposition party made the ironic point that Egypt could be establishing diplomatic links with Israel at a time when its relations were severed with hardline Arab states opposed to the Camp David deal. "We must remember that over 1.5 million Egyptians...are working in the Arab countries", the UPP said. Then it posed this question: 'What happens if all or some Arab states impose an economic boycott on Egypt? The Opposition party described the agreements as an insult to Egypt's sovereignty. In debating the Camp David accords, it said, the Egyptian parlia-

ment must hear evidence from Ismail Fahmi and Mohammed Ibrahim Kamel—the two Foreign Ministers who resigned in protest against President Sadat's peace initiative.

—PTC-Reuters, Cairo, 28/9/78

ISRAEL:

KNESSET APPROVES

Prime Minister Menachem Begin said early yesterday the Camp David agreements had halted the cycle of West Asia war—"may be for five years, may be for 10 years, may be for 50 years." The Israeli Knesset (Parliament) approved the Camp David accords early today after a marathon debate. The vote was 85 in favour, 19 against and 16 absentees. The Israeli leader was winding up a marathon Knesset (Parliament) debate on the accords reached at the Camp David summit and on the Egyptian demand for Jewish settlers to be pulled out of Sinai. After 16 hours of discussion in which he was frequently taunted for abandoning his former insistence that the Sinai settlements could not be moved, Mr. Begin took the rostrum and said: "What is different this night from all other nights? It is that on all other nights we battled for ceasefires but the war remained. This night we are discussing a peace agreement." Earlier in the session Mr. Begin had flinched in open discomfort as former supporters accused him of betraying the Zionist cause. A short while before his speech, Mr. Begin heard the fiery nationalist Mrs. Geula Cohen hurl out the taunt: "How many promises have you made and not kept?" But Mr. Begin brushed the criticism aside. "Let's unite," he urged Knesset members. "Let's take the good with the bad. 'I don't deny there are dangers, risks. But if Egypt leaves the circle of war, Syria cannot attack us because she knows it

will be suicide and Jordan cannot attack us because she knows that the Hashemite kingdom would lose its crown."

—Reuters, Jerusalem, 28/9/78

CAMP DAVID: US PRESS OPINIONS

..A man, let alone a nation, seldom moves with any one motive. Both Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin carry with them a lifetime of personal history and generations of national experience. While it would be foolish to dismiss the personal and emotional impulses this creates, the true accomplishment at Camp David was to reach an agreement solidly based in the national interests of the two countries. If the agreements are carried out, Israel will get peace and friendly relations with the only one of its neighbours capable of mounting an Army powerful enough to threaten its existence. Egypt will get the return of its lost territories in the Sinai. This is the essential bargain on which the agreements rest, and the less other issues are allowed to intrude, the better the prospects for peace.....

—Wall Street Journal, 22/9/78

..The compromise is so complicated and fragile that it may be prudent now to avoid big splashy conclusions about where it will lead and instead stick to some simple facts. We will not know for some time what was accomplished—that depends on the reaction of many others—but we do know what was avoided or at least postponed. Before this meeting, the legalistic ministerial meetings were loitering down into a crisis of hopeless frustration. There is reason for believing, for example, that if the meetings had collapsed in failure, Begin would have been under severe pressure to intervene massively in the Lebanese war, with a pros-

pect of a major clash between the Israeli and Syrian Air Forces.

Instead, Carter departed from his prepared text before the Congress to announce that Sadat and Begin had agreed with him on the helicopter ride back to Washington to work together with other nations in a new effort to resolve the Lebanese tragedy. There are many other complicated tangles to be unraveled in the carefully ambiguous words of the Camp David documents, which will be discussed here later, but for now, at the very least, there is a revival of hope and of respect for the leadership of President Carter, who has given peace another chance in the Middle East.

—James Reston: *Washington Star*,
20/9/78

..For all the public posturing and political manoeuvring that we are likely to witness in the weeks and months ahead, it seems certain that Arab leaders nonetheless are quietly assessing the new developments. If Egypt goes ahead and concludes a peace treaty with Israel, as is likely and then proceeds to negotiate self government for the Palestinians in the West Bank, are they to be left out? What is the alternative to taking what may, at best, be an imperfect opening but is nonetheless an opening! Suspect that Jordan and Saudi Arabia, for all their present misgivings, will in the end, see the merit of joining a negotiating process.

Admittedly, Israel has not given what the Arabs want most: a promise to relinquish sovereignty over the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. But it has, for the first time, recognized that the Palestinians do have "legitimate rights" and has agreed to deal with the future status of this occupied land (implying the status could be changed), and accepted the principal of self-government..

The genius of the Camp David Summit was to distinguish between things that could be settled now and things that had to be left for settlement later. That seems like a simple matter, but I think it explains what made the Summit agreement possible at this time and—more important—what gives it such great promise for leading eventually to full Arab-Israeli peace.

