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26TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE ELECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS will take place on June 4. Nominations will be received (from April 20) until April 27. There are ten registered parties, and Independents too can contest. The UNP has decided to contest all seats - about 150 in 22 electoral districts. The TULF will contest all seats in all electoral districts in the North and East. The SLFP, after a flutter about a possible boycott, has decided to contest in all electoral districts. The LSSP, failing in its efforts to have a joint front with the SLFP, has now declared that it will not participate in the elections because it saw no virtue in the DDCs (unreachable grapes are sour, some will say). The CPSL had earlier made an announcement that it will boycott the elections. But many hope that the CPSL and LSSP will not persist in such negative boycott strategies. The Jaffna Youth Congress, at the height of its popularity in the North in 1931, decided to boycott elections under adult franchise because the Donoughmore Constitution, it claimed, did not give the country total independence. This sterile boycott policy not only sounded the death-knell of the Youth Congress but also sidetracked Tamil politics into a blind alley from which it is unable to extricate itself even now. The Youth Congress had wanted the country to boycott the elections to mount a demand for full independence. But the response for the boycott call was confined to the North, whilst other parties, groups and communities endeavoured to get the maximum benefits from the new dispensation. The CPSL now wants the DDC elections boycotted to spotlight the "undemocratic" features in the Jayewardena Constitution and the DDC system. In this process it may find itself in a vacuum. There was also a very serious attempt to stampede the SLFP into a boycott. The hard-core behind this boycott move seem to have been supporters of Mrs. Bandaranaike who probably believed that her leadership would be devalued by SLFP participation in an election that will compel her to stand aside from nomination day to polling day. By one single vote in the Executive Committee, the SLFP was saved from being thrown into the wilderness of boycott negativism. A boycott by the SLFP at this juncture would have only helped Independents and dissidents from parties like the JVP to garner the protest vote. It would have been a major tragedy for the SLFP to abdicate from its rightful place as one of the major parties by a policy of default.

## TRIBUNE

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## TRIBUNE

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## The Senanayakes

ON THE COVER we have a scene from the rural agricultural area symboling the end of the tractor era and the return to manpower and animal energy. Those who argue that our exports can be pushed up to the point where we can afford the new oil prices and mechanise agriculture live in a fool's paradise. As *Tribune* has often pointed, mechanisation of agriculture at the present prices for oil and for equipment like tractors will only be realistically feasible and economically viable in the case of large-scale export oriented agricultural units. Except in the case of tea, rubber and coconut (where, unfortunately, there has been too much fragmentation), agriculture in Sri Lanka is small-scale. Our colonisation schemes, and all our land development programmes so far have been based on the concept of small farms -- three to five acres irrigated, or five to fifteen acres rainfed. When fuel prices were low and tractors and water pumps were cheap, the small farmer was encouraged to mechanise his farm. In this process, there was total neglect of livestock, and animal energy virtually went out of use. Whilst it is essential to develop large agricultural units in the Mahaweli, in Gal Oya, Uda Walawe and in other places where it can be done, the real backbone of our rural population will for a long time consist of small farmers. It would be in the national interest to enable them to sell their manpower to the large agricultural undertakings, whilst at the same time they should be helped to sustain and develop their small holdings. Mechanisation will not be possible for small units, but on skilled labour, animal power, wind energy, biogas and solar cells these small farms can be modernised and utilised to the fullest. Our Universities and Research Institutions must therefore be geared to conceptualise and concretise these perspectives. In this connection, Mr. R. Kahawita has made a valuable suggestion, and we publish below the note he sent us. His piece is entitled THIRTEENTH APRIL and he has suggested that a SENANAYAKE MEMORIAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY be set up at the Research Station at Maha Illupalama. This is what he says.

"Today is the 1981 Sinhala-Tamil New Year. Eight years ago Dudley Senanayake died in a private Nursing Home on New Year's day. The Senanayakes, father and son, gave of their best to alleviate the economic distress of the peasants by converting them from subsistence peasants to cash crop farmers and placed agriculture on a lasting footing, as both believed that Agricultural Development is the only way that good things of life can be taken to the masses. Father did everything within his power to recreate Dry Zone farming and formulated a land settlement policy that would make the educated classes compete with the peasant farmer for a place in the sun and for the good things in life, so that the draw would be to the land not to office jobs. The son gave the motivation for a "green revolution". Both succeeded in realising their visions of a prosperous farming community. So we speak of "self-sufficiency in two years today". After the "political retirement" of the son there was and is a gaping void in Agricultural development. We feel it today.

"The ambition of the father was to develop the Dry Zone. So he established the Maha Illupaluma Dry-Zone Research Station in the heart of the dry zone. It was developed into a first class Agricultural Research Institute with a grant from the New Zealand Government. With this aid all the infra-structure necessary to house and train young farmers were completed years back. Fantastic results were achieved at this place during the past. Even today we speak of indigenous field crops developed at this Institute to enable the peasant to get better yields.

"After the death of the son, we suggested to the United National Party High Command the Establishment of a "Senanayake Memorial Agricultural University" at Maha Illupalama. We also submitted a Memorandum on the subject and had discussions with persons who could have pushed the project. Unfortunately we had no political power during 1970-1977 and to have taken a proposal like this to the Party in power would have been like waving a red rag before an infuriated bull. Inaction was prudent then.

"Today we are mourning the death anniversary of the son. We have read several in-memoriam articles. We are at the helm of affairs today. We are doing great things to land mark our 6 year regime. So why not set up the Agricultural University at Maha Iliuppalama in memory of the Father and Son. This will be a grateful monument to the two persons who gave a new life to the Dry Zone from 1931 onwards and for what we are today as an agriculturally developed country. "Senanayake Memorial Agricultural University" -- there cannot be a more fitting dedication to the memory of what they did for our Agricultural Development. It is timely too. We are spending so much to take Mahaweli water to the region. We are putting all our eggs in the Mahaweli basket. To do this we have another dedicated Minister in charge of Mahaweli to take its water to to peasant farmers who were rejuvenated by the father and son. He can include the development of Maha Illupalama into an Agricultural University in his development plans. It is a must with the diversified Agricultural projections in the region. He has the authority and the resources to do it.

"We hope His Excellency the President, who overseas the Ministry of Higher Education, will see this article and take meaningful steps to set up this Institute of Higher Studies in Agriculture and make it reality before 1983".

*Tribune* endorses this suggestion and we hope that the Government will implement Mr. Kahawita's suggestion. *Tribune* was critical of many policies and actions of the Senanayakes especially the total concentration on three acres and a cow programme of small farmers in the dry zone, but at all times *Tribune* had supported the efforts of the Senanayakes to increase food production (to reduce our dependence on imports) and to bring all cultivable land into maximum utilisation (while maintaining an adequate forest cover) by restoring our ancient tanks and irrigation systems and by fully harnessing our rivers for irrigation. An Agricultural University dedicated to farming in our dry-zone will be make a major step forward in the country's drive not only to be self-sufficient in food but also to grow for export.

## QUIDNUNC

★ TEA BOARD

★ MAIZE

**A QUIDNUNC**, according to the Shorter Oxford Dictionary, is "one who is constantly asking 'what now?' 'what news?'" hence an inquisitive person, a gossip. The word comes from the Latin, **quid** (what) **nunc** (now) -- **what now?** and is defined in Webster's Dictionary as "one who seeks to know all the latest gossip." Our own era, especially in Sri Lanka, is admittedly the **Quidnuncs'** golden age. Gossip is now a marketable commodity. The stories our **Quidnuncs** bring are based on substratum of truth and **Tribune** publishes them only if the fire from which the smoke has arisen has some kind of reality. Apart from a few kite-flying stories to provoke investigation, most stories in this column are enough for a dally paper to go to town with a banner headline.

**A QUIDNUNC** from the World of Tea wants **Tribune** to investigate some of the goings-on in the Sri Lanka Tea Board (SLTB). The Quidnunc said that "Tribune has done such a lot of investigative writing about tea plantations and the topsy turvydom in the managerial echelons there..... that it is time to turn to some of the inexplicable happenings in the SLTB". For a start, the Quidnunc wants **Tribune** to find out why the former Chairman Warusavitarane was summarily sent packing home on December 4, 1980. The Quidnunc understands that no reasons were given for this summary termination of services. It is agreed law and practice that an employer should state the reasons for sacking an employee. The Government, as employer enjoys no special privileges in this matter, But unfortunately, in the case of certain categories of employees (under Government and in statutory Corporations) have no legal redress against unjustified termination.

The **Quidnunc** wants us to find out why Bertie Warus-vitarane, the last Chairman, was sacked. Had he fallen down on his job or had he fallen foul of VIPs who had wanted some ill-qualified favourites to be given special posting abroad or locally? Our

Investigators, at present, have their hands full and it will be sometime before they can pay attention to the affairs of the SLTB. Can any of our readers help us on this matter and send us information as to why the former Chairman was fired in the summary fashion he was?

A **QUIDNUNC** much concerned with animal and poultry feed has pointed out that the Cabinet decision of April 8 "to ban the export of maize is most puzzling". The Quidnunc has pointed out that according to press reports the ban was imposed because of the demands of the Oils & Fats Corporation. Furthermore a new floor price for maize was also fixed. It will be recalled that floor prices had been fixed in the last three years in the hope that production would increase significantly. But statistics do not show any increase. The floor prices have not proved to be an incentive to production.

But the present ban is a gimmick, says our **Quidnunc**. There is at the moment an outcry against the shortage and high prices of dairy and poultry feed. It has therefore been made out by certain official quarters that because maize, an important ingredient, was being exported, the Oils and Fats Corporation was not able to produce more feed. It was stressed that the crisis in animal and poultry feed was because of the export of maize.

And now that the export of maize has been imposed, it is whispered, that the problem will be solved. In this connection **Tribune** Investigators have come up with some interesting statistics. Computerised figures for maize export show that in 1979—only 5 kgs. were exported to the value of Rs. 35. In 1980, 6106 kgs. were exported to the value of Rs. 51,797. It will be observed that the export was in kilograms and not tons. Is it that the computerised figures are wrong or did the Cabinet not know that it was only banning the export of 6000 kgs. of maize in the "national interest"? Is it not a fact also that high (export) prices will automatically induce greater production? And is it not true that floor prices (not only for maize but for nearly all other agricultural produce) are too low and too unrealistic to act as an incentive?

The **Quidnunc** wants to know who is bluffing whom? Is the Cabinet bluffing the

nation that it was taking action to end the animal and poultry food shortages? Or has the Cabinet been fooled into taking puerile action which is no more than a gimmick or a *gundu* (to use a Ceylonised political term which has gone out of fashion for the moment) which will neither induce greater maize production nor ensure adequate supplies of feed for livestock? There is no magic in a Cabinet decision—unless it produces results. There is no virtue in a ban on exports—unless there is something to ban. And a floor price is no incentive for production—unless the price is realistic and attractive. Is this a case of musical chairs or a case of going round the mulberry bush?

X X X

SRI LANKA CHRONICLES

April 6—16

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

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

**MONDAY, APRIL 6:** The Food Department has now in its stores nearly 80,000 tons of higher price rice which have failed to move in the market; the price of Rice in the open market, too has dropped, Police yesterday effected a major breakthrough in the Rs. 8.1 million Neerveli robbery of People's Bank money when they arrested three most wanted men at Valvetiturai, off Jaffna; the arrest followed a gun battle between the Navy patrolling the area and three men who were trying to get away on sighting the Navy patrol: the leader of the gang, Yogachandra alias Kuttimani, is alleged to have shot himself and is now warded at the Jaffna hospital. The Bowatenne Power Project, the first Sri Lanka

hydro-power project in which engineering consultancy work and supervision was carried out by local institutions, will be commissioned next month; the Rs. 210 million 40 Megawatts hydropower station will generate 108 million units of energy per year which will be fed to the National grid. The World Health Organisation has indicated to the Health Ministry that it would fund the setting up of a Post Graduate Institute for Health Education in Sri Lanka - CDN. Schools will in future have a maximum of 2,500 students or roll; Mr. Eric F. de Silva, Secretary, Ministry of Education, said that decision was taken so that there would be better teacher-pupil rapport and more disciplinary control over students - CDM. The changes in the exchange rates since mid-1977 have been identified by the government's planners as a major contributory factor to price increases in several items; the unification of the exchange rates on November 16, 1977, they point out, resulted in items which were subject to FEECs and not subject to FEECs being brought under a united rate - S.U. Two CTB depots will be handed over to the private sector soon. Transport Ministry sources said this morning: that a newly formed private transport organisation with Indian collaboration was to be given two big Colombo depots for the operation of a private semi-luxury bus service in Colombo - SO.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7:** The international Development Agency (IDA) an affiliate of the World Bank will grant a loan of Rs. 468 million for the development and improvement of high priority aspects of existing telecommunication network. a spokesman for the Telecommunication Department said yesterday. The Ministry of Industries has called for a halt to the import of poor quality goods now flooding the shops and overflowing on to the pavements. At the SLFP's politburo meeting yesterday, a section of the membership proposed that the party should not contest the District Development Council elections in June. Armed police and a Commando Unit of the Rajarata Rifles yesterday flew to Colombo four suspects in the Rs. 8.1 million robbery of the People's Bank cash and cheques at Neerveii, under heavy escort for interrogation at Police headquarters - CDN. Kuttimani alias Selvaraj Yogachandran alias Kelly. the

most wanted man by the police, is now in a military hospital in Colombo undergoing intensive care and he is reported to be out of danger; he was flown last evening from Jaffna to Colombo in a special Sri Lanka Air Force helicopter under heavy guard around 5 p.m. The bulk of the work now handled by the Public Trustee -- the implementation of the Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance -- has been transferred to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs; the newly created Department of Buddhist Affairs will take over this function, Mr. Nalin Ratnayakem Secretary to the Ministry said yesterday -- CDM. A hand picked team of detectives are expected to proceed shortly to South India to follow up information that several persons wanted in connection with terrorism activities in the North were in hiding in a "base" there. Members of this terrorist group, Police have been led to understand, have received weapons training in a West Asian capital. A-12 member delegation from Saudi Arabia led by its Foreign Minister Prince Saud-Al-Aisal will arrive in Sri Lanka on April 16 - US.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8:** Prime Minister R. Premadasa said in Parliament yesterday that the Government had decided on appointing a Select Committee to examine the extent to which other Ministers of the former Government were responsible for the prolonged Emergency under which there had been abuse and misuse of power, because Mts. Bandaranayake herself had stated that she was not alone to blame; the Prime Minister said they wanted to clear any doubts about the question of responsibility, which was itself a good Parliamentary procedure. The State Plantations Corporation and the Janatha Estates Development Board are perturbed over the non-use of over 10,000 acres, in toto of tea and rubber lands under their care over the past five years; these lands have, since nationalisation of estates, been alienated for housing, village expansion and many other reasons -- CDN. A major breakthrough was made in the Neerveii Rs. 8.1 million daylight bank robbery when the fingerprints of one of the suspects in custody were found to tally with prints found on the abandoned jeep in which the money was carried -- CIM. Criticism by prospective investment missions about Sri Lanka's recurrent power crises

has led the Greater Colombo Economic Commission to make plans of its own for power generation; the GCEC is negotiating with several leading international concerns which have offered to set up separate power generating units for the Investment Promotion Zone. Rajendra Coomaraswamy, Deputy Director-General (Investments) of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission and advisor to the President on economic affairs, died in Colombo yesterday while working in the offices of the GCEC; he was 66 - SU. There is a strong suspicion in the Food Department that the Kasippu industry has been responsible for an increased draw off of sugar in recent weeks; this increase coincided with the recent shortage of arrack; although the Food Department has not yet compiled its final figures, it is expected that March draw off of sugar would reach between 18,500 to 20,000 tons against the normal monthly average of 15,000 tons - CO.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9:** A 20-year power plan, costing over Rs. 5 billion a year at a rough estimate, will be submitted to the Government next week by the Ceylon Electricity Board; the plan which will be presented by Minister of Power and Energy, D. P. Wijetunge, is the brain-child of Mr. James Lanerolle, Chairman of the CEB. President J. K. Jayawardene has appointed 11 ministers to take charge of the development in the 11 electorates of the Jaffna District; in addition to development work, they will be in charge of the UNP organization work - CDN. The Cabinet yesterday decided to issue a general directive instructing MPs of the Government Parliamentary Group not to issue any certificates under their signature because such certificates would be construed as a contravention of the District Development Council election law; this directive goes into effect from now on until the duration of the DDC elections. There is a strong move by a section of the SLFP to amend the Party's constitution in order to make Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake its life leader - CDM. Providing the security for the movement of cash in the country has now been declared as a duty of the Armed Services; the service chiefs were briefed on this by Deputy Defence Minister T. B. Werapitiya at Tuesday's

national security conference - SU. It was revealed at the questioning of two other suspects arrested along with Kuttimani that there were two movements known as the Tiger Movement and the Eagle Movement in the North and that it was these two movements that were responsible for the killing of 15 police officers in Jaffna - EN.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10:** The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation have opened negotiations in Colombo for the setting up of one of the largest international oil terminals in Sri Lanka in collaboration with Coastal Corporation of the United States of America which is rated among the first five international names in oil; the terminal is to be located in Trincomalee using 97 tanks installed by the British Admiralty during World War 2 with a capacity to hold over 1 million tonnes of oil. Tea small holders are to receive an enhanced rate of Rs. 1.15 per pound for green leaf following recommendations made by a Committee headed by the Secretary Plantation Industries Mr. I. O. G. K. Fernando who made a study of the constraints in the smallholding sector - CDN. Tourists who get involved in child prostitution will be arrested and deported forthwith; the Minister of State, Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis said that he received many complaints of perverts masquerading as tourists coming into the country and indulging in child prostitution of both female and male children. Hoteliers and Travel Agents have protested to the Minister of State, Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis about the recent increase in the Business Turnover Tax on the tourist industry, the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, recently increased BTT on all hotels and restaurants from 15 per cent to 25 per cent and travel trade from 5 per cent to 15 per cent - CDM. The Court of Appeal ruled yesterday that the Attorney General cannot appear before the court in his private capacity - SU. Police protection will be given to candidates contesting the District Development Councils, officers in charge of all police stations in the country have been instructed to provide such protection to those who call for it - DP. Police investigations have revealed that Kuttimani who is involved in murders and robberies in the North had introduced him-



self a MBBS qualified doctor at Salem in Tamilnadu and that he was running a private dispensary there - VK,

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11,** For the first time ever the Sri Lanka Freedom Party defeated a proposal by party leader Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake by a single vote at yesterday's Executive Committee meeting of the party: the issue was whether the party should contest the forthcoming District Council elections or not. Foreign Investment in Sri Lanka for the first three months of this year is estimated at Rs. 2,000 million, with 36 projects already approved, a stupendous increase over last year, the Foreign Investment Advisory Committee sources said yesterday; last year, 137 projects were approved with a total investment of Rs 3604 million and a higher rate of implementation on these projects is expected. In 1978, the first year after the introduction of the economic reforms by the government, the FiAC approved 33 projects, in 1979 113 projects and last year 137 with over a ten-fold increase in total investment, sources said. Air Lanka's first fully-owned widebodied Tristar aircraft arrived at the Colombo Airport, Katunayake at 4 p. m. yesterday to the solemn chanting of pirith. The price of a kilo of sugar has been reduced by Re 1/- from today, the new price of a kilo of sugar is Rs. 16/50, earlier it was Rs. 17/50 - CDM. Soviet endurance spaceman, Valdimir Lyakhov, is due to arrive in Sri Lanka this week on a goodwill visit, --CDM.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12:** A 170,000 ton crude oil contract financed on a government to government basis in Saudi Arabia last week has assured the continuity of, Sri Lanka's oil requirements for the current year, Mr. Daham Wimlasena, Chairman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation said yesterday, the contract was signed by the Saudi Oil Minister, Shekh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, on behalf of the Saudi Government and M. Wimalasena on behalf Sri Lanka. Sunil Santha, who made the nation sing in

the heady dawn of the immediate post-independence period, died early yesterday morning two days before his 66th birthday --SO. Sri Lanka this week made a very strong appeal to the IMF to resume its Extended Fund Facilities suspended last year: but according to official sources heavy spending public institutions may stand in the way of the IMF lifting its suspension and affording Sri Lanka the benefit of 187 million US dollars - ST. President J. R. Jayawardene brought the portfolio of the Ministry of Power and Energy under his own purview from Friday, Amparal District Minister P. Dayaratna has been sworn in as the new Deputy Minister of this Ministry-ST. The arrest of Kuttimani considered the first major breakthrough in the efforts to counter the extremist movement in the north, has helped investigators to identify several shadow members of the group and its operational structure - WK.

**MONDAY, APRIL 13:** Prime Minister R. Premadasa in a New Year message has urged the people to rekindle the flame of plain living the towns as well as in the the villages. Chairman of the Electricity Board, James Lanerolle, said yesterday that the present five-and-a-half hour power cuts will not be reduced as the present situation was that there was power available only for 15 days - CDN. Yala National Park and Game Sanctuary will be extended by another 100,000 acres, Yala will be extended up to Maduru Oya through the jungle corridors of Gal Oya, Wasgamuwa, Giritalee etc. - CIM. The police are looking out for the four youths said to have attempted to divert all vehicles heading from Point Pedro near the Neerveli Post Office and the junction opposite the post office - VK. "Let us welcome the New Year with the hope of seeking power to administer the Tamil areas through the District Development Councils", said the General Secretary of the Tamil United Liberation Front and Leader of the Opposition, Mr. A. Amirthalingam in his New Year Message - EN

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15:** The first private sector sheet rubber auctions for the grades Ribbed Smoked Sheet RSS 1, 2 and 3 will be held on April 30, at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce auditorium: sheet rubber auctions will thereafter be conducted twice weekly. The Rs. 8.1 million loss in cash and cheques belonging to the People's Bank in the robbery at Neerveli, Jaffna recently has been fully covered by insurance -CDN. There will be a total ban on textile imports to Sri Lanka: this long expected announcement was made by Sri Lanka's Minister of Textile Industries Mr. Wijepala Mendis to the powerful Textile Institute (Sri Lanka branch) -CDM. The Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka has decided to make a Rs. 60 million investment in Property Development Limited (PDL). the Bank of Ceylon's high rise building project on Echelon Square in the Colombo Fort -CO.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16:** The first steps towards regional cooperation in South Asia in different fields will be taken when Foreign Secretaries of seven countries hold a four-day conference in Colombo next week, the conference, starting on Tuesday, will be attended by the Foreign Secretaries of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Motor fatalities for the first time since the police started keeping records at the beginning of this century, overtook cases of homicide during the New Year Season, sixteen persons died in motor accidents while only 15 cases of death by acts of violence were reported in the three day period from Monday to yesterday-GDM. Increased population growth in certain districts and decreases in others has led the government to instruct the Government agents to make detailed studies on the main reasons for this differences: the idea, government explained yesterday, was to ascertain the factors contributing to such an increase or decrease, and whether remedial measures are necessary-SU. Police investigating the Rs. 8.1 million Neerveli bank robbery are convinced that they have some

of the men behind the crime in their net but have been unable to get them to lead the authorities to the loot-CO. For the first time Wheat is to be cultivated in an extent of 1000 acres in Sri Lanka; this will be cultivated in the Badulla, Moneragala and Kegalle districts very soon-DP.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** must include the writer's full name and address and be signed to be considered for publication. You may add a pseudonym if you wish. If possible, give your telephone number and type the letter, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Brevity is an advantage. We reserve the right to edit any letter selected. We do not accept for publication letters copied to us. You may either send us the original, with the copy to the relevant authority or correspondent, or send separate letters under their respective cover.

### **TRIBUNE REGRETS**

THAT OWING TO BREAKDOWN IN THE PRINTING, PARTLY CAUSED BY THE POWER, THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN DELAYED.

## Was It Dutugemunu's TOMB ?

by Dr. James T. Rutnam

President, Jaffna Archaeological Society

Text of a lecture, delivered at the Seminar Room of the University of Jaffna on 24th March, 1981, under the auspices of the South Asian Studies Seminar of the University of Jaffna and the Jaffna Archaeological Society.

PARANAVITANA is honoured as a great archaeologist in Sri Lanka, but like all of us he is fallible. In a growing number of instances he had been proved wrong, and sometimes grossly misleading. His readings of the so-called interlinear inscriptions have been found to be nothing but tissues of hallucination, if one must not call them fiction. His numerous books on the interlinear inscriptions are pure and simple fairy tales. In 1946 Paranavitana had begun his excavation of the *Elala Sohona*. He continued this work until 1949 and his observations appear in the Annual Reports published by the Archaeological Department of 1945, 1947, 1948 and 1949. The relevant parts in these four reports of Paranavitana have been incorporated into a single article entitled: "The *Dakkhina Thupa* of Anuradhapura; The Tomb of *Dutthagamani*" and published in 1972 in Paranavitana's book *Glimpses of Ceylon's Past*.<sup>33</sup>

In his report of 1946, Paranavitana, taking up the story from where Bell had left, wrote: "Mr. Bell questioning the proper identification of the mound gave cogent reasons for taking it as the *stupa* of the *Dakkhina Vihara*".<sup>34</sup> Bell's five reports are available to us. It is only on two occasions in these reports that Bell refers to the *Dakkhina Vihara*. The initial instance was a single footnote that appeared in Bell's first report, where, as we have already observed, he had surmised that the *Elala Sohona* could perhaps be the *thupa* referred to in the *Dipavamsa*, ch. XXII: 24. Bell had also said in the footnote that "this site" where "his ashes" (viz., Elara's) were "deposited in a

tomb" would "therefore be in the neighbourhood of the *Dakkhina Vihara*".<sup>35</sup> It was here that he cites the 'cogent reasons' he found in the *Mahavamsa*, Ch. XIX and the *Dipavamsa* Ch XIX. The second instance where Bell refers to *Dakkhina Vihara* is in his report for 1898 where he compares the 'probable' *Dakkhina Vihara* with the other large viharas.<sup>36</sup> Nothing more was said here. Nowhere do we find Bell 'questioning' the popular identification of the mound. This is quite plain and clear to anyone who cares to read Bell's Reports.

BUT THIS IS NOT ALL. Paranavitana goes on to state, "Bell, it may be recalled, expressed the opinion half century ago that the mound concealed the remains of the *stupa* and *Dakkhina Vihara* and not of the Tomb of Elala as popularly held. Bell's reasons for this view given in his report of 1896, p.5 were not universally accepted". How could anyone "universally accept" Bell's reasons in his Report for 1896, p.5 when they are simply not there? it would be as mysterious as the reading of the interlinear inscriptions by Paranavitana. Bell had never said that the mound was "not the Tomb of Elala as popularly held". Search where you will, you will always draw a blank. We find it necessary to repeat that in all of Bell's five reports which we reproduce as an appendix<sup>37</sup> he has expressed only two views on this site. Firstly, that the mound is "perhaps" the *Dakkhina Thupa*, and secondly, that the site of the *Elala Sohona* would therefore be in the neighbourhood. Paranavitana goes into raptures praising Bell, his predecessor in office. The praise is no doubt justified, but it is for what Bell has not said.

On the contrary, Paranavitana does not seem to view with favour or accord the same sort of praise to the comments A.N. Hocart, another of our former Archaeological Commissioners, had felt urged to make in this matter. Hocart had pointed out that "even if it (*Elala Sohona*) were taken to be a *stupa*, it was not necessarily opposed to the popular view that the mound was the monument built to commemorate Elara" (emphasis added).<sup>37a</sup> Paranavitana had refuted this by saying, "Hocart had not made a study of the available topographical information".<sup>38</sup>

To charge Hocart, who is known to have to been Paranavitana's mentor in Archaeology, with not knowing his business is most un-

fortunate. Parnavitana is certainly an excellent scholar in his own way, and a painstaking researcher. But he is so sure of himself and of his strange hunches that he brooks no criticism or correction. Two of our former Archaeological Commissioners, besides Bell and Hocart, have criticised or taken a contrary view to Parnavitana, but he had not offered them the courtesy of a reply. He just ignored them completely and contemptuously. True scholarship naturally suffers.

R H. de Silva, then an Assistant Archaeological Commissioner, was one of them who dared to criticise Parnavitana's views on the *Dakkhina Thupa*. De Silva's long and carefully researched criticism appeared in the *Ceylon Observer* Sunday Morning edition of 24 March 1957. It was prominently displayed on a full page with headlines "*Dhakkina Thupa - Not Dutugemunu's Tomb*". De Silva had analysed the relevant parts of Parnavitana's Reports line by line and succeed in upsetting Parnavitana's conclusions. Being a qualified archaeologist, specially trained in the chemical aspect, he took care to test "the lumps of clay" found at this site. He also studied the references in the *Saddharmalankaraya* and other literary sources and finally declared emphatically that the evidence brought forward by Parnavithana did not support Parnavitana's own conclusions that the *Dakkhina Thupa* was Dutugemunu's tomb.

ONE IMPORTANT POINT de Silva has stressed was that nowhere in any of the literary sources do we find mention of a *thupa* having been built over Dutugemunu's cremation site, and that Dutugemunu is reported to have expressed an unusual dying wish in the following words: "In a place where the *Great Thupa* may be seen, in the *malaka* (bounded about) for the ceremonial acts of the brotherhood do ye burn the body of me, the servant of the brotherhood".<sup>39</sup>

The bereaved brotherhood would have strictly followed the king's injunctions. The body of the dead king was accordingly cremated in a *malaka* of the Mahavihara, and the place was renamed *Rajamalaka* to commemorate this event. Geiger had defined *malaka* as a space marked off, and usually terraced, within which sacred functions were carried out. In the Mahavihara there were thirty-two *malakas*. The *kamnamalaka* where Dutugemunu's body was cremated could only

have been *within* the precincts of the Mahavihara, for, knowing as we do the exceptional nature of Dutugemunu's ardent wish to be identified with the *Sangha*,<sup>40</sup> it could not have been otherwise. But the *Mahavamsa* records that the body of the king was burnt in the *malaka* "outside the precincts of the Monastery". This is based on Geiger's rendering of the Pali term *nissima malaka*.

Abaya Ariyasingha in a recent communication to the press<sup>40</sup> differs from Geiger and offers a likely alternative translation for this term, namely, a terrace rendered unsuitable for the approved purposes. Since, he says, a cremation was held (though of a king) in this place, the brotherhood of the bhikkus must have surely "abandoned this place and preferred some other place to hold *sanghakammas*. Naturally a cremation place forfeits its right to be called a *kammamