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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE PICTURE on the cover this week is a typical scene in any construction area in the Mahaweli. We have chosen this picture because 1981 may well become the year of the Mahaweli. Whatever one's view of how the lands which will benefit from Mahaweli waters should be utilised, there is no doubt that the accelerated programme has already begun to generate unbelievably dramatic changes in significantly large parts of the country. A visit, as undertaken by us recently, to the Kalawewa and System H areas with its new settlements will convince, even the most sceptical, that the Mahaweli Programme has already begun to show good results. According to provisional statistics released by the Department of Census and Statistics, the per acre yield from System H of 93.3 bushels is the highest average yield recorded compared with figures given for the other districts. Mahaweli H area which cultivated a total extent of 37,996 acres recorded an average yield of 93.3 bushels per acre contributing a total production of 2.86 million bushels to the island's production. The increased production of food crops is only one aspect of the entire Mahaweli scheme. Even more important is how the lands are utilised. *Tribune* has always been opposed to the exploitation of the natural resources of this country by a few, especially if they were aliens, but having become acutely aware of the indifferent progress and near-paralytic floundering that has afflicted many of our development efforts since Independence, we have reluctantly been compelled to the view that this country urgently needs an infusion of foreign technological and managerial skills. Several colonisation schemes and industrial projects in the thirty years after Independence did not yield the dividends expected for the investment made and the energy expended on them. Take the case of our state-owned textile factories. For years, they were totting up only losses. One year of foreign management, mostly by Indian textile firms, has made a big difference. The textile mills are still state-owned and the foreign management is for a fixed period. In the British era, the large-scale agriculture in the form of plantations had brought new prosperity, but the socio-political and economic consequences for the mass of common people were hardship and poverty. Concerted efforts have been made since Independence to remedy the situation but though much has been done, it is not enough. It is also in the nature of things that rich and powerful nations should attempt to continue the old exploitation under new forms and devices. There has unfortunately been a tendency in many developing countries to isolate themselves from the rich advanced countries in order to preserve their independence and not fall into the pitfalls of total neo-colonialist dependence. But many countries could not maintain this stand for long. Sri Lanka did tight-rope walking on various kinds of mixed economics and lagged behind in many important sectors of economic activity. Since 1977 the Jayewardene Government has ventured to inject new dynamism into the economy by introducing foreign capital and foreign skills whilst at the same time making an effort to prevent a complete surrender to neo-colonialism. That is why lands under Mahaweli for large-scale agricultural development are not being sold to foreign entrepreneurs (the plantation owners in British days bought the land for few shillings an acre) but are being worked as joint ventures. Whether such safeguards will prevent a neo-colonialist grip on our economy is yet to be seen, but this government is willing to take these risks to promote economic growth. It must be also remembered that the Guthrie Corporation is now state-owned (Malaysian) and it is an open secret that American neo-colonialist interests are opposed to the collaboration between Sri Lanka and Malaysia on oil palm development. More of this later.

Agricultural Marketing

The New Year was ushered in this year with a great deal of cracker fire. One of the anomalies of the holiday system in this country is that January 1 is not a public holiday—although it is the official New Year for the Christian community in this island. The Buddhists and Hindus celebrate New Year when the Sun enters the Zodiacal sign of Aries in mid April. But whatever one's religious affiliations or predilections the first day of January on the Gregorian calendar is celebrated as the New Year by practically everyone throughout the world, and even in this multi-racial and multi-religious country. Unfortunately during a period of chauvinistic religious and anti-foreign sentiments in this island the Government was persuaded to stop having January 1 as a public holiday. But whether it is an official holiday or not, it is in actual practice a non-working day. Even the few who clock in or sign the attendance register do not work but lose themselves in a holiday coma. For some years, an attempt was made to circumvent this anomalous situation by declaring a holiday on January 1 as National Heroes' Day. But even this was dropped and this holiday was shifted to cover Republic Day of the last Government on May 22.

The position today is simply this. January 1 though not an official holiday is in fact a virtual holiday. In fact there is a national shut down from Christmas to New Year. It will not be possible to have a holiday week for this period but the least that can be done is to declare January 1 to be public and mercantile holiday. The system of holidays in this country is full of irrationalities, and this can be reduced by making January 1—the international New Year—an official public holiday.

But more important than a holiday on January 1, is the distressing problem of the prices of essential food items. The price of a measure (or a kilo) of rice has risen steadily in spite of increased production. A *Tribune* reader from Panadura has informed us that he was now buying Samba, which cost Rs. 5 a kg odd three months ago, at Rs. 10/50 a kg. The PMB's efforts and Co-ops' efforts to keep the prices between Rs. 5/50 and Rs. 6/50 a kilo have failed. Why is the retail price of rice shooting up?

According to the *Sun* (4.1.82) the government has permitted some private sector firms to export "small quantities" of our rice in order to "capture" export markets for a time when we have rice in surplus. There is no doubt that any surplus can be and must be exported. But have we reached the point of surplus? The first duty of Government is to make available rice to ordinary people at the lowest possible

price consistent with the cost of production. But this has not yet been achieved. In an election year it would be a foolish gimmick on the part of the Government to get a little propaganda mileage by exporting rice when the traders are making scarcity profits out of rice for local consumers. Only after retail prices stabilise for two seasons at prices at which consumers and producers feel are "reasonable" (everyone soon becomes aware of the costs of production) can it be said that saturation point is reached to declare a surplus.

This question of rice prices bring us to the all important question of agricultural marketing. Many do not seem to realise that with the General Elections due in 1983 time is running out for this government. The Government has been in power for four long years. It has launched three main lead projects—GCEC, UDA and Mahaweli. But from the point of the elections, the Mahaweli is the only salvation for this Government. Of all the lead projects, Mahaweli and Agriculture impinge on the lives of over eighty percent of the population of this country.

Some have correctly pointed out that 1982 is the Year of the Swarnabhoomi—the year of land grants, the year in which people in all state lands will get legal title to ownership, a year in which more and more people will grow food with irrigated water and a year in which people will expect good incomes for their efforts. Will they?

This brings us to the crux of the dilemma in our agriculture—that stems from marketing. Water, credit facilities and insecticides will all help increase of production, but all these cannot bring good incomes, unless the Government is able to provide infrastructural arrangements to enable private and public sector marketing organisations to buy produce at reasonable prices (to the producer) and sell them to consumers (at fair prices).

At present agricultural marketing is in a mess. It comes under the purview of three ministries which seem to be working at cross purpose on this matter. One of the ministries that has a big say in domestic trade also handles imports and it is unfortunate that unimaginative imports at the wrong time have compelled many farmers to reduce or even stop the production of several items especially onions and chillies.

The tragedy is that whilst the importing organisation (which is also in charge of domestic wholesale and retail distribution) is willing to import Hungarian onions and claim to sell them at Rs. 15 a kilo (but no consumer can buy it for less than Rs. 25 a kilo), it is not willing to buy locally produced onions even

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at half the price at Rs. 7/50 a kilo. Last year producers could not get even Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 3/- a kilo for the onions they grew. As a result many farmers stopped growing onions.

Vegetable prices are high because farmers do not grow them systematically as cannot get fair prices for them. In certain areas like Nuwara Eliya good marketing services have grown, but such production in selected areas alone cannot satisfy the needs of a growing population with increasing purchasing power. At the moment, agricultural marketing is nobody's responsibility. *Markfed* is under the Food Ministry with Co-operative outlets. The CWE and the Marketing Department are under the Trade Ministry. They are all unfortunately import-oriented. And the PMB is under the Ministry of Agricultural Research and Development, but its operations are limited because it is only "floor price" purchaser if funds are available. As it stands the poor farmer is nobody's business.

The National Food Co-ordination Committee was set up to co-ordinate policies, but so far there has in practice been no effective policy on Co-ordination. Every Ministry works in various and sometimes devious ways. Each organisation, charged with agricultural marketing and consumer distribution, go their several ways often creating conflicts in the matter of local production by the import of the poor quality items from abroad at throat-cutting prices.

The PMB is under the Ministry of Agricultural Research and Development. It serves little or no purpose in the paddy sector. It will probably do better as an organisation to service agricultural commodity marketing. What is necessary is that all these marketing organisations should be brought under one Project Ministry. **The activities and functions of the Marketing Department, the CWE, the Markfed, the Co-operatives and the PMB should be brought under the control of one Ministry entrusted with the task of promoting agricultural marketing.**

This is the only way that consumer prices can be stabilised at reasonable levels while offering attractive price to farmers and producers. Under such a ministry can also come a Dairy Development Board to co-ordinate livestock as well as dairy development. In the present political context, such a Project Ministry is feasible only under the Presidential umbrella with a dynamic young minister to make things tick.. Without such an organisation, the Government will face a sullen and hostile farming community in on the one hand and a vast army of angry consumers urban and non-rural areas, on the other.

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POINT OF VIEW

Proportional Representation

—Anomaly in Constitution?

As a student of Law I have been intrigued by the Constitutional provisions which provide for Parliamentary elections in the future being held on the basis of "Proportional Representation". According to my comprehension of the subject matter I perceive a conflict of interests between the fundamental provisions contained in Article 4(a)&(e) and Article 99 of the Constitution.

2. Article 4(a) provides for the sovereignty of the people in regard to their Legislative power to be exercised by Parliament which is made up of "THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE". And Article 4(c) provides for the people to exercise their franchise for "THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT".

3. These two provisions clearly enunciate that a "delegation" of the sovereignty of the people takes place when they by their exercise of the franchise *elect* Members of Parliament who shall be their elected representatives and who shall, during their term of office, endure and exercise the Legislative power of the people.

4. It will thus be seen that the "delegation" of the sovereign power of the people takes place in the process of a direct dialogue between the people and their would-be elected representatives.

5. Now under the new system of elections to Parliament on the basis of what is termed "Proportional Representation" in terms of Article 99, the people are called upon to delegate their sovereignty by the exercise of the franchise under Article 4(e) to a recognised political party or independent group as against individual electors who sought the people's choice to be their elected representatives.

6. Article 4(a)&(e) contemplate the "delegation" of the people's sovereignty to elected representatives by the exercise of the franchise and since such representatives invariably sought election as members of a recognised political party or independent group, the leader of such party or group which commanded a majority of elected representatives was called upon, provided he himself was an elected representative, to form the government of the day and to discharge the Legislative power as custodians of the people's sovereignty. Thus, under Article 4(a)&(c) the people's representatives by their very representation asserted pre-eminence and gained precedence and priority over the political party or independent group to which they belonged.

7. Now what is contemplated under Article 99 is the converse of what is provided by Article 4(a)&(e). Article 99 unequivocally vests the people's sovereign power in a recognised political party or independent group which thereafter determines who the people's representatives shall be. It will thus be evident that the entire process of the "delegation" of the people's sovereign power is made to undergo a metamorphosis under Article 99 which is in direct conflict with the position envisaged by Article 4(a)&(e).

8. Whereas Article 4(a)&(e) provide for a direct confrontation between the people and those who sought to be their elected representatives, Article 99 abrogates this right of the people by providing for the exercise of the franchise in favour of a political party or independent group who have reserved to themselves the people's power to determine and identify who their elected representative shall be. By this means the direct communication envisaged by Article 4(a)&(e) between the people and their elected representatives is syphoned to operate through an agency in the nature of a political party or independent group. Thus, the de facto position is that the people do not ELECT their representatives; but instead they SELECT the party or group who then become vested with the power to name the peoples representatives from a pre-determined group of nominees of such party or group. Thus by the operation of Article 99 direct participation of the people in the election of members of Parliament to represent them provided by Article 4(a)&(e) is transformed to an exercise of SELECTING a party or group who will thereafter name the people's representatives. This is tantamount to a surrender of the people's sovereign power of "ELECTION" to a delegation for "ELECTION".

9. To illustrate the point of view I am endeavouring to convey I would draw attention to the last Local Government elections held on the basis of "Proportional Representation". For example, in the election of members to the Colombo Municipal Council, the electors of the different wards voted for the selection of the political party of their choice and not for the return of election representatives who shall represent them. The election of the representatives for the different wards was, in actual fact, done by the different parties and/or groups in proportion to the numerical strength gained by each such party or group. The outcome of this procedure is that the electors of a particular ward are in a dilemma as to who represents them in the City Council.

10. Similarly in terms of Article 99 of the Constitution the ballot papers at the next general election will carry the names of the parties and/or groups and not the names of the candidates standing for election.

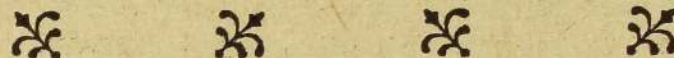
11. What I am endeavouring to convey is that whereas Article 4(a)&(e) provides for the election

of representatives of the people to Parliament by the exercise of the franchise from amongst those who sought election, Article 99 operates to negative the provisions entrenched under Article 4(a)&(e) by requiring the people to exercise their franchise in favour of a party or group in whom was vested the residuary right of nominating the individuals representative of the people.

12. My question therefore boils down to this, "Is there or is there not a clash of interests between Article 4(a)&(e) and Article 99 of the Constitution vis-a-vis the exercise of the franchise by the people for the election of Members of Parliament and their exercise of the people's legislative power by such Members of Parliament as the representatives of the people".

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JAMAICAN AGRICULTURE

Hangover From Colonial Past

By Morris Cargill

Morris Cargill is a well-known Jamaican journalist. He is also the director of a 320 hectare banana plantation and a personal advisor to the Minister of Agriculture.

The problems of agriculture in modern Jamaica are the consequences, both physically and psychologically, of its colonial past. Countries like Jamaica were regarded as mere estates whose purpose was to supply Britain with whatever raw materials or agricultural produce it needed; and its people, the majority of whom were slaves until 150 years ago, simply the workforce to make the production possible. It is true that some estate owners settled permanently in Jamaica, regarding the country as their own. But the vast majority were absentee owners with only one thought in mind: to squeeze as much money out of their estates as possible. It early became the function of Jamaica to be a supplier of sugar, and except for a few minor exports, it was to sugar that its agricultural energies were given. There were virtually no balanced farms, so that agriculture in Jamaica began and continued in a

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most lop-sided manner. All the best land was devoted to the single major export crop, sugar; and as slaves were regarded as non-persons who, in any event, had little or no purchasing power, there was little effort to produce meats and dairy products. In addition, slavery made work on the land a degrading occupation, so that even after slavery was abolished in 1834 and sugar ceased to be so profitable, Jamaica continued with its one-crop economy. There are still very few mixed farms. As the years went by, flight from the land became a serious matter. **The banana industry, which began in 1870, added another major export crop, but the two crop economy which emerged was hardly better, agriculturally speaking. The pattern was, and still is, to concentrate on exports of these two crops, and to import most of what is otherwise consumed.**

DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS have made various attempts at land reform which have involved the government's purchase of relatively large tracts of idle or under-used land for the purpose of cutting it up and resettling people upon it. From the agricultural point of view this resettlement has been largely a failure for the fragmentation of land has not increased its yield. In some cases, it has caused the yield to fall. Mostly the wrong sort of people have been resettled, because of pressure to do political favours rather than to choose efficient genuine farmers. In any event in the absence of any proper organisation to buy and distribute what is grown, it is difficult for the small farmer to produce anything profitably, except the traditional export crops, which are sold to the market women. This system is grossly inefficient, if for no other reason that as each market woman ("higgler") handles only a small amount which she takes to the market, every 65 kilos of food involves also the transport of 65 kilos of higgler. This plethora of small operations results in low prices at the farm gate and high prices to the consumer. There are so many higglers and so many markets that any effort to control prices would court political unpopularity and be, in any event, administratively impossible. Nevertheless, the supply of locally produced carbohydrates is adequate, if expensive.

In consequence, today Jamaica is still an importer of most of its protein foods. There is no dairy industry to speak of and Jamaica must import milk solids from which most of its so-called fresh milk, its ice cream and its condensed milk are made. Jamaica makes no butter or cheese; and even where, as in chicken meat and eggs it has become self-sufficient, all the feed-stuffs and all the baby chicks are imported. As Jamaica can grow no wheat, its bread depends wholly upon imports. The only areas in which Jamaica is self-supporting are in the production of carbohydrates and most vegetables. The emphasis of two major

export crops has had other undesirable consequences. It is only these crops, which are largely organised from abroad, that there has ever been any efficient system for purchasing and collection. Jamaica produces many things on a very small scale which could be developed into important export industries—plantains and ackees, yams and mangoes, for instance, especially for the relatively new "ethnic" markets in the US and Britain. Jamaica's avocado pears are superb, and there is also a great but unsatisfied demand for such things as pumpkins and various peppers. But there has never been any organisation to give out contracts to farmers, or to arrange sales or shipping.

The continuing inability of Jamaica to produce enough beef, milk, butter or cheese for its own need (Jamaica even imports a good deal of goat meats salt beef and salted pig tails) is a direct consequence of old habits. Arising out of the need to feed the slaves with the cheapest possible imported food, the habit has developed among politicians and the middle class consumers of concentrating, wherever they can, upon cheap imports, and upon keeping the price of all locally produced protein food at the lowest possible controlled prices. *At one time during the 1950s the cow and the pig very nearly became extinct animals owing to the persistence of the government of that time in controlling the selling price of beef and pork below its cost of production.* Over the years, it was found to be cheaper to import butter (from the unsold "mountains" of it in Europe, for instance) and other fresh dairy products than to produce them locally. It is true, of course, that if a drive were made to produce enough milk or beef for our own use (and this would include butter and cheese) the cost of these articles would increase until the capital accumulations needed for expansion were paid off; but a great deal of foreign exchange would be saved, of which Jamaica is desperately short. And one additional problem would have to be square faced. At present the high cost of locally produced protein foods is aggravated by the fact that all animal feed has to be imported. Sorghum can be grown in Jamaica with great efficiency as a substitute for imports, but it would be necessary to take a substantial amount of land out of sugarcane to grow it, and this would mean a partial sacrifice of a "sacred cow", a process none is prepared to face

If sugar were bringing Jamaica a fortune and if Jamaica's banana industry were prospering (which it is not), there could be some convincing economic arguments for sticking to a two-crop export economy and importing food. But there is an overproduction of sugar on world markets, and Jamaica's banana exports have been rapidly declining. The refusal by the Jamaican authorities to face the reorganisation needed to make Jamaica self-sufficient (or even

an exporter) of protein foods, combined with the absence of any organisation to handle efficiently the collection, shipping and selling abroad of a large number of potentially valuable subsidiary export crops seems a prescription for disaster in the quite near future. Admittedly, the pressure upon politicians for cheap protein foods is difficult for them to resist. But the consequences, the continued impoverishment of the country side, the flight from the land, the increase in an unemployment rate which is already some 30 percent of the working population, and the concentration of people in the towns, resulting in truly alarming rates of murder and violent crime, would seem to be reasons enough to alter radically an agricultural system which was originally designed, not for the benefit of Jamaicans, but for the enrichment of Jamaica's colonial masters.



INDIA & CHINA

Talks Begin

by Venugopala Rao

New Delhi: An official Indian team returned here from Beijing, after five days of talks seeking to normalize relations with China. The Indian government desires to normalize relations fully, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao has told Parliament. But this will not be possible, he said, until "we can bring about a complete resolution of our problems (such as borders)". The talks held between December 10 and 14, represented the first attempt in 20 years to discuss the two countries' relationship. Not since the Chinese attack across Indian borders in 1962, have the two established open communication. The meetings were considered a positive step by both sides. Members of Parliament showed their approval today by thumping their desks in recognition of the talks. An acceptable solution to Indo-Sino difficulties is one that does not conflict with India's strategic interests, officials say, since India still considers itself vulnerable to military attack. "The two sides have had a fairly detailed exchange of views", Minister Rao informed Parliament. "And although fairly wide differences persist, we hope

the talks will lead to a better understanding of each other's positions....."

When Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua came here in June, India insisted that a border settlement precede any efforts for normalisation in other fields. The prerequisite was seen as indicating Indian distrust on strategic matters, observers say. Chinese interest and positions on crucial regional and international issues vary greatly with India's, adding another barrier to smooth diplomatic relations. While Vietnam and Kampuchea remain the strongest points of difference, New Delhi has long felt China secretly encouraged anti-Indian positions in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Government has recently acknowledged press reports to this effect. India "is aware that China is supplying arms to Bangladesh", Rao told Parliament yesterday. The Government has also "noted press reports that Pakistan is acting as a link in a United States-China spy network". According to newspaper accounts, the "spy network" possibly plans military operations against India and narcotics smuggling. Officials have also noted several press reports on the existence of a Chinese missile base in Northern Tibet, close to the Aksai area that China occupies. Pakistan gave the territory to China following the first Kashmir hostilities.

Not all of these issues were discussed in the Beijing talks, but Indian fears were implied when "the two sides made full explanations of their positions" on the border, according to Rao. China appears to want India to take over the Aksai area in return for accepting a reduced eastern borderline. When Huang Hua came here in June, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared in a public speech that there will be no discussion of territorial barter. However, the Indian position may have relaxed slightly as the team agreed to discuss the border at the Beijing talks. In three plenary sessions, and several sub-group meetings, the delegates "reviewed the level of exchanges in various fields such as culture, trade, economic cooperation and science and technology". Tentative programmes for the future in these fields are being considered. Strategic and political issues were apparently absent from the talks, according to the Minister's accounts. Prime Minister Gandhi and Minister Rao have accepted invitations to visit China, but no concrete agreement has yet been made to facilitate such an event. The next official round will be held in Delhi. No date has yet been specified. Talks surrounding political issues are not expected in the near future, although the Chinese wish to begin discussing them, officials report. There is no hope, however, that future talks will lead to a mutually acceptable border solution if no new national or international pressures intervene.—*IPS/Lankapuwath.*

On Stealing

By Bwana Rafiki

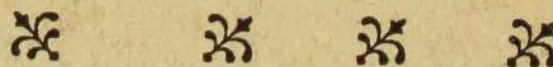
Yesterday we started picking coconuts, coconuts of the first crop, first because it will be the first sold in the coming financial year, the picking done with poles, each pole of one or more bamboos with a knife tied to one end, used by four or five men, the poles being of three different lengths. Before we had even started a milker was brought to me with a wound on the head, caused by a blow from the horn of one of our cows. I treated it with Dettol and ample cotton wool and the man continued with his work. With the grass cutter absent through sickness and another taking his place, we were too short of staff to use the buffaloes for carting, but we worked them later, and they did well after their two months' rest. Someone came to buy some of my teak trees and I am letting him have seven which I marked there and then. That brought me to Colombo yesterday with the money I was given as an advance. The visit was fortuitous for there were rates to pay on the Colombo property by the end of the month and the relevant document on the subject, the paper with the assessment, found. This morning there was money to be put in the bank, money to be taken out, and other money transferred, returned to other people would be more accurate, but I am rushing my fences. It was some time before I went out to where the picking was going on, and one of the reasons for the delay was that I wanted to write a letter consequent of an expression that I found used in a book, the murdering of fathers and the murdering of mother's as opposed to just the murdering of men for I thought that it was such an apt description of what is achieved by the sterilization of fathers and mothers so that they bear no more children. Castrate, cut out or cut off.

I returned to the estate early both to meet the Visiting Agent and because the pick was on. As I was paid a substantial sum of money as the balance for the teak, I had to return to Colombo again. I hope I shall never again put my trust in money. A short while ago I had never had so much money, but it dwindled to nothing before you could say Jack Robinson. So, let us spend it, lads, before it diwindles away. Unless I am very, very sleepy before I finishing writing it, I find that revising *Nguvu* takes more time than writing a new page, for it often requires more thought, and some pages are revised four, five or six times, for I read through all that I have written so far before carrying on, writing a page, a paragraph, a day. Yesterday the pick was finished, completed in four days, or three and a half to be exact. We are eleven thousand coconuts down on each estate from the corresponding pick last year. At today's prices, this represents a loss of Rs. 16,000

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or even more for each estate. For the money that I have lost on my own estate, I could have brought myself a motor-bicycle, and a good one at that. I shall have something to say about stealing when I continue this article tomorrow. Yesterday, or the day before that rather, there was supposed to have been a schemuzzle involving both watchers and my superintendent, one of the watchers against the other two, or the reverse rather, and the police were drawn in. The result of that was that the superintendent and the two watchers had to spend all the morning at the police station for no good reason at all, considering what was accomplished, the constable who had come to the estate for the preliminary enquiry consequent of the complaint of the watcher, made through his wife, thinking perhaps that both estates could well look after themselves during their absence. This is the second time that this has happened, on the previous occasion the three returning after dark, the cattle all tied up, all the men gone home.

The trek to the police station has been regular, with a respite of about a month or two before it started again yesterday. In the evening I caught my dairyman taking to his house double the quantity of milk to which he is entitled, and he brushed it off by saying that both he and the other dairyman have been doing this for a long time, taking a pint each, each time. By luck I was able to interview the other man without arousing his suspicions and before the man who had been caught could get at him, and he said that both of them had been taking only half a pint each both morning and evening. The truth was, of course, the other way, and the fact that one of them had to lie proved that their intention was to steal. In fact, the man who was caught hid the bottle of milk behind his back soon after I glimpsed that the bottle was full. As to how long this has been going on, it must have been about four months ago on a day when I was measuring the milk that the man whom I caught quickly tipped the milk he had given the other man back into the churn when I observed and remarked that he had given too much, for he had not even measured it, and then blandly said, well, measure it yourself and see, as if I could measure milk that he had tipped back into the churn. I asked my superintendent who was with me what he had been doing about this all these months and received no reply. I hear stealing is rampant all over Ceylon and that one can get nothing done quickly without a bribe, and I am not surprised when governments, and all of them, set an example themselves by pursuing such a policy as sterilization so clearly against all law.



What of Yasodhara ?

What of Yasodhara
left sleeping in the dark
whilst you went
in search of truth, Oh thou
Enlightened One!
You mused upon the pains of
men—sickness,
age and death, but did you
not think of
the pain, that Yasodhara underwent?
What of your
son Rahula, without a father's love
because you
thought he would be a link to
hold you down?

What of Yasodhara
abandoned in the night, seeking
in every room
and grove, not finding you
in sight?
Was it her fate without her
Lord to face
the world alone, hoping with the
passage of time
you would return to her?
Else did she
accept her lot with serenity
perceiving that
mankind's need was greater
than her own?

Practising austerities
torture, pain, you mortified your
flesh, finding the
Cause of Suffering the craving that
drives most men.
Transcending vision, knowledge and peace you
finally reached the
goal, knowing by treading the
eightfold path, men
could reach the end of the road.
Right views,
intentions, actions, speech, livelihood
and effort with
mindfulness and concentration would achieve
the desired result.

Keep away from
sin, acquire merit and purify the
mind, that is
the way, men were taught, to follow
the middle path.
Universal love, compassion, joy and
equanimity,
four sentiments which know
no bounds
of time or space or class. You
taught the world
to free itself from the cycle of
births and deaths.
Yet did you for a moment
think of the
pain that Yasodhara underwent?

—Vinodini Amarsingam

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION VACANCIES

A CHALLENGING CAREER IN A STATE ORGANISATION

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following posts in the National Housing Development Authority from citizens of Sri Lanka:

1. DISTRICT MANAGER, GRADE III/IV/V

1.1 District Manager Grade III

Qualifications. A Degree of a recognised University with at least ten (10) years executive experience of which three (3) years should be in a senior management position in either the State Service or the Private Sector:

or

the membership of the Institute of Civil Engineers, London or the membership of the Institute of Engineers, Sri Lanka, with five (5) years experience.

1.2 District Manager Grade IV

Qualifications. A Degree of a recognised University with at least seven (7) years executive experience in either the State Service or the private sector:

or

S.S.C./G.C.E.(O.L.) with at least fifteen (15) years experience of which eight (8) years' should be at executive level in either State Service or the private sector.

1.3 District Manager Grade V

Qualifications. A Degree of a recognised University with at least three (3) years executive experience in either the State Service or the private sector:

or

S.S.C./G.C.E. (O.L.) with at least fifteen (15) years experience of which five (5) years should be at executive level in either the State or the private sector.

Salary Scale. Grade III—Rs. 1,750/- 10x50—2,250/- per month
(Consolidated)

Grade IV—Rs. 1,400/- 10x50—1,900/- per month
(Consolidated)

Grade V—Rs. 1,080/- 10x40—1,480/- per month
(Consolidated)

(Allowance approved by the N.H.D.A. will also be paid)

Other benefits. Medical Benefit Scheme, Annual Bonus, Payment for unavailed Medical leave, Housing facilities. Over 30 years but not more than 50

Age. years on the closing date of applications.

NOTE.

[a] Applicants should be dynamic persons of proven ability who should be able to direct the development programme of the Authority at District level.

[b] Applicants in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service could be considered for secondment to the Authority's service.

2. Accountant Grade VI[a]

Applicants should possess at least one of following qualifications:

- (i) A pass in the Intermediate Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Sri Lanka;
- (ii) a pass in the Professional Examination, Part 1 of the Institute of Cost & Management Accounts;
a pass in the first three sections of the Examination of the Institute of Certified and Corporate Accountants;
- (iv) a pass in the Licenciante Examinations of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Sri Lanka;
- (v) the Diploma in Accountancy of the Ceylon Technical College;
- (vi) Membership of the Sri Lanka Accountants' Service or Sri Lanka Audit Service with at least 03 years' experience.

Age. Applicants should be less than 22 years and not more than 40 years on the closing date of applications. (The maximum age limit will not apply to those in the State Service or in the service of a Corporation/Board)

Salary Scale. Rs. 900—10x50—1,400/- per month (consolidated) (Allowance approved by the N.H.D.A. will also be paid)

Other benefits. Medical Scheme, Annual Bonus Payment for unavailed of Medical leave.

GENERAL.—

- (1) Suitable applicants will be considered for placement at a point in the relevant salary scales, depending on their qualifications and experience.
- (2) The vacancies are in the outstations.
- (3) Selected applicants should be prepared to serve in any part of the Island.
- (4) Applications giving full details of qualifications and experience should be forwarded to reach the undersigned on or before 15th January 1982.

Chairman,
National Housing Development Authority,
National Housing Secretariat,
Sir Chittampalam Gardiner Mawatha,
Colombo 2.

29th December, 1981.

December 6 - 19

**DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS-
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO**

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6: Religion should be made a compulsory subject in schools from the Kindergarten up to the university entrance and all teachers should be given a training in religious education to enable them to teach religion as a subject; these are some of the major proposals made by a special high-powered Committee on the Teaching of religion in schools which is now finalising its report. The biggest ever narcotics racket in this country was busted recently; after three months of sharp watching and investigations a crack team of local and Canadian Mounted Police tracked down the racketeers who exported heroin from Colombo to the States—*SO*. A number of rich mudalalis have taken ownership of stretches of the beach and even the sea in the rich fishing grounds down south; using this apparently illegal ownership they are exploiting the fishermen and even the poor rural women folk who are eking out an existence in the coir industry—*ST*. Bookbuying has now become the exclusive privilege of a tiny minority of affluent Sri Lankans the recent introduction of a five per cent turnover tax on all books, magazines and periodicals has become a barrier to the less fortunate—*WK*. The chief spokesman for the Sirima Bandaranaike faction in Parliament confidently predicted over the weekend that the two warring factions of the SLFP would be united by the end of this month sources in the Maithripala Group of the party told *The Island* that many obstacles had to be cleared before the two groups could come together—*S*.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7: Some rupee plantation companies have calculated their back up value in terms of the compensation they expect to receive for the take over of their estates under the Land Reform (Amendment) Act of 1975—*CDN*. Officials of the Bribery Commissioner's Department on Saturday busted the bribe racket by police patrols taking bribes from lorry drivers transporting cattle for slaughter; two police constables in the North Central Province were arrested in the act of

allegedly accepting Rs. 1,000—*CDM*. Sri Lanka has initiated diplomatic consultations with India to resolve a deadlock over the implementation of the Indio-Ceylon agreement of 1964; this is a sequel to differences of opinion between the two countries over the provisions of the agreement. Over two million people will lose their food stamps which they have been enjoying over the past two years under a new scheme to be announced by Government shortly—*SU*. The Government will soon decide on the establishment of a Gold Market in Sri Lanka; the Central Bank of Ceylon has already approved the setting up of a bullion market and will be in overall charge of its operation—*CO*.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8: The Ministry of Education will introduce television programmes for school children beginning in the second term next year; initially there will be two types of programs—one for Advanced Level science students and the other an English teaching program for students of all grades—Mr. Mahinda Ranaweera, Deputy Director General of Education said. The Minister of Regional Development Mr. C. Rajadurai told Parliament yesterday that steps would be taken shortly to implement provisions in the Constitution with regard to the Tamil language—*CDN*. Some of the artefacts and replicas of sacred Buddhist monuments that were taken to Britain for the festival of Sri Lanka to mark the golden jubilee celebrations of adult franchise are lying at the Colombo Harbour exposed to the elements; eight crates, containing sections of the beautiful reclining Buddha statue taken to exhibit Lanka's glorious past have been lying in the open for nearly a month.—*SU*. Indian representatives were prominent by their absence when Fisheries Minister Festus Perera inaugurated the first session of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission's Committee for Development and Management in the Bay of Bengal yesterday—*IS*.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9: The Hotel Lanka Oberoi has reported a gross operating profit of Rs. 54.5 million for the financial year ended March 31, 1981; its owning company, Asian Hotels Corporation Ltd., has told shareholders. A policeman will be associated with the Examiner of Motor Vehicles when future applicants for driving licences are tested, authoritative official sources said yesterday. The Instrument Landing System (ILS) at the Colombo Airport, Katunayake is outdated and obsolete and is malfunctioning, Colonel H.B. Wijekoon, Chairman of the Airport Authority said yesterday—*CDN*. Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali who took only a couple of days to learn the reasons for the exorbitant prices in onions has ordered the CWE to immediately import 1,500 tons of red onions from India in a bid to peg down prices. The Government of France will for the first time give Sri Lanka aid to the tune of Rs. 750 million to expedite work in connection with the Nilwala scheme in the

Ruhuna. The World Bank has assisted the National Development Bank and five credit institutions to inject some Rs. 1,400 million into small and medium scale industries which are now expected to provide an extra 70,000 new Jobs—*CDM*. With the intelligence services confirming reports of moves by separatist groups to make a unilateral declaration of independence for a separate state of Eelam in January, the government is now gearing itself to combat it both in Sri Lanka and abroad; the declaration is expected to be made on January 14, with a campaign of civil disobedience and demonstrations in world capitals. The SLFP (S) has summoned the breakaway group headed by Maithripala Senanayake to appear before a disciplinary board on December 14—*SU*. Police yesterday arrested a Tamil youth when ten rounds of ammunition spilled out of his sarong while he was walking on Skinners Road North in Colombo yesterday afternoon—*IS*. Police have imposed over 2,000 spot fines on errant motorists since the spot fine scheme came into force from November 18; according to Police sources over 300 motorists were detected in the Fort area alone within two weeks of the scheme coming into effect—*CO*. Seven hundred teachers out of those who struck work in June last year will be given employment from January next year—*WK*. Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi told Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran that a fresh agreement was not necessary to settle the problems of the Indian nationals living in Sri Lanka and that the matter could be solved through negotiations—*DP*.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10: Prime Minister Premadasa informed the Cabinet that severe damage had been caused to roads and irrigation systems by the recent floods. The Defence Ministry yesterday de-requisitioned the SLFP's highrise headquarters at T. B. Jayah Mawatha and handed the premises over to Mr. Maithripala Senanayake; Col. C. A. Dharmapala, Secretary to the Defence Ministry, wrote to Mr. Senanayake that he was handing over the premises, together with any movable or immovable property requisitioned, "to you as president of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party". A large number of fisher families living along the beach near the Muthur jetty were forced out of their homes when huge waves which lashed the Koddigar Bay on Tuesday flooded their houses; hundred and twenty families were affected and their houses damaged; the surrounding areas too were flooded with sea water. President J. R. Jayewardene told Cabinet that visits were expected from the President of the Republic of India, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, next year. The SLFP(S) Secretary, Mr. Ratnasiri Wickremarajapakse, went to court yesterday to challenge the handing over of the party headquarters to the Maithripala Group—*CDN*. The TULF reported that the situation in Jaffna is quite satisfactory and the progress of compensation payment is also very satisfactory—*CDM*.

A .303 rifle found buried in a garden at Wattala yesterday is believed to be one of the weapons stolen by terrorists either from the Annacottai Police stations or during the shooting of the two army officers in Jaffna, Police said. The Tamil United Liberation Front yesterday dissociated itself from any moves to make a unilateral declaration of independence for a separate state of Eelam—*SU*. Police security on the Colombo-Jaffna trains would be strengthened Deputy Minister of Transport Mr. Harold Kularatne said in Parliament last night following the plunder of passengers on a Colombo bound mail train from Jaffna early yesterday—*IS*.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11: A special operations room and police post is being set up at the Fort railway station to co-ordinate a major effort ordered by President Jayewardene to ensure that the trains are safe for their passengers. Agricultural Development and Research Minister E. L. Senanayake had ordered the Agriculture Department to issue seed paddy and fertiliser free to the Northern and Southern farmers affected by last week's floods—*CDN*. Parliament will meet in special session to discuss the White Paper on Education and the Rupavahini Bill by Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis, Minister of State on January 5, 6 and 7. The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has decided to recommend that 1987 should be declared as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless—*CDM*. Investigations into the mystery behind the .303 rifle recovered from a garden in a suburb of Colombo have drawn a blank—*SU*. All major harbours and airports in Trincomalee, Mannar, Jaffna, Galle, Colombo and Katunayake manned by the Customs will be linked directly by radio from next month; the government has authorised the installation of equipment and work will begin shortly—*IS*. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake president of the SLFP (M) has complained to the police that the SLFP headquarters at Darley Road have been broken into within the last two months while the building was requisitioned; the police fingerprint experts have taken prints on the doors and cupboards, including safes—*CO*. It has been decided to organise a scheme to employ more Tamils in government departments—*DP*.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12: The TULF yesterday issued a strong statement dissociating itself from the attempt of a London-based organisation called the Tamil Coordinating Committee to "declare the Independence of Tamil Eelam and form a provisional government outside the country:—*CDN*. Japan may finance the 3.9 billion rupee project for an ultra modern airport for Sri Lanka; a top level Japanese team of experts have already arrived here to make a detailed study of the airport development masterplan. The study will include analysis of reports by Canadian and Dutch experts. The adoption of a new constitution will be the highlight of the United National Party's 27th annual conference at the Sugathadasa Stadium

today. The Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party yesterday decided to oppose any move to expel Panadura MP Neville Fernando from Parliament. An expert on ticket machines of Transport Board buses was caught red handed last week; he was in the act of tampering with a machine when Transport Board officials pounced on him—*SU*.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13: President J. R. Jayewardene speaking yesterday at the 27th Sessions of the United National Party at Sugathadasa Stadium said that the next General Election is due to be held in 1983 and the Presidential Election in 1984—*SO*. Six people among them a Sub-Inspector of Police were critically injured when unknown assailants threw a hand bomb outside the SLFP Party Headquarters at Darley Road shortly before noon yesterday; the injured were rushed to the Accident Ward of the General Hospital—*WK*.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14: All manufacturers of export products will be exempt from fuel price hikes in 1982 under a new "fixed" price scheme to be introduced shortly by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. We regret to announce the death of Mr. E. C. B. Wijesinghe, doyen of journalists and actor par excellence, last evening. Mr. Wijesinghe was 80 years old—*SU*.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15: President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday commended to the Minister of Trade and Shipping Mr. Lalith Ahulathmudali, a suggestion that banks which give assistance to entrepreneurs should also be considered for export development awards. The Select Committee appointed by Parliament to inquire into and report on the alleged expulsion of Dr. Neville Fernando MP from Panadura, from the UNP, has said that it was not its task to determine the validity or otherwise of such expulsion. The late ven. Heenatiyana Dhammaloka Maha Nayaka Thera of the Amarapura Maha Nikaya who passed away on Saturday will be accorded a state funeral—*CDN*. Government MPs have been summoned for a special meeting today where President J. R. Jayewardene, is expected to explain United National Party's decision to expel Panadura MP Dr. Neville Fernando. The Ceylon Electricity Board will invest over 1.6 billion rupees in 1982 for the installation of additional power plants as well as for the revamping of several overloaded transmission lines in the country—*SU*. The entire production of one million bricks a month produced by the state-owned Ceylon Ceramics Corporation will be exported to Singapore soon; bricks are being imported by Singapore to ease the shortage faced by the construction industry there—*CO*. "Our plantation workers are the lowest paid in the whole world; we condemn the total disregard shown to these workers who earn over 60% of the country's foreign exchange; the two-rupee wage increase given to them is not at all enough", said Mr. Amirthalingam, leader of the Opposition in Parliament yesterday—*VK*.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16: The Government has decided to extend the Emergency by another month; this decision has been taken to enable the government to be alert to attempts by some expatriate Tamils to make a unilateral declaration of Eelam; the TULF however has opposed this attempt by a London based group. The Government Parliamentary Group at a special meeting yesterday decided to support a motion to be brought before Parliament to expel the MP for Panadura, Dr. Neville Fernando from Parliament—*CDN*. Indian President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy will be guest of honour at the ceremonial opening of Sri Lanka's new Parliamentary complex—*SU*. Forty tons of steel bars simply vanished into thin air from the Colombo Port; according to informed sources a 20-ton shipment of reinforced deformed steel bars worth Rs. 1.5 million vanished overnight from the Port—*IS*.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17: The President emphasised the necessity for great restraint in the use of electricity; the dry weather period was approaching and the next monsoon was expected only in May; replenishment of reservoirs did not keep pace with water drawn to meet power demand. The Police and the A. Force will team together today to launch one of the biggest ever campaigns to destroy an estimated hundred acres of ganja plantations in the Southern Province; a stage two operation is likely to follow in the Eastern Province—*CDN*. The Cabinet yesterday accepted the recommendations of the Subasinghe Committee relating to the salaries and allowances of the Police and the Armed Services—*CDM*. The Government lifted the press censorship with effect from midnight yesterday but continued the state of emergency imposed in August this year. Government is to crack down on indiscipline in state-run educational institutions; Education, Employment and Youth Affairs Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe has been empowered to take whatever action he deems necessary to deal with this situation. The continuation of the state of emergency will cost the country a further Rs. 32,183,000, it was announced yesterday—*SU*. Land values in the country have tumbled in the last three months, according to officials of the valuation Department and brokers; the chief reason attributed to this slump is the credit squeeze imposed by the Central Bank and the inability of the commercial banks to advance large sums of money or grant overdrafts—*CO*. The sections handling the canning of fruits and food in the Marketing Department will be handed over to a private sector company—*DP*.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18: Group Captain A. W. Fernando has been promoted to the rank of Air Commodore and appointed Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Air Force with effect from December 1, 1981. A new Board of Directors has been appointed to the National Milk Board by Mr. S. Thondaman, Minister of Rural Industrial Development—*CDN*. The 500-ton

consignment of Hungarian big onions which was unloaded in the Colombo Port early this week reached the black-marketeer almost at the same time it made its appearance on the shelves of co-operative stores. The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa will leave for America for a medical check up this afternoon—*CDM*. A "south-south" dialogue in New Delhi next February will formulate a generalised system of trade preferences among developing countries and examine proposals for a bank for the Third World, Dr. Gamani Corea Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said yesterday. The Court of Appeal yesterday stalled the proceedings at the Maligakande Magistrate's Court pertaining to the SLFP headquarters. The SLFP(S) faction has decided to expel from its membership, messrs Mithripala Senanayaka, Anura Bandaranaike, Stanley Tilakaratne and fourteen others—*SU*. It was decided yesterday at a Conference attended by Muslim educationalists, representatives of Muslim Associations and Muslim MPs to meet the Minister of Education and discuss and obtain suitable redress for the matters affecting Muslims that are contained in the White Paper on education—*VK*.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19: The employment picture in Sri Lanka has brightened considerably, the preliminary results of the Labour Force and Socio-Economic Survey conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics reveal; this survey, which broadly covered the latter half of 1980, indicates that the total labour force of the country was 5.71 million of whom 4.85 million were employed; that left an unemployment population of 0.86 million—15.1 per cent—*CDN*. The Booksellers Association of Ceylon has vehemently protested at the imposition of a Turnover Tax on books, magazines, newspapers and periodicals foreign and local. The Central Bank will issue two high denomination currency notes of the Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 denominations—*CDM*. The leader of the SLFP (M) Group, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake refused to recognise the sacking of 17 members of their group from the SLFP by the Central Committee of the SLFP (Sirima) group—*IS*. The Panadura MP will be given two hours to speak on the Motion to be brought in Parliament for his expulsion from Parliament next Wednesday—*VK*.



FILM FOCUS

•Tamil Films •Publicity

THERE HAS BEEN an unmistakable transition in Tamil films that are steadily flowing in from South India. In the years gone by, an actor had to be a singer as well, and stars like Thiagaraja Baghavathar, P. U. Chinnappah, M. S. Subbulakshmi, U. R. Jeevarat-

nam and Vasanthakokilam took on key roles and sang their way to popularity. This was a period when playback singers were unheard of and the relevant stories were firmly tethered on to historical legends, the Heavens and the Gods therein who kept on playing games with mere mortals and intrigues that surrounded rulers and their palaces, with ambitious Court Ministers always turning villain, and the hero emerging mostly from the rural milieu. This formula changed later with the advent of actors of the calibre of Shivaji Ganeshan and M. G. Ramachandran. While Sivaji concentrated on serious characterisations that held fans spellbound, M. G. R. moved in a more dynamic direction with fast moving action films that had a political lining. These roles paid rich dividends later to project him towards the highest political office in Tamil Nadu. Quite recently there was a tilt again in the film trends, and the emphasis shifted more towards down-to-earth family situations tinted with measured violence and veiled sex, which were frowned upon for a beginning. Thus the road to total escapism in films gave way to realism which has ruled the Sinhalese film world all along. Two actors symbolise this change today, Kamalahasan and Rajni Kanth. The creators behind the new wave are directors like K. Balachandar, Balu Mahendra and Bhagyarajah, whose efforts have proved a refreshing change from the strict formula that had reigned for many decades. Films like Niram Maratha Pookal, Oru Kai Osai, Suvarillatha Sithirangal, Mullum Malarum and Puthiya Varpukkal have all been reviewed in the *Tribune*.

In Sri Lanka today, many exhibitors are in a scramble to screen these films, for the money spinners that they are, to the total exclusion of local Tamil productions which have registered enormous losses. The puzzle now, as Sivaji Ganeshan uttered in the locally produced Pilot Premnath—a roaring success in contrast—is whether the Sri Lanka produced Tamil films are utter flops, or whether the Tamil picturegoers are finding it difficult to wrench themselves from the South Indian opiates that have become their daily bread! In deep contrast are the many Sinhalese films that are receiving international recognition. It behoves forcefully on the National Film Corporation therefore to seek a panacea to resurrect the local Tamil Industry which is virtually dead. It seemed laughable the other day to witness a Sinhalese film dubbed in Tamil carrying away a local award for the best Tamil film. The task before the NFC in this matter is not easy, but this column would urge the appointment of a Committee to find a solution to this rather chronic malaise in the local Tamil cine-media.

THIS COLUMN would like to expatiate further, with one solitary example of how an outstanding film could suffer by lack of due publicity. A few weeks ago, the Hindi film ANKUR was released at a city cinema—in fact the first Hindi film after

quite a spell—in Colombo, but its impressive record did not quite reach the public, who groped in the dark about the nature of the fare and decided to give it a miss. Thus this brilliant film limped along, failed at the Box Office, could not keep to the holdover limit, and had to be willy nilly withdrawn. This column is now in a position to bring home to *Tribune* readers, the plaudits and acclaim it had won internationally, with the hope that *Ankur* will be released at a more centrally situated cinema, to earn local appreciation it also richly deserves. The following are the awards and recognition that have trailed this film: (a) Winner of 3 National Awards—Silver Lotus for the best feature film, best actor and best actress; (b) Winner of Filmfare special Award as a noteworthy representation of the new cinema in India; (c) Winner of the Golden Globe Award from Film World as the best picture of the year; (d) Winner of Bengal Film Journalists Association Award for best picture, best director, best actress, best screenplay, and best supporting actor of the year; (e) Winner of Bengal's Progress Writers Association Awards for best direction and best screenplay; (f) Winner of Uttar Pradesh Film Journalists Association Award for the outstanding human document of the year 1974; (g) Winner of four Awards by the Youth Association and the Prasad Awards for best story, best direction in Hyderabad; (g) Winner of the Dadasahib Phalke Award for the best direction; (i) Winner of the National Youth Film Awards in Bombay, for best picture, best director, best actress and best supporting actor; (j) Invited to the Berlin and Stratford (Canada) Film Festivals, the Moscow Film Festival and the Czechoslovakian Film Festival; the Indian Film Festival in London and the Belgrade Film Festival in 1974/75 respectively; (k) Selected as an OUTSTANDING film of the year at the London Film Festival; (l) Selected for an Oscar Award at Hollywood by the Indian Motion Picture Producers Council. *Ankur* was specially selected by the NPC for Sri Lankan audiences on this impressive record, but was released without the public being made adequately aware of these credentials. Had this been generally known, this column is certain, it would have fared very much better than it did in its unsung debut. This film was reviewed in the *Tribune* (5.12.81) recently, but regretfully an error did creep into the comment. It was Sadhu Mehar who took on the role of the deaf and dumb husband in the film, and not young Anant Nag who only appeared in the main supporting role—both with high acclaim—and not vice versa.

NAAN VALAVAIPPEN (I Will Make You Live)
Tamil: Directed with distinction by D. Yoganath and tuned to the best background music by Illayarajah, this film blends brilliantly the old with the new in Tamil cinema. While Sivaji Ganeshan shines for good part of the way, he hands over the baton to Rajni Kanth to breathe fire into the story at the concluding stages. The contrast in their histrionics

covers neatly on the story to signify, the changes on the Tamil film scene. As an official glued down to the enquiry counter at an Airlines office, Sivaji is afflicted with twin worries—one of keeping the home fires burning for his dependent family members, among whom is a disabled sister, with nothing laid by for the future, and the other an excruciating brain tumour which ticks his life span to a six month life expectancy. This pathetic predicament whets his appetite for some quick reward money that would be his for the asking, with quick thinking and a careful sprinkling of clues, in a murder that had momentarily touched his daily routine, at work. By an ingenious process he becomes both the informant and the accused, and when the hay he strived for is within the reach of his family, a surgeon's knife shaves off the tumour to give him longer life in a delicate operation. Freed of the malady, his battle turns to vindicating himself from the hangman's noose, and his self-imposed culpability. Rajni Kanth steps in at this testing moment as a waylaying vagabond, to fist it out with Sivaji in a ferocious encounter which leads to the unmasking of the diabolical killer. The beat and the magic of Illayarajah's music gave class and a western touch all along to make the story very absorbing to the scenes. Although the sound system at the Kalpana where I saw this film shows improvement, the seating comforts are at sixes and sevens, and a heavy toss is in store, you do not pick your way carefully. This excellent film would have certainly fared better at any other Colombo South cinema from a box office point of view, and that is the truth without any prejudices.

9 TO 5 (English): Actress Jane Fonda speaks for high quality in any of her film appearances, but in this 20th Century Fox presentation, she is given a very close run by actresses Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton (bursting physically at the seams) in a joint manoeuvre to tame a predatory and over-authoritarian Boss in their 9 to 5 establishment. The trio go to pot literally, to smoke out a nefarious plan to hijack the chief executive, and truss him up into enforced captivity. The net result is that the business concern starts booming under forged hands, the bureaucratic machine without the boss turns smoother and he is booted out with a promotion. The events that build up to this climax were too amusing for words and I thought that this film—with a thin coating of animation—was just what the doctor would order for the inflationary blues that are around this festive season. The Director too being Colin Higgins who gave us *Foul Play* and *Silver Streak*, need I say more for this very enjoyable comedy.

THE IN-LAWS (English): In this Warner Brothers presentation, it is the less maligned male-in-laws, who hold up a marriage by their tantrums. One of them is a dentist (Alan Arkin) and the other a queer questionable CIA agent (Peter Falk) whose antics bust up international counterfeiting gang. There were several

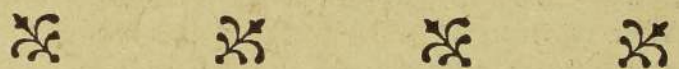
touch and go situations, one before a firing squad, and the in laws survive them all with a few cool millions coming their way to launch a delayed wedding profitably. Those roling in the two in laws were popular TV personalities, in this comedy that should have done better at the Box Office. I found it quite enjoyable and so will you if a dull evening is the alternative.

BENGALU WALALU (Sinhalese): Director K. A. W. Perera's film creations are becoming fewer and far between, but a significant point that cannot be withheld in comment about them, is that much painstaking sweat go into the making of this film. In this instance too, the time factor has not been spared in the quest for perfection, for the film stretches out for three hours, which is rather unusual for a Sinhalese production today. A little bit of pruning would have gone a long way, for there were repeating sequences that the film could have deleted without eroding the Jataka message in the story. To turn to its merits, the camera has effectively traversed the arid regions as the backdrop in "Baddegama" style to capture the still beauty of these lowlands with its rivers, tanks, streams and rural foliage. Many liberties have been taken with this religiously bound story, and many a sacred place of Buddhist pilgrimage has been very appropriately focussed to bring out the positive horizons of Maithriya and Ahimsa, which should enlilt the thinking of many in these internecine times. The human instruments for the purpose are two bangle sellers who weave in and out of a village, one (Jayantha Perera) introducing a Dharmista element in his sales talk, while the other (Vijay Nandasiri) stooping to mischief and rancour when he fails to conquer. At a triangular apex, positioned enticingly to the bangle wearers is a pretty village damsel (Sabitha Perera) who dazzles both in figure and form to get them to cross purposes and into a plot that lengthens to bridge the gap between love and hatred as preached by the Enlightened One—with stark tragedy at curtains, as the inevitable panacea for the wages of sin. Jayantha Perera fails to convince, even though under the watchful eye of his director father, for he appears miscast, while Vijay Nandasiri gives life to a malicious role. Attractive actress Sabitha Perera makes up curvaceously for the long road she has yet to travel in histrionical quest and this goal does not seem impossible—but the scene stealers were definitely Sonia Disa, as the indigent mothor, who feels that dishonesty is a small price to pay to keep body and soul together and veteran actor D. R. Nanayakkara as the Pingo vendor who hawks fish with a vocal sting, till he is angered to a breaking point, when he uses his chopper with a vengeance. A frail arachchi too treads the village with corruption that is shielded by his buraucratic boorishness and guilt, symbolically reflected by the rounded brass buttons spaced out gleamingly on his back coat of authority—and this role had been well chosen. This film, although falling just short

of expectations, is nevertheless neatly cut out for family viewing and should not be missed, as more and more adult fare is now the daily film menu. I saw the famous creators of our film world Lester and Sumitra viewing this film at the New Sigiri cinema, Katugastota.

THE CAINE MUTINY (English): An invitation from the Press Attache of the US Embassy was irresistable as the big names of early thirties from Hollywood like the late Humphrey Bogart, Van Johnson, Jose Ferrer and Fred Macmurry were featuring in it. A coloured Columbia film in immaculate condition, which could vie with the best today, the story wound around a fictitious incident in World War II when the Captain of the US Warship Caine, a paranoiac (Humphrey Bogart) was unmasked during a storm, and the ship taken over by the next officer in command (Van Johnson), who had to face a court martial for his decision. His defending counsel, roled by Jose Ferrer, aid a brilliant job of it in the court drama that followed, with Bogart breaking down and writhing publicly under cross examination. The film was otherwise significant as an example of the near adult, but not difficult themes, that Hollywood ventured into gainfully at this time. For me it was a nostalgic walk down memory lane watching this brilliant cast, straining every nerve to live up to characterisations that made their names a byword for good and clean, American films—a claim that is not evident today with the emphasis shifting to sex and violence. That America at this period had wrested the monopoly that Britain maintained over the waves was clearly evident in this solid film version of a best seller by Herman Wouk, and directed well by the well known director of this time—Edward Dmytryk.

JAMES N. BENEDICT.



GRAMA SASTRA

Uva Scribblings

Health Hazards

By Gamiya

There are some officials hell-bent on bringing the government into rank disrepute. One such is local AMP who got it into his head months ago that he was a "doctor" of the first order born to treat the people, but he is a menace to society.

Shuttle-service: He prescribes Valium as tranquillizer to a needy patient, the patient carries it from his bungalow to the hospital and hands it for treatment preparation to a very dear relative of the "doctor". She puts it in her left pocket, and takes distilled water out of her right pocket and administers it as an injection on the unwary patient.

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All the while the patient thinks that he is being given good treatment, but he is back again at the same spot, and the AMP pockets the man's money. Valium tranquillizer for a heart patient! Many farmers, the backbone of the country, get sick on this kind of treatment. The valium makes a shuttle-service and one observer, a close observer, found it going back and forth as many as eight times that morning. The AMP raked in the shekels. This is happening in a place in Uva. Much matter therefore, for a Health Department shock-troops to take note of and pounce on this idiotic, un-Buddhistic AMP who is challenging everyone, including the Department to come and wreck his programme if it so likes to do so. Hatred is slowly being built up against the government by such men as these in deep rural areas and health is a vulnerable point.

Cotton coterie: and then again, in the same place, over fifty persons were sent away by the unworthy staff.... I watched it all from the main road, because I know and love the farmers who are struggling to give our nation its food.... and they were told: "bring your own cotton, we have no cotton here". *Konda bass*, the carpenter, who had served the community for a long time, was asked to "go home and get some cotton", but wonder of wonders, a little coterie of four or five make small cotton wads and balls at the hospital and sell each for 50 cts. The official cotton pad seal, showing that it is government stuff, was in the nearby drain. A pack of mad-hounds must be let loose on this defaulter and he should be told to hunt all over the island for injections of AT and cotton. Then, he will learn a bitter lesson. But, I am sure the vast majority of men who have taken the Hippocratic oath will hound this man out of the newly-won place, for he who has no real sympathy, is no real doctor. Few apothecaries can have sympathy if they make money their 'god'. Change an apothecary to a channel doctor and you have mayhem on your hands.

Stitches ahoy! The sudden work-to-rule has given this man several hours at his home or "bungalow". He was formerly *Assistant* to the medical practitioner but a sad news item (sad for these people) boosted him sky-high with a "doctorate" and now, most of his time is spent in his bungalow. Jayawere was charged Rs. 60 for stitches, when he went a few minutes earlier to the hospital: "AMP not here, yet, so please go to his home" said a nurse. Jayawere had to get away early, but had to pay 60/- after getting into debt. Farmers, backbone of the nation Insulted by the medical profession (but then, this silly man is no doctor). Little Ranasinghe who fell from the domba tree perch, was charged Rs. 18 for four stitches, and he has a father farmer who is regarded as the best and most conscientious in this area. He too had to borrow money. I know for sure, doctors of the Health Dept, will take note of all this.

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LETTER

Onions

Sir,

Your *Confidentially* column which I always enjoy reading had some interesting things to say about onions in the *Tribune* of December 12th issue. This note is in response to that. Onions whether it is B (Bombay) or R (Red) onions are part of our diet. Spring or Shallots are eaten as vegetables or in salads. Red onions are grown in Puttalam, Kurunegala, Ratnapura, Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Moneragala, Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Amparai, Hambantota, Kalawewa as a Maha crop. According to the Agricultural Ministry Annual Implementation Programme for 1981 Maha, 3,360 hectares were under rainfed cultivation and 2,670 hectares under irrigated conditions. Total for Sri Lanka was 6,060 hectares for 1981 Maha and for Yala it was 5,530 hectares. The main area for onions under irrigated conditions are Puttalam, Matale, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Jaffna, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kalawewa, Trincomalee and Batticaloa. The targets for Bombay onions for Maha 1981 is 82 hectares and for Yala 1982 is 446 hectares.

The production for Red onions were as follows:

Year	Maha (HA)	Yala (HA)	Production (MT)
1979/80	8,072	10,323	18,325
1980/81	12,044	8,143	n.a.

Source: Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research.

Last year local production was high and prices fell to 75 cents and we ate onions for curry cooked as any other vegetable. Bombay onions and red onions imports coincided with harvest and the upset the balance intended through the National Food Coordinating Committee chaired by G. V. P. Samarasinghe, Secretary to Cabinet and convened by Secretary Ranjan Wijeratne. All this imbalance in supply demand-production-price situation is because the production sector has no say in marketing. Onion situation is so grave because over 2,000 acres in the North is not under onion production. The Agricultural Development Authority (ADA) has already planned 2,000 acres in the Eastern Province. Floods had nothing to do with the price escalation. Price escalation currently is due to short supply situation resulting from effects of liberalised food situation.

Meanwhile, cost of production (COP) of onions have gone up whilst floor prices are stagnating far below the cost. I admit floor price is only an insurance price and has some relation to COP. Another reason is seed onions cannot be procured from India due to export ban and scarcity in India where prices have skyrocketed. **This current situation is not due to the policies of the Agricultural Ministry but due to import policy and lack of a marketing policy of the trade sector.**

I would suggest to the government to transfer the Marketing Department to the ADA. It will be able to deliver the goods. There is an excellent team in the ADA and the Ministry which has some excellent marketing experts. Similarly agricultural Research and Training Institute (ARTI) has a market research unit headed by an eminent economist. The ADA too has a highly qualified marketing director. Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne who was commended recently in Parliament by all MPs on both sides of the House is qualified to handle agricultural marketing. SLFP, UNP, CP and TULF MPs all spoke about Secretary Wijeratne's achievements.

I therefore, suggest that the Marketing Department should come under the Ministry of Agricultural Research and Development and that decision on imports of scarce food crops be given to the Agricultural Ministry. Then producers can have confidence and produce and they will also know the hand that waves and tell them to grow will not forget them and raise the other hand to import and ruin farmer's enthusiasm. Let the CWE, Markfed, Cooperatives do only distribution. That is what government should do now. Not to lament or as you say publish sunshine headlines and fool everybody but not the common man.

Colombo 4,
19th December, 1981.

PUNCHI KAUTILYA.

P.S.—The statistics below speak for themselves

LOCAL PRODUCTION OF RED ONIONS

Cultivation year	Acreage	Production (Cwt)
1966/1967	11,000	516,000
1968/69	16,370	755,800
1971/72	14,170	1,161,678
1974/75	15,635	1,433,481
1976/77	20,171	1,305,586
1977/78	15,511	1,417,600
1978/79	14,533	1,230,500
1979/80	18,395	1,557,382

Source: Department of Agriculture.

IMPORTS OF ONIONS

		Rs.
1958	12,502 cwts.	214,222
1963	152,799 "	1,797,169
1968	988,589 "	16,217,090
1973	nil	nil
1978	18,152,000 kg.	45,228,552
1979	12,925,000 kg.	36,958,000
1980	18,609,000 kg.	91,558,000

Sources: Customs Dept.

ONIONS

FARM GATE PRICES (PER CWT.)

	Rs.
1968	29.31
1971	51.88
1974	107.45
1976	112.32
1977	205.59
1978	105.05
1979	176.67
1980	186.24

Source: Census and Statistics Department.

EST. COST OF PRODUCTION OF ONIONS/PER ACRE

(JAFFNA)

	Total cost including family labour	Total cost excluding family labour
LABOUR:	268.12	205.98
Mandays cost Rs	<u>3,399.45</u>	<u>2,612.14</u>

DRAUGHT POWER AND MACHINERY

Buffaloes		
No. of hours	157.98	
Cost/Rs.	258.21	258.21
Sprayers Rs.	355.53	355.53
Total input cost Rs.	<u>7,075.10</u>	<u>7,075.10</u>
Total cost	<u>11,088.29</u>	<u>10,300.98</u>

Sources: Department of Agriculture, Div. of AGR Economics Farm Management & Statistics.

ONIONS—BALANCE SHEET : 1975—1980

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Population	13.6 million	13.7 m	13.9 m	14.18 m	14.47 m	14.74 m
Production	41.7 MT	58.41 MT	61.50 MT	58.42 MT	67.87 MT	66.89 MT
Change in stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exports	—	—	—	—	—	—
Imports	—	—	—	—	9.52 MT	17.35 MT
Total supply	41.71 MT	58.41 MT	61.50 MT	58.42 MT	77.39 MT	84.24 MT
Seed use	15.94 MT	16.99 MT	15.78 MT	15.58 MT	17.03 MT	16.40 MT
Waste	12.51 MT	17.52 Mt	18.45 MT	17.53 MT	23.22 MT	25.27 MT
Per Capita Supplies						
Kg/Year	0.97	1.74	1.96	1.78	2.57	2.89
Grms per day	2.67	4.75	5.37	4.85	7.04	7.92
Calories per day	1.58	2.80	3.17	2.88	4.15	4.67
Protein Grm/per day	0.05	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.13	0.14
Fat Grms/per day	0.003	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.10	0.01

Sources : Food Balance Sheet : Department of Census & Statistics.

GAS FOR PIPES

Deal Concluded

by Jurgen Klotz

THE "contract of the century" between Soyuz-Gasexport, Moscow, and Ruhrgas AG, Essen, has been finalised: contract of the century because it extends beyond the 20th century and because of the amount of money involved. Even at today's prices, the contract involving the annual supply to Western Europe of 50bn cubic metres of Soviet natural gas during the whole duration of the deal amounts to almost DM 400 bn. This marks a new dimension in the international energy business. Unlike the three previous gas contracts between Ruhrgas and the Soviet Union, this deal, which took years to negotiate, has caused considerable political controversy. Its main opponent was President Reagan. He was backed by a number of German Opposition politicians for whom every deal with Moscow amounts to a pact with the devil.

They say this contract will increase the Kremlin's political influence and that by doubling its shares of gas supplies to Germany, Moscow could exert pressure. In addition, the huge foreign exchange earnings from the mid 1980s. would strengthen not only the economic but also the military potential of the Soviet Union. It is however, rather curious that these reservations voiced at the Ottawa Summit in July were directed only at Chancellor Schmidt. Although Ruhrgas is the principal contractor, the contract involves six other countries, France, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Italy and Switzerland. The 5,000km pipeline that is still to be built and that will link Western Siberia with Europe will pump

three-quarters of the gas flowing through it to these other countries leaving Germany with 10.5bn cubic metres, a bit more than a quarter.

Assuming that the Soviets really intend to turn off the tap at some point, they would risk a confrontation with half of Europe. Those who argue that the gas could be used as a political and economic lever with which to exert pressure completely overlook the Soviet Union's interests. For one thing, Moscow must itself invest billions of deutschemarks to open up the huge gas deposits in Western Siberia, to lay the pipeline and to develop its own gas grid. For another, all the money spent on this much of which will go to German industrial companies, can only result in a profit if the gas actually reaches the European homes. It's a case of no gas, no money.

A brief look at our sources of energy shows that the danger of becoming dependent on the Soviet Union and thus vulnerable to blackmail is minimal. About two-thirds of the primary energy used in this country has to be imported—and this is unlikely to change in the future. As a result, Germany cannot achieve absolute supply safety and will always depend on imports. All this country can do is improve the degree of relative security. And this means diversification both in type and source of energy. Gas is the third most important energy source and now accounts for 16 per cent, of which Moscow currently provides one-sixth. And even when as a result of the new contract, Moscow's supplies 30 per cent, this will still be less than six per cent of total energy needs. Our dependence on Libyan oil is much greater. In addition, forgoing this mammoth contract would have set back Bonn's policy of getting away from oil.

-Frankfurter Rundschau

The Anand Model

By Mohit Sen

THE POPULARITY OF THE AMUL BRAND name is one of the important success stories of free India, through the Anand cooperative which is the base of it all started a year earlier than our independent existence. Amul has become almost synonymous with butter and cheese, at least as far as the middle class is concerned. The days are gone when Polson, Anchor Brand and Kraft meant these things. So also in the case of milk powder where Amul has taken over from Glaxo and Cow & Gate. In the whole area of milk and milk products Amul has pushed back the multinationals—a fact which it now increasingly proclaims. This in itself is in refreshing contrast to the awe in which so many decision-makers in our country stand as far as the MNCs are concerned. This success was no accident. It was planned. It was pushed through with ruthless efficiency. It was based on the supply and marketing cooperativisation of the peasants of Anand. It was supported by Jawaharlal Nehru though it was sought to be sabotaged by many Secretaries of Government and others. It had the strength of technical experts who consciously placed their talent and knowledge at the service of a cause—the freedom struggle of free India.

And, let it be added, Amul's success had at the heart of it Dr. Kurien. This became clear from the talks and tour on the two occasions on which one visited Anand. Dr. Kurien is a controversial person. Controversy chases him as once Krishna Menon said about himself. One can well imagine that he would be a tough bargainer when it came to meeting the demands of its employees. His strongheadedness could well at times take him down false paths. But there is no doubting his dedication, his tremendous organising talent, his capacity to kindly enthusiasm and his confidence in the working man and women of India. There is also no doubting his ingrained hostility to the multinationals as well as his happiness that Amul has shown that India can beat them. He certainly takes risks but they are calculated ones. One example of this was his acceptance of milk powder and butter oil and gifts from the EEC. There was an outcry that he was opening up India for the gigantic agribusiness MNCs. Some on the left joined the Sussex and other European radicals. The UN enquiry commission, however, cleared Dr. Kurien who had used the gift as a kind of a capital base to achieve self-reliance by selling the gift at a price which was now below that of the domestic producers. It was the reverse of what happened in the case of PL-480 wheat. The result has been that the import of milk powder for sale has ended, as also of butter. This is not the place to go into the whole range of accusations

against Dr. Kurien that he has acted against self-reliance in the matter of machinery needed for the dairy industry. These have been answered by the National Dairy Development Board of which he is the chairman. These answers, interestingly were not given the prominence in our monopoly owned press that the accusations received. What is more to the point is what these answers satisfied the UN enquiry commission which found Operation Flood—Phase I in its conception and execution an example which other Third World countries could emulate.

IT IS IMPORTANT to accept this truth because one of the ways in which imperialism operates today against our freedom is through the deliberate creation of national demoralisation. To counter this insidious attack does not mean that we should gloss over the wretchedness that abounds in our country. But it does mean that we should take note of our successes to point to our potential and to raise our national spirits. A drooping nation can be more easily dropped; APPLE not only showed the power of our science and technology, it made us all more self-confident and some of us, at any rate, more intolerant of so much that holds up and degrades India. Amul does the same. Another characteristic achievement of what is called the Anand type of cooperative is its evocation of reliance upon the peasants as the point of production. Going to villages where the milk is delivered by the producers twice a day, seeing the orderly queues without any sign of social distinction, watching the determination of fat content by a paid employee (who is himself a producer) observing the payment in cash twice a day on the pass book system—one would not but feel a pride in the capacity for organisation. The Chairman of the village cooperatives—the persons one met on a random survey—were all small peasants. As a matter of fact the same survey showed that on an average the biggest owner had five buffaloes and the smallest, one. The gap was not large. Significantly, as far as one could judge, land ownership was also on a dispersed pattern, with not very great differentiation. No one can be a member of the cooperative unless he or she has actually delivered a certain quantity of milk in a year—as a local Congress bigwig found out to his discomfiture. And no one has more than one vote. The technicians—the doctors engineers, managers—and the workers are all paid employees of the Cooperative. Dr. Kurien draws his salary from the district cooperative—a fact which he proudly advertises. The emphasis is invariably placed on responsibility and accountability of the technical intelligentsia to the farmers, throngs of whom are frequent visitors to the Anand complex

And the technical intelligentsia has responded well. For, as Dr. Kurien emphasises, Indians generally do not respond when they feel they are in the

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service of a cause. One was reminded of Jawaharlal Nehru's famous statement that we are all little men but if we serve a great cause some of its greatness comes into us as well. The veterinary servicemen, cattle breeding experts, the milk-cheese technologists, the managers, the admen, the PRO's the teachers, the computer centre scientists—all seemed to feel that they had some purpose in their lives. One also had a sense of easy informality, of good humour, of all belonging to a horizontalised and not verticalised institution. Dr. Kurien was their undoubted leader but he was not their boss. He drives himself and can, therefore, be demanding. This anti-bureaucratic atmosphere has led to creativity. It is often not realised that the MNCs had confidently asserted that neither powder, nor baby food nor cheese could be made from buffalo milk. Dr. Kurien and his brave band proved them wrong. It is almost on a par with the MNCs telling the late K. D. Malaviya that they were ready to drink all the new oil that he helps to discover! Another feature of the innovativeness of Amul is illustrated by what they are doing in Baroda. They found that the sweet *sikhand* is very popular with the middle class but frequently adulterated. So pure *sikhand* is produced by Amul which also gives the cooperatives a substantial profit. This profit is, however, used to give the slum dwellers of Baroda a cheap milk substitute called *Chaisathi*. A survey conducted by Amul of the Baroda slum dwellers revealed that, the children apart, they take milk only as an additive to tea. And this milk is brought in very small quantities and, therefore, from the milk vendors who, of course, dilute it considerably. The *Chaisathi* of Amul is sold in small quantities. It has vegetable protein content (making it cheaper than the animal protein content of milk but as nutritious) and is sold at a price which is subsidised from the *sikhand* earnings.

A point of more than historical interest has to be mentioned here. The pioneers of the Amul or Anand type of cooperative were all directly inspired by Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel—whose home is only a few kilometers from Anand. The patron saints were Bhaikaka Patel and Tribhovandas Patel (the latter is still active) who were close colleagues of Moraji Desai and one of who helped to found the Swatantra Party in Gujarat! But they all backed Dr. Kurien as did Jawaharlal Nehru and as does Indira Gandhi—though not all the Cabinet Ministers and top bureaucrats of the Central government. The problem of peasant nationalists and of the bourgeoisie-peasant connection requires more detailed examination and less schematism. Going through the statistics, talking with a number of peasant co-operators and walking through the villages, one came to the tentative conclusion that while poverty undoubtedly remains, the poor are less poor and

the rich richer but without a widening of the gap. One could be wrong but this phenomenon requires close examination, especially in the context of the current controversy on the role of cooperatives in capitalist-oriented development and the growth of the peasant movement. —*Mainstream*, 15/11/81.



SOVIET—EUROPEAN

GAS PROJECT

Why is USA Opposed ?

Moscow, December 10: Washington has persistently attempted to frustrate the Soviet-West European gas-pipes project which "demonstrates that the US is pursuing selfish political, economic and financial aims," the weekly *New Times* says in its issue of December 4. These aims, it emphasises, "run counter both to the hopes of most countries for a better international climate and to the interests of developing international economic cooperation to mutual benefit. "The major project, which boosts business cooperation between West European countries and the USSR and other socialist countries does not fit into Washington's strategy of heightening international tension and gets in its way. "Also, Washington views the development of business cooperation between its NATO allies and socialist countries, as a threat to US political leadership in the Western world

But "Washington's outright opposition to the project cannot be explained by political considerations alone. The US administration's stand is influenced by US business circles. "They include oil and gas corporations which control a large share of oil and gas transactions in the capitalist world, the suppliers of nuclear power engineering equipment and coal tycoons. They are all afraid that Siberian gas will make Western Europe less dependent on US fuel. . . . "But in spite of Washington's negative attitude, the gas-pipes project has caused much interest in many West European countries," says the journal. "The project is also profitable for the Soviet Union. We could tap the huge gas resources in hard-of-access regions in the North of Western Siberia more quickly and improve gas supplies to the country's central area. After repaying the credits with gas, the USSR will get a new major source of foreign currency revenue. Among other things, this money will also be used for financing imports from West European countries, assuring a further growth of mutually beneficial trade," the *New Times* says.

End Discrimination

By R. Kahawita

WITH A BOASTFUL HERITAGE 2,500 years old, and a culture landmarking our memory with a shrine under every Bo-tree, and after fifty years of Universal Franchise, thirty five years of political independence, with three Constitutions to ensure our sovereignty, we have not yet learnt to understand the other man's point of view. Project it to each community, it has resulted in arson, looting murder and atrocities against each other not once, twice, thrice, it seems to have become a way of life with us. "My ills are due to the doings, utterances, and sayings of the other—my neighbour". What has happened to the gems of wisdom we hear, put over the air every morn before the day breaks and repeated again at every religious ceremony? Isn't there too much of hypocrisy in the joined hands and genuflexions at our prayers?

We are shown meditation centres to train the aliens in mediation and repentance and we invite them to participate in these devotional ceremonies and exhort them to lead a spiritual life, while we cut each other's throat. Are we doing these for the sake of the ceremony, while we have nothing but hatred towards our neighbour? Do we make a search of our own conscience to guide our living thereafter in the five fold path? Let us be sincere, honest, and be natural in our efforts to cement the various communities, cultures, ethnic groups, etc. into one family and learn to respect each other's rights aspirations, and desires. Is there any need to fight ourselves, like street dogs, on the slightest provocation? Aren't we all humans with a spiritual side to guide our actions towards each other, "Loving thy neighbour as thyself"? Are we going to pull ourselves down to the level of the law of the jungle, because we need an extra bit of territory to hunt or need to poach on another's preserve for our own survival? **We see no hope of unity, unless the different communities get together to work out a common programme of action to make each understand the other and follow the path.**

IN THIS WORK of unification, the politician has no place. He has been always a fly in the ointment in the efforts to build one people one country and will be so in the future. If he cannot be the mischief maker, he has no interest in nation building. We see, we hear, how this fly can irritate the other, may be at meetings, on the floor of the house, or even at minor function. This is what prompted His Excellency the President to say at a Parliamentary group meeting, after seeing for himself the ravages done in certain areas and who were responsible for it, He said If committing of rape, looting, arson, destroying of

property is encouraged I will not give the leadership to the Party". He said so in a few minutes at a party meeting and said "the meeting is over". But why? Because the people who were put through the ordeal do not speak Sinhala and they claim an equal right to live in Sri Lanka, because it is their home as well.

Unity cannot be built with an eye on political popularity. Humility, understanding, and the ability to understand the other man's point of view are the keys to unity and success. This cannot be achieved by rabid political views, political ambitions, or political popularity. No doubt the politician is a necessity in any organised society and in that society he has a place. But not in organising the society. Politicians are carried away with their own importance and sentiments to win the support of the voter. If we allow the politician to have his own way can we iron out a practical solution to the problem of national unity—one people, one country?

Alas, what is troubling everybody is the language issue. It is a thorn in everybody's side and the goading starts with it. We have to admit that the language issue was a hasty political decision made with an eye to capturing power and never gave a second thought to national unity, freedom of movement, equality of opportunities etc. We can keep on adding to the list of shortcomings to prevent national unity **With no desire to change what was, the New Constitution too endorsed the idea of two Nations, two National Languages. There cannot be two National Languages without two nations. And we confirmed this idea by creating geographical and administrative boundaries where one of the National Languages is also the Official Language.** In employment in the State Services too; there is the idea of one community being an Alien—Those who are employed through the Tamil Medium must pass a Proficiency test in the Official Language, i.e. Sinhala, before clearing the Efficiency Bar for promotion. This barrier is not there for those who enter the service through the Sinhala medium. What does it mean in theory and in practice to a Tamil Officer? **It means a Tamil is a foreigner" and he must be competent to work in Sinhala if he needs a job in the pass a proficiency test in State services. But a Sinhala Officer is not required to pass a Proficiency test in Tamil to work in areas where the nationals are Tamil speaking. on the face of it, is it not discrimination when the Constitution profess" there shall not be discrimination etc-?**

IN THE COLONIAL DAYS an Englishman had to pass a severe Test in spoken and written Sinhala and Tamil before he became a permanent member of the Service. Also a Sinhala Officer had to learn Tamil, and a Tamil Officer, Sinhala before conformation. This worked very smoothly and efficiently. The alien ruler understood how to build national

unity and with it progress of the "community":—"the Ceylonese people:'.

On employment all officers have to give an undertaking to serve in any part of the country. Thus committing to be proficient in both languages for all officers. How can a Singhala Officer do this without a working knowledge of Tamil? Administratively he is not required to gain a knowledge of Tamil. Whereas this is not so to a Tamil speaking Officer. He must be able to work in both languages. If he cannot he will not progress in the Service. **This is the kind of discrimination the officers taken in through the Tamil medium have to suffer. If all are equal under the Constitution, how can we reconcile to this?** When it comes to employment a non-Singhala speaking candidate is considered Non-national if he cannot work in the official language-Singhala. This is what has given birth to the idea of "Another nation:" and cry for Eelam. Can we blame the Tamils for this when the Constitution implies another National group? Thus it behoves on the majority community to ensure that no cause is given to the minorities to demand for separation words, deeds, or action direct or implied.

In the midst of these contradictions and confused ideas in a Constitution we see a silver lining. Since we started writing our comments on the events of August a "Just Man" has spoken not so much "in Anger but in Sorrow", a true leader who is determined to follow the path of justice and the Dhama. As long as there is a heart beat, there is hope and that hope is in this "Just Man". If we reflect on his words of 5.8.81, a Leader under the present Constitution bears great responsibility and is a sacred trustee of the people in whom they have entrusted their supremacy. The Leader can honour this trust, as provided for in the Constitution, by selecting his term not from the rabble rousers; not from drop-outs from other walks of life; not from those who cannot make two and two four; not from opportunists who want to make a quick buck through their position; not from those who entertain enmity against their neighbours; not from thugs and murderers who want to be popular among the few who support them, not from those who can distribute largesse to win support etc. But from men of character, integrity, of principles, men who will not succumb to temptation, men who can dedicate their term of office to serve their country and in doing so suppress his ego to see the other Man's point of view. Such are the men from whom the Leader should select his team under the present Constitution—"Many are called few are chosen": should be the guiding principle of the Leader in choosing his team whom the people will be called upon to entrust their supremacy. **To us, many of the present team members have failed both the Leader and the country and we pray that we will never hear the Leader uttering again" I speak not of anger but of sorrow,"**

TRIBUNE, JANUARY 9, 1982

May we suggest that in the name of National Unity and progress as one people, one nation that (a) Singhala, Tamil, English be statutorily declared Official Languages, (b) any one seeking employment in the State Services should be proficient to speak, write and work in the Official Languages, (c) The State Education system will give equal facilities to learn and be instructed in one's mother tongue upto the highest level. (d) All Government Proclamations shall be in Singhala and Tamil with an English Translation, (e) Administration will be in any one of the Official Languages a citizen of Sri Lanka chooses to use in his dealings with the State Departments.

If we change those sections of the Constitution that deals with two National Languages, two Administrative areas divided by language and 'the reasonable use of Tamil:', we will achieve National Unity before our term is over and we will never repeat what we have experienced since 1956 and coming to a head in the first week of August, 1981.

Govt.



Notices

The Land Acquisition Act, (Chapter (460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964 Notice Under Section 7.

Ref No: 3/64/378

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No: 171/15 of 18.12.1981

SCHEDULE

Name of Village etc. :- Kelimune village, Walgampattu korale, Wariyapola D.R.O's Division in Kurunegala District.

Name of Land :- Kelimune watta

Plan and Lot No :- P.Plan 22/1044 Lot No. 1 & 2

The Kachcheri,
Kurunegala,
25th November. 1981.

A. GEORGE.
District Land Officer
Kurunegala District.

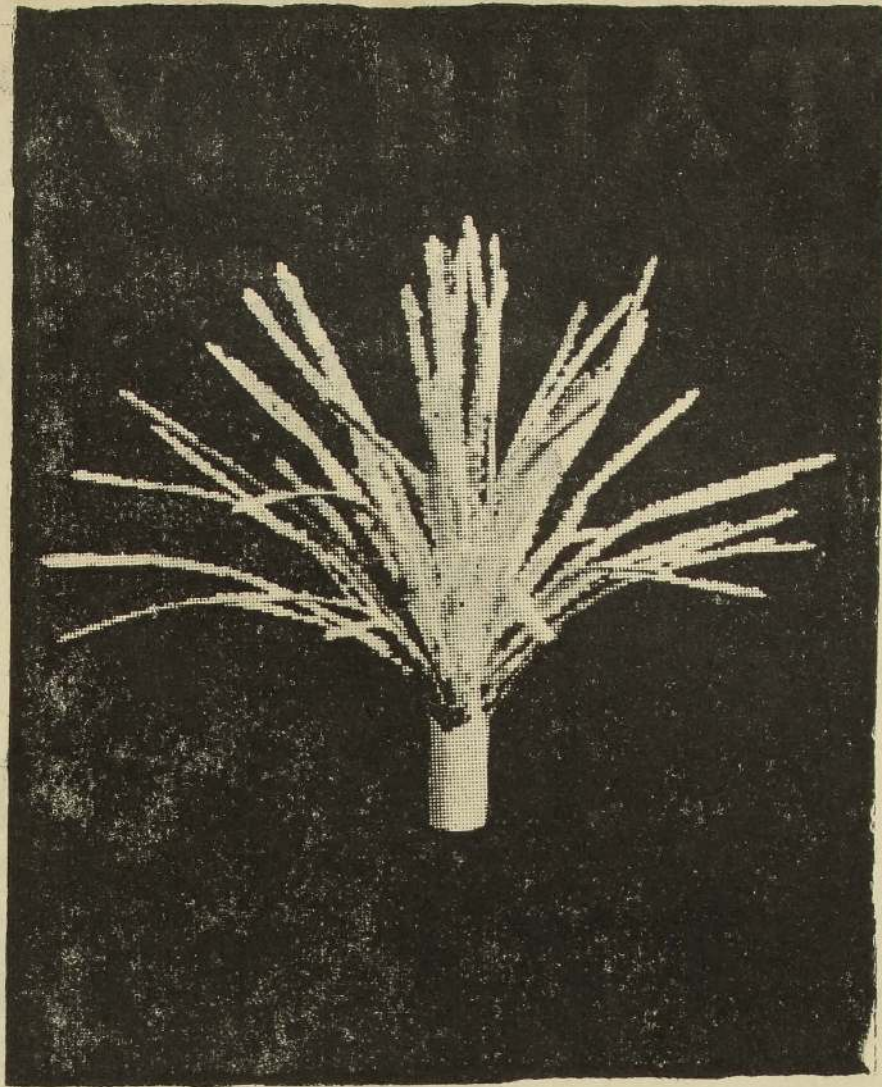
On Smuggling

IS IT NOT A HAPPY AUGURY that the New Year should begin with a much publicised talkathon between Sri Lanka and India about fighting the menace of smuggling? That our Government seems to have also realised the dangers that smuggling poses not only for the economy of the country but also for the law and order situation? That if the governments of this country during the last decade had paid due attention to checking smuggling even the terrorist movement and the present upsurge of crime especially robberies could have been more easily contained? That during 1970-77 smuggling flourished because of the shortages as the import of all consumer goods was banned as 'luxuries'? That despite the ban anything anyone wanted—from expensive refrigerators to even more expensive hi-fi systems—was obtainable at a price (only sometimes with a time lag) from the smuggler syndicates that flourished all the way down from Valvettiturai to Beruwela? That after 1977 with free imports and exports, smuggling assumed new dimensions? That Sri Lanka appears to have become an *entrepot* clearing house not only for narcotics for Europe to the USA but also consumer durables in short supply (or unavailable) in neighbouring India? That although the Sri Lanka Customs had taken appropriate measures on paper to check smuggling, the operators had continued to thrive because many of them had political patrons who could pull strings to save them from punishment? That the Customs Intelligence and Investigations Branch had recently circulated a confidential list of importers and exporters who had "allegedly" contravened Customs, Exchange Control, Import and export Regulations and had been penalised under the Customs Ordinance in the year 1981? That this list had been sent to appropriate authorities especially to Customs officers who had to deal with importers and exporters? That this list will no doubt help Customs officers to know at least some of the several thousands of organised "smugglers" operating in the country who had been caught? That it is well to remember that the activities of these smugglers are directed not only to defraud the revenue but also to bring the fiscal policies of the Government into ridicule?

THAT the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* on December 4, 1981 published the full list of names set out in this "confidential" circular? That it would appear that some of the names and addresses mentioned are obviously "bogus" That in some cases they are non-existent? That these names are obviously extracted from Shipping or Air Freight

documents or those found on packages of illegally imported goods? That it is not known whether any attempt was even made to trace the real operators who use these names? That the *CDM* pointed out that ... it should also be noted that the abovementioned list is only a mere fraction of the many hundreds of offenders and smugglers caught in the Customs net and penalised during the course of the year' and that some smugglers and racketeers sometimes operate under the cover of different names and addresses? That it is pointless to publish the full list in this column, but what is amazing is that some of the real and well known firms in this "black list" are permitted to sponsor prestige advertising and even regular weekly programmes over the radio and TV? That the government should consider penalising such offending firms—at least for a time—by keeping them off the electronic media which is completely state-owned? That unless such steps are taken to publicly ostracise such defaulting firms the present campaign against smuggling will lose much of its sting? That whilst it is essential that smuggling between India and Sri Lanka must be checked and curbed the smuggling into and out of this island vis-a-vis many other countries should also be checked? That many dealers of consumer goods openly boast that about 50% of all items sold in the local market—watches, transistors, TV sets, tape recorders etc. etc.—are "imported" illegally and thereby defraud the revenue? That some cynics quip that many of the items sold in the **Duty Free Complex** (DFC) in Colpetty are smuggled goods and that the place should be really called a **Revenue Free Complex**? That many readers have suggested that it was essential to carefully scrutinize the working of this so-called **Duty Free Complex**?

That it is an open secret that containers are now used by the powerful syndicates for large-scale smuggling? That this had started when the Customs authorities had introduced stern measures at the Air Cargo Terminal at Katunayake to minimise a scandal that has been the talk of the town for a long time? That allegations have been regularly made that the large-scale smuggling through Air Cargo had been carried on with the collusion of certain Customs officers who are said to have joined the new elite post—1977 millionaires? That gossip in pubs or bars these days revolve (more often than not) about the Alladin's caves riches that have come to certain Customs men? That apart from large sums of money, "pumped" into the coffers of certain "senior" officers there are stories of gifts of motor vehicles, land or houses and other luxury goods? That even if some of these stories are exaggerated or malicious, the simple fact is that there is usually no smoke without fire?



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AVAILABLE AT THE

MANUFACTURERS

C.V. BHATT

Front Street, Dam Street,
Colombo.



හිත දැන්වීම බැරී මොහවද?

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