It is said, cynically, that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty could be drafted only by providing President Anwar Sadat with a West Bank figleaf so that he could defend himself against charges of selling out his fellow Arabs, especially Palestinians. It is said, critically, that the West Bank-Gaza provisions are so flimsy as to virtually invite the unwrapping of the whole Camp David package. But I would argue that the West Bank-Gaza "framework" is not a figleaf, or at least it need not be, and it is not at all certain to fail. Rather, it is a brilliant vehicle ensuring that the time bought by putting it into the Summit package will be put to good use.

I think it has to be conceded that the West Bank problem could not be solved now. It's too hard. There's too much emotion. That, in any event, turned out to be the common judgment of the three Summit principles. It is not only that Carter was unwilling to risk the severe political and diplomatic hazards of squeezing Israel.

It is also that there is, so far no Palestinian partner. The problem had to be put off. It is extremely encouraging that not only the Americans at the summit but both Begin and Sadat as well understand the nature and the special requirements of the process to which they have submitted themselves on the West Bank. One part of Begin—the unattractive and alarming part—compels him to overplay his hand,

to insist that he yielded nothing of consequence, to push Sadat's nose into the Egyptian's supposed concessions. But another part leads him to grant that time will indeed make a difference on the West Bank and that patterns of living together will develop and make a political difference in ways that cannot now be foreseen. "Reality will speak," he says.

It will make increasingly little difference, I feel, that Begin has deep religious convictions about "Judea" and "Samaria." The Sinai example of withdrawal-for-peace is bound increasingly to penetrate Israeli perceptions of the West Bank. By agreeing to suspend West Bank settlement for a certain period, Begin has broken the crucial barrier he has acknowledged—and better in deed than in word—that progress toward peace takes priority over Jewish settlement. And, of course he may leave office.

Sadat openly professes his reliance on the passage of time to induce compromise on points that, if pressed now, can produce only disagreement. Begin "should have evaded" the post-Summit dispute over settlements, Sadat said Tuesday. "Don't hammer on this problem now." A Palestinian State, he added, "we will discuss in two years. Let the Israelis feel secure. Let us remedy this anxiously of theirs." For his pains some accuse him of dodging the issue. I think he is showing profound insight. That way lies peace.....

—Stephen Rosenfeld,
in *Washington Post*, 22/9/78

CAMP DAVID: ARABS BETRAYED

As we know, the 13-day diplomatic marathon between US President Jimmy Carter, President Sadat of Egypt and Israel's Premier, Begin resulted in the adoption of two

documents. The First one, called the "Framework For The Conclusion Of A Peace Treaty Between Egypt And Israel, practically takes out Egyptian-Israeli relations from the general context of Middle East problems. Not surprisingly, the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas* described the agreement in Camp David as a "surgical operation cutting Egypt from the rest of the Arab World."

This document shows that Israel and Egypt will continue separate negotiations in order to sign within three months a peace treaty which would provide for a stage-by-stage withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai and the transfer of the peninsula to the Egyptian administration. The withdrawal is to begin three to nine months after the signing of the treaty and end in two to three years' time. Even after that Egypt will not be given the right to hold full sovereignty over Sinai. The future of several dozen Israeli settlements in the Sinai desert has not been settled. One thing is certain: on that issue, just as on many others with which I shall deal below, Sadat was forced to play "blindly".

The other document, the Framework For Peace In the Middle East, is mainly concerned with the problem of occupied Palestinian territory, the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip. The document proposes a five-year transitional period during which the Israeli government will be withdrawn and a self-governing authority will be elected with full "autonomy". The final status of the West Banks and Gaza will be determined later, that is at the end of the transitional period through negotiations whose aim, the document says, is to conclude a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. Now or in the future Israel is not going to pull out its troops from Gaza and the West Bank: she will

just withdraw them to "special regions for ensuring security". The problem of the future borders between Israel and Jordan, the future of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and other problems were left open.

It is quite clear nevertheless that the Palestinians have been denied the right to create an independent state and the Palestine Liberation Organisation has been denied the right to represent its people. One of premier Begin's chief demands to which President Sadat has acceded is that the Palestinians could participate in the negotiations only "by mutual (including Israeli) agreement as members of the Egyptian and Jordanian delegations."

It is highly significant that when asked by the Paris-based paper *Le Matin* whether there would be any other army except Israeli to the west of the Jordan, Premier Begin said: "Never...the Israeli army will withdraw to specified positions but its principal forces will remain in the Judea, Samaria (the name by which he calls the West bank) and Gaza in order to ensure the security of the people of Israel, the great Israel." Asked whether there would be any other state, he replied even more laconically never....."

Both documents frequently refer to UN Resolutions and the authority of that organisation. They mention international guarantees of peace and the legal rights and just demands of the Palestinian people. But more important than words is what is behind them and what is not mentioned at all. I have already said that the Palestinians have been denied the right to create a sovereign state, which is their legitimate national demand. Do the points approved in Camp David which provide for an "alteration" of Israeli borders at the expense of occupied territories,

correspond to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly?

The documents say nothing about the future of East Jerusalem seized in 1967. Even at that time the General Assembly held a special session which demanded that it be freed. Nor did Israel give a pledge to withdraw from all occupied Arab lands, including the Syrian Golan Heights. The American Press which is pouring praise on the participants in the Camp David Summit says that these documents are a product of a "sensible compromise." What kind of compromise is that which leave the cardinal problems of Middle East settlement unsettled and ignores the interests of the other parties involved in the conflict? It is rather a collusion which was achieved behind the backs of the Arab peoples and mainly serves the objectives of Israel, American imperialism and Arab reaction. No wonder it caused an outcry in the Arab countries. The Middle East peoples are longing for normal life, while the participants in the separate negotiations in Camp David are pushing them onto a road which cannot lead to a just peace. It can only preserve an explosive situation in that part of the world.

—Pavel Demchenko in *Pravda*,
Moscow, 25/9/78

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ACID BOMB EXPLOSION — 17

Chapter Seventeen Premonition

By James Goonewardene

This was an evening Deva and Ariya were to remember a long time afterwards. The February skies on the west coast were always beautiful and exciting towards dusk; it was no different now. Crimson

bands arched upwards from the horizon mixed with convoluted designs in pink and red. The glow spread over the beach and caught the tops of the palm trees. Over on their left the scaffolding for the first of the three tourist hotels had already come up, and its ground plan was clearly defined. The land around it was littered with mixing machines, bricks, timber, sand and large quantities of other building material.

Piyaratne had unexpectedly turned up at the resthouse and when Deva arrived a bit later he found him seated there on the lawn with Ariya. He had reduced himself to taking just a glass of lemonade. This, thought Deva, was something to wonder at. He had given up hard drinks and was satisfied now, to just sip a glass of lemonade.

Despite the beauty of the evening no one was in a mood for bright conversation. Everything seemed to be disintegrating—the hotels that would eventually displace the resthouse had already started to come up; Piyaratne had given up hard drinks. Everything was going wrong. Ariya had said one day that he was not frightened so much about what was going to happen to him as about what would eventually happen to this special corner of his. For several years it had served as a place where he had found peace and quiet.

"It is so necessary for older men to have a place to retire to and talk," he once said. "You could imagine the Buddha seated in some such secluded glade with his disciples and talking with them. What we will have here soon in our place, will be wealthy and not so wealthy Europeans coming for a temporary suntan. There would be a stream of such people passing in and out of here. Deva seated here now was reminded of various other things that Ariya had uttered, and now, once more, Ariya spoke;

"How soon have things changed in this country," he said. "It seemed only yesterday, Deva, that you first came to this place. Everything seemed so orderly and settled and peaceful—but look at it now"

Piyaratne who had not spoken suddenly lifted his head. "No," he said. "It only seemed so. Underneath it had already started to crumble. The distrust and fear and the little antagonisms had spread everywhere. For my school, at least, I continued to hope that I could stop the rot. I fought every inch of the way. I had some hope to reverse things a bit when Deva applied for this job—Deva with his reputation—five years ago so well known—everyone talking about the first rate sculptor the country had produced—and so soon now no one knowing a thing about him. You didn't know it at the time, but I had read everything about you—I didn't want to convey to you the excitement I felt at having you at the school—I didn't know why you wanted to come to this backwash—but I had my first shock, however, at one of the staff meetings—before you arrived—when I talked about you and how lucky we were to have you, it was swiftly turned into a joke by Hemapala. 'Why do we have to make a fuss of a man because the critics have praised him' he said. 'Podi Appuhamy carving wooden elephants must be a lot better than him—only Podi Appuhamy hasn't been to Europe and is not an Ingrisi Wallah.' Already then, I knew they were going to tear every sacred thing down to the ground."

Piyaratne turned round to look at the faces of his friends, and then he went on. "There is a dreadful system in the methods of these people—they are tried methods, everything has been worked out before. Everything is summed

up with a slogan. Just one word classifies those who think differently from themselves. They are called imperialists or reactionaries—and then, they have to be eliminated. It is as simple as that. They work according to a pre-determined formulae. No great mental effort is needed. They sum everything up for you. Their supporters are reduced to the level of trained animals. You repeat a word and you get a reaction. Its Pavlov's method with the dogs."

Listening to Piyaratne now Deva was struck by the vehemence and seeming desperation with which he spoke. It was as if something that had been lurking inside him and had been disturbing him was now suddenly exploding and pouring forth from a deep service. He was like a prophet warning a foolish people of the dangers which they did not seem to be aware of. After a momentary pause he continued. "Its why they have this fear of exceptional talents and skills. It makes their slogan making difficult. Of course, they would like to use these talents for their purposes, but what they cannot use becomes a threat to them and must, therefore, be eliminated."

Unknown to them darkness had crept upon them. The lights went up in the rathouse. Conversation then suddenly ceased, and Piyaratne passed into what seemed like a trance. He sat there so perfectly still that Deva thought he had gone to sleep, but he was awake and deep in thought, and they did not disturb him. For some unknown reason they felt that this was his evening. They let him have the stage. They had never known him to talk in this manner at this length. Then he stirred and spoke again, and what he said next Deva was to remember a long time afterwards.

"You know, I have come to think a lot about this recently..it is

something people sometimes tend to forget," he said slowly, pondering on what he was saying. "This, perhaps, is not a new idea..it, no doubt, has been thought of before, I believe, by wiser men.." He paused, stroked his bald head and stared into the distance. At another time he would have chain-smoked. He had not smoked the whole evening. His face was still smooth and round and chubby, but the flesh on his cheeks had begun to sag.

"Life, you know", he continued "can exist, survive and continue not only by more physical breeding, but by spiritual breeding as well. There has to be both physical and spiritual continuity—spiritually the highest thoughts and feelings of each previous generation must be passed onto the next—the experience, the wisdom and values of older men. No human community can be thought of as coming into sudden physical existence and growing without spiritual guide lines—a sudden physical birth and an equally sudden spiritual right angle turn to the left—it cannot be done. There isn't just physical continuity; there has to be spiritual continuity as well. When any civilisation is at its highest you'll discover that it is a time when older men have been looked up and respected.. take the cases—Lao Tsu, Confucius, The Buddha, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle..Modern dictatorships have understood this. Its why they try to break this continuity. They turn to the youth. Both Hitler and Stalin understood this. They both leaned heavily on youth movements, but they made sure that only they had access to their minds. This way, to some extent, they broke the continuity. The youth are then given slogans—things that are very easily assimilated and easily repeated. They are, besides, easy to act on, and

they truly become pawns in this terrible game. This is how the youth are being betrayed....".

He trailed off and appeared to pass suddenly into a kind of trance, and for some moments he stayed that way, his eyes closed, his breathing steady. After awhile he opened them and said, "It's why you must survive this period. The older men must not lose their heads at times like this. They must learn to survive, and at the same time, keep their vision as clear as possible. The older men must not panic nor must they let their vision be clouded." He turned to Deva. "You must not give up your art, Deva. You must sculpt

again. You returned to your homeland at one of the most critical periods in its history. That is fortunate for this country. You must stay here and sculpt, and give your experience to younger men."

Piyaratne did not stay very long after this. He had enough time to drink another glass of lemonade before he decided to go back home. Ariya heard the note of weariness in his voice when he rose and said; "I must go now."

They rose with him, and they stood there as if reluctant to break up so early. Slowly the silence grew round them as imperceptibly as the breeze rustling in the coconut leaves. Suddenly they heard the wash of the river against the boulders. It was so rarely one heard it—only in very deep silence could one have heard it—and then over the soft wash of the river came the crash of a wave—more distantly—on the sea shore.

"It is such a good place this, you have here, Ariya. It is always a relief to be able to come to it."

The immediate thought that came to his two companions was of the hotels coming up, but they said nothing to upset the old man. They felt, in some curious fashion, that this was the last time anyone was to see the old man come here again. It was a fantastic feeling—both Deva and Ariya talked about it later. There was something after all in this mystic, premonition thing, they said.

"I must go now" repeated Piyaratne, and slowly he turned and walked away. They let him go, and later watched him in the distance disappearing over the bridge.

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EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA

The Role Of The Catholic Community

by Fr. Tissa Balasuriya O.M.I.

A talk to the Current Affairs Committee of the Catholic Union of Sri Lanka on Monday 17th July 1978 at Paul VI Centre, with Mr. A.G.O. Perera, President of the Catholic Union in the Chair.

PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL of the Portuguese to Lanka education centred mainly around Buddhist and Hindu temples and monks or priests. The *privenas* were the main centres of learning and education. Little is known of the Muslim educational tradition in Lanka. The tradition of learning was transmitted from teacher to pupil mainly by word of mouth. The written texts were few and scarce. At the same time there were highly developed skills of engineering, contouring, levelling, instrumentation, architecture, sculpture, painting, agriculture, skills of pest and weed control, preservation of food, technical skills and craftsmanship, manufacture of textiles and utensils, shipping, ayurveda medicine, knowledge of herbs as can be seen from the elaborate irrigation works, rains of buildings, statues and paintings. The values of the people were more communitarian. The social organization was feudal and monarchic. Our people lived a self reliant existence though involved in trade with several neighbouring countries.

The Portuguese who extended their rule over the maritime areas from 1505 onwards set up Catholic schools. Many schools existed in association with parish churches. There is explicit mention of three colleges conducted by the Franciscans, two colleges by the Jesuits, a college for training of teachers

Notice under section 7 of the Land Acquisition act (Cap. 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) act No. 28 of 1964

Ref. No. 94/1/184

It is intended to acquire the land/lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 338 (Part iii) of 06/10/1978.

Schedule

Situation:

Haliwela Village D.R.O's Division of Four Gravets (Akmoe-mana) in the District of Galle.

Name of land:

Galagawakanda, Meegahakumbura, Karaputuwekanda alias Jayawickramawatta, Meegahakumbura, Thalagaha Duwawatta.

Plan and Lot No.:

I, 2, 3, 4 & 5 in P. Plan No. GAA 1314.

S. J. Pathirana

Acquiring Officer, Galle District.
The Kachcheri,
Galle. 25, September 1978



by the Franciscans, 20 schools conducted by the Franciscans and 21 by the Jesuits. The Portuguese schools were closely connected with the teaching of the Catholic religion and were not friendly to the Hindu and Buddhist educational institutions or traditions. This is understandable from their erroneous theological perspective of regarding these religions as "pagan" and worthy of destruction. Thus in the first century and a half of the history of the Catholic community in this country its educational contribution had some positive and largely negative consequences. It was combined to a hideous destruction of Buddhist and Hindu places of worship and learning, as well as of libraries and treasures of art and culture. Even though we might like to forget this, it is important that we remember that this is in the collective subconscious of our people, specially of other faiths.

The Dutch gained possession of the maritime provinces of Ceylon from the Portuguese in 1658. They thus took hold of the educational establishments set up by the Portuguese. The Dutch used the schools as a means of converting the people to the Dutch Reformed Church and of destroying the influence of the Catholics were pre-Portuguese and anti-Dutch. The Dutch went about their educational work systematically, setting up a school in every maritime village or parish. Education was related to their colonial enterprise and religious proselytism. For the Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims this Christian sectarian intolerance was a deep scandal. They continued to suffer severe discrimination under the Dutch too.

For the Catholic community this was a dark period. They had to go "underground". Education was, in today's terminology largely non-formal and in the family. With

the Oratorian missionaries from India, there was the development of a Sinhala and Tamil Catholic literature. These were the days of the travelling, disguised priest-missionaries such as Joseph Vaz and Jacome Gonsalvez and of lay Mooppus keeping the Catholic community together. These 14 years of Dutch rule 1658-1796 were a period of purification for the Catholics of Lanka. Those who persevered beyond those trials were not Christians for favour or privilege. This was also the most glorious period of the history of the Catholic community in Sri Lanka. The faith survived without the external institutional safeguards such as Catholic schools for formal education.

With the arrival of the British as rulers in 1796 a new period dawned for the Catholic community in Ceylon. For the British all Christians seemed more loyal subjects of the British Crown and the British East India Company. The Buddhist were rebellious "pagans". They followed a policy of encouraging educational activity by all Christian denominations. Governor Frederick North forbade the Dutch clergymen to compel children of any other Christianity to attend services. His proclamation of September 1799 permitted the opening of schools with the Governor's permission. Catholics set out immediately to start several schools for their children. In 1806 Catholics in Ceylon were emancipated from their civil disabilities, whereas the Catholics of Britain were emancipated only in 1829. The English language replaced Dutch as the medium of administration. The Protestant missionaries were good teachers of English. They established themselves in the urban areas in the Coastal areas and in the Kandyan Kingdom after its annexation in 1815. In the aftermath of the re-

bellions of 1818 and 1848 the British chased many Kandyan villagers to the distant hinterland. Their lands were plundered for coffee and later tea and rubber plantations.

Like their predecessors the British were interested in setting up an educational system to suit their commercial and imperial designs and to spread Christianity. Anglicanism was now the established religion. In 1833 the Colebrooke Commission made its education policy. The country was unified administratively. The educational policy encouraged English as the medium of instruction in the urban areas. The protestant missionary groups were encouraged and aided for establishing English schools for the children of the up and coming elite. The type of education was to be academic in content. The

Notice under section 7 of the Land Acquisition act (Cap. 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) act No. 28 of 1964

Ref. No. EA/4/124

It is intended to acquire the land/lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 338 (Part iii) of 06/10/1978.

Schedule

Situation:

Situated in the village of Panagamuwa in the Grama Sevaka's Division of Panagamuwa, D.R.O's Division of Four Gravets (Akmeemana), Galle District.

Name of land:

Miriswalagodawatta

Plan and Lot No.:

Lot I in P.P.GAA 1316

S. J. Pathirana

Acquiring Officer, Galle District.
The Kachcheri,
Galle. 27, September 1978

English educated Ceylonese were required for helping the British to administer the country and develop their economic interests. They were to be the privileged intermediaries between the British rulers and the mass of the native population. Vernacular education in Sinhala and Tamil was continued in the villages. Thus we had the Anglicization of the Ceylonese upper classes who could afford to pay the fees for the English education of their children.

The Catholics found themselves at a serious disadvantage in the 1840s because their Oratorian priests were not well up in English. They were being left behind in the growth of a new urban upper and middle class. They therefore petitioned to Rome for European missionaries who could teach them English also. This was one of the main motivations in their demand for European clergy. Thus it was that the Oblates of Mary Immaculate came in 1848. The Jesuits came back a few decades later. The religious nuns came from the 1860s beginning with the Holy Family and the Good Shepherd sisters. The Christian brothers dedicated to education came about this period.

The Catholics were still disadvantaged as the Protestants had much greater subsidies from the State for their schools. They had also had a head start in setting up schools in the more affluent and socially dynamic areas. The Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims were even more discriminated against in education. It was at this stage that Fr. Christopher Bonjean, OMI, campaigned for the grant-in-aid system of "denominational schools". On the recommendations of the Morgan Committee of 1865 the Grant-in-Aid system was introduced in 1870. Liberal grants were made under this system for education in secular subjects without any

restrictions on the teaching of religion in such schools. The government was gradually to construct its operations in respect of English schools in the towns where an effective system of grants-in-aid was much cheaper for government. English education was to be fee levying; and the vernacular education was virtually free.

With the assurance of government grants Catholic schools increased very rapidly from 1870 onwards. During the following 90 years in which this system prevailed the Catholic community built up an educational network that has been its source of strength and advancement in this country. This was a task of enormous sacrifices and dedication by the Catholics. The religious communities of men and women gave themselves to it with great self-sacrifice during several decades. Thus the Catholics were able to come up in their social standing. Along with the other Christians they had a significant advantage in the elitist positions in the country.

The system of denominational schools had many advantages and disadvantages. They built up, along with the state schools like Royal College, the modernized elite of the country, that helped the British to rule the country and exploit the resources and people. However, it was from this same elite class that the future campaigners for self government and independence emerged. The British in that sense, perhaps unwittingly, prepared the way for their disappearance as rulers of Ceylon. This elite was not favourable to the masses of the people. But universal franchise introduced in 1931 by the Donomore Commissioners, even against the view of the vast majority of Ceylonese leaders brought a new dynamism to our social and political life.

This educational system also helped significantly in the education of the females. The Catholic religious sisters contributed immensely to this. Till the middle of the last century the education of the girls was badly neglected, specially in the Kandyan kingdom.
(To be Continued)

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Ministers' Functions Gazetted

There are no major changes in the departments and subjects and functions allocated to the Ministers announced in a Gazette extraordinary on Thursday (September 29, 1978) following the reconstitution of the Cabinet in the wake of the promulgation of the new constitution.

Minister of Defence—Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, Immigration and Emigration, Registration of Persons of Indian Origin, Registration of persons, Civil Aviation Department, Air Ceylon.

Minister of Plan Implementation—Department of Plan Implementation, National Operations Room, Department of Census and Statistics, Regional Development.

Minister of Local Government, Housing and Construction—Department of Local Government Service, Department of Town and country, Planning, Local Loans and Development Fund, Department of Janatha Committees, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Department of Local Government, Department of National Housing; Department of Buildings, State Engineering Corporation of Ceylon, Building Materials Corporation, Common Amenities Board.

Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs—Department of Public Adminis-

tration, Government Agencies (Kachcheries) Department of Registrar-General, Department of Pensions, Department of Official Language Affairs, Department of Mosques and Muslim Charitable Trusts.

Minister of Plantation Industries—Sri Lanka Tea Board, Sri Lanka State Trading (Tea) Corporation, Tea Smallholdings Development Authority, Rubber Control Department, State Rubber Manufacturing Corporation, Rubber Research Institute, Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation, Janawasama, Usawasama, Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation, Silk and Allied Products Development Authority, Palmyrah Board.

Minister of Social Service—Social Services, Probation and Child Care Services.

Minister of Cultural Affairs—Department of Cultural Affairs, Archaeological Department, Department of National Archives, Department of National Museums.

Minister of Transport—Railway Department, Department of Motor Traffic, Ceylon Transport Board.

Minister of Agriculture Development And Research—Department of Agriculture (except Animal Production and Health Division) Department of Minor Export Crops, Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation, Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation, Agrarian Research and Training Institute, National Freedom From Hunger Campaign Board, Land Reforms Commission, Paddy Marketing Board, Fruit Board, Agricultural Development Authority, Janawasama Commission, Agrarian Services Division, Agricultural Insurance Board, National Agricultural Diversification and Settlement Authority.

Minister of Labour—Department of Labour.

Minister of Health—Department of Health, Department of Ayurveda, Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Ceylon.

Minister of Posts and Telecommunications—Department of Posts and Telecommunications.

Minister of Textile Industries—National Textile Corporation, Weaving Supplies Corporation, Government owned Business Undertaking formerly of Wellawatte Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd, Government-owned Business Undertaking formerly of Ceylon Silks Ltd, Government-owned Business Undertaking formerly of J.B. Textile Industries Ltd, Government-owned Business Undertaking formerly of J.B. Fishing Industries Ltd, Government-owned Business Undertaking formerly of Libra Industries Ltd, Department of Textile Industries.

Minister of Foreign Affairs—Department of Foreign Affairs.

Minister of Justice—Departments of the Attorney-General, Legal Draftsman, Public Trustee, Government Analyst, Prisons, Bribery Commissioner, Debt, Conciliation, Law Commission, Institute of Corporation Lawyers.

Minister of Food and Co-operatives—Department of Food Commissioner, Department of Co-operative and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Co-operative Employees Commission.

Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs—Geological Survey Department, Department of Salt, Industrial Development Board of Ceylon, Paranthan Chemicals Corporation, Ceylon Ceramics Corporation, National Salt Corporation, Ceylon Mineral Sands Corporation, Ceylon Cement Corporation, Eastern Paper Mills Corporation, Ceylon Plywood Corporation, Ceylon Steel Cor-

poration, Ceylon Leather Products Corporation, Ceylon Tyre Corporation, Ceylon State Hardware Corporation, Ceylon State Flour Milling Corporation, Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research, State Fertilizer Manufacturing Corporation, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Department of Meteorology, National Science Council, Atomic Energy Authority, State Graphite Corporation of Ceylon, Lanka Layland Ltd, Ceylon Hardboard Corporation, Ceylon Tobacco Industries Corporation, Ceylon Jute Industries Corporation.

Minister of Power and Highways—Department of Highways, Director of Works (Regional) Ceylon Electricity Board, Department of Kandyan Peasantry Rehabilitation.

Minister of Finance And Planning—Treasury, Department of Inland Revenue, Customs Department, Loan Board, Department of Excise, Valuation Department, Department of Credit Councils, Central Bank of Ceylon, Bank of Ceylon, People's Bank, National Savings Bank, Development Finance Corporation of Ceylon, State Mortgage Bank, Agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation of Ceylon, State Gem Corporation, State Distilleries Corporation, National Lotteries Board, Lady Lochore Loan Fund, Departments of External, Resources, National Planning, Economic Affairs.

Minister of Lands and Land Development—Department of the Land Commissioner, Land Settlement Department, Survey Department, Forest Department, State Timber Corporation, Irrigation Department, Government Factory, Water Resources Board, Public Works Department Research Institute, Land Development Department, Department

of Machinery and Equipment, State Development and Construction Corporation.

Minister of Mahaweli Development—Mahaweli Development Board, River Valleys Development Board, Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Sports—Department of Rehabilitation.

Minister of Trade and Shipping—Department of Commerce, Department of Registrar of Companies, Department of Government Supplies, Department of Commodity Purchase, Department of Control of Imports and Exports, Department for Development of Marketing, Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation, Sri Lanka State Trading, (Textiles) Corporation, Salu sala, Sri Lanka State Trading (Tractors) Corporation, Sri Lanka State Trading (Consolidated Exports) Corporation, Insurance Corporation of Ceylon, Department of Price Control, National Metric Conversion Authority, Export Promotion Secretariat, Bureau of Ceylon Standards, Department of Merchant Shipping, Department of Coast Lights, Port (Cargo) Corporation, Port Commission, Ceylon Shipping Corporation, Port Tally and Protective Services Corporation, Central Freight Bureau of Sri Lanka.

Minister of Education—Regional Departments of Education, UNESCO Secretariat Ceylon, Department of Educational Publications, Department of Examinations, Ceylon National Library Services Board.

Minister of Higher Education—University of Sri Lanka, Buddhavastava Dharmapeethaya.

Minister of Fisheries—Fisheries Division, Fishery Survey and Research Division, Ceylon Fisheries Corporation, Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation.

Minister of Rural Industrial Development—National Milk Board, Department of Small Industries, National Small Industries Corporation, Ceylon Oils and Fats Corporation, Department of Animal Production and Health, National Livestock Development Board.

Minister of Youth Affairs and Employment—National Youth Service Council, National Apprenticeship Board.

Minister of State—Department of Information, Broadcasting Corporation, Department of Government Printer, State Printing Corporation, Department of Wild Life Conservation, Zoological Gardens, Ceylon Tourist Board, Ceylon Hotels Corporation, Asian Hotels Corporation Ltd.

THEY HAVE PASSED AWAY

Many Tribune readers, particularly Sri Lankans living abroad, have repeatedly requested us to have a column about prominent people who have passed away from the scene. This column will in future appear regularly, if not every week at least as often as occasion demands.

Ven. Pandita Rambukwelle Sri Siddhartha Sumangala Nayaka Thera, Secretary General of the Malwatte Chapter passed away on Saturday 23rd night at the Malwatte Vihare. He entered the Order when he was ten years old. He was unanimously appointed Secretary General of the Chapter in 1970. He had visited Korea, Thailand, Hongkong, Japan and India to propagate Buddhism. He was among those who accompanied the Kapilavastu Relics back to India. He was 58 and the cremation took place on the 30th.

B. A. Jayasinghe, Special Commissioner, Colombo Municipal Council, aged 58, died at his residence on Friday 22nd September.

He was appointed Municipal Commissioner in 1957. He was actively associated with the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa in the development of the City of Colombo and for the restoration of Tower Hall to its past glory. The cremation took place at Kanatte on Monday 25th September.

Charles H. Davidson, a former Warden of St. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia died on September 25, at a private nursing home in Colombo. The funeral took place at Kanatte on the following day.

Shelton Jayasinghe, MP for Wattala and Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, died on September 22nd. Mr. Jayasinghe first entered Parliament in 1960. Parliament mourned his death and the Speaker Mr. Bakeer Markar who associated himself with the sentiments expressed by members on both sides of the House instructed the Secretary General to send a copy of the day's proceedings to Mr. Jayasinghe's family.

Notice under section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (amendment) act No 28/1964

Ref. No. EA/4/180

It is intended to acquire the land/lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 338 (Part iii) of 06/10/1978.

Schedule

Situation:

Situated in the village of Tittagalla in the Grama Sevaka Division of Tittagalla, D.R.O's Division of Talpe Pattu South, Galle District.

Name of Land: Pitiyagamawatta

Plan and Lot No.: I

Lot I in P.P.GAA 1400.

S. Panditha

Acquiring Officer, Galle District.

The Kachcheri,

Galle. 22, September 1978.

Confidentially

Narcotics And Local Politics

IS IT NOT A FACT that there is a sudden realisation in some high political quarters that the narcotics trade has become a way of life in this country? That there have been recently stirring headlines about the fact that Sri Lanka is a major link in the international octopus of the drug trade? That Sri Lanka is a clearing house for drugs collected and sold in this region? That many Sri Lankans are reported to be carriers employed by international underworld drug tycoons? That undue attention is paid to hippies who swallow cheap ganja for their mental peace? That all newspaper reports, however, tend to be sensational and end with praise for particular police officers who are said to be going great guns at ending this menace? That it is time the daily newspapers stop being fed by police officers who hand out stories intended to help these self-same officers to get their promotions? That instead the newspapers should carry out investigative reports on the real drug scene in Sri Lanka which many tend to ignore because of the political implications (of a domestic nature) such investigations might involve? That from the time adult franchise was introduced in 1930 "ganja dealers" and other top underworld kings (opium and kassippu) have played a major role in helping candidates to victory in different electorates? That as time went on such shadowy underworld figures (for instance, in the thirties it was Ganja Thomas in Colombo and Hitler Kandasamy in Jaffna) began to assume regional and national importance? That with the pas-

sage of time bookmakers began to acquire greater significance on the political scene than ganja kings but the drug smugglers soon struck mergers with the bookmakers? That to cut a long story short each political party—the SLFP, UNP, LSSP, TULF etc—has its quota of drug smugglers and bookmakers wielding more power in the higher echelons of their Establishment than the Party's most enthusiastic political activists? That these drug-cum-kassippu operators in league with bookmakers through subterranean contacts are able to make and unmake Ministers, MPs, Bureaucrats—and even Judges? That everybody knows which Ganja Chief is able to pull wires through leading personalities in the different parties? That politicians are powerful only when the Party to which it belong are in power, but these underworld kings are powerful under every government and under every party rule? That today they pervade every aspect of the political administrative and social life? That the consequently police-inspired and police-planted stories in the newspapers about the fight they are waging against drug smugglers (mostly against foreigners and their local minions) are such that they draw heavy a curtain across the activities of the real big bosses? IS IT NOT A FACT that the Police have the full details of the real bigtime kingpins of the drug trade in Sri Lanka? But, is it also not true that the Police are inhibited against taking action against them because of the protection these super-beings have from certain political and legal circles? That in actual fact only the lower ranks in the drug business are ever caught with the goods and that it is against them that the Police take action? That the big time financiers of the business are never caught with the goods and even if some trails lead to them they

are too powerfully placed for any policemen to investigate their activities? That if President Jayewardene wants to get down to the real truth of the drug underworld he should get the Police to furnish a full and frank report naming the persons in the narcotics trade who are close to some of the top most men in the UNP or the SLFP. That the underworld chieftains who ruled the roost in SLFP days are now even more powerful than before? That dyed-in-the-wool (UNP) drug and ganja kings—their names are known to all—are today the most powerful factor in subverting the dharmista way of life? That in the interest of dharmista the President should make it a point of acquainting himself about drug and bookmaker underworld which has constituted itself as a powerful political underworld in Sri Lanka? That the ramifications of this political underworld cuts across party lines? That this underworld knows better than the Establishment how to handle the so-called national press? That the one silver lining on the horizon is that the new scheme of proportional representation will reduce and possibly eliminate the need for individual MPs to become slaves of the underworld kings to win elections? That if the ganja rajahs, kassippu kings and bookmaker emperors are identified and are kept out of the High Command of each party, their baneful influence will soon fade away as the new system of elections come into being? That unless the President identifies and smashes the ring of top smugglers close to big UNP shots, the narcotics underworld cannot be eliminated in this country?

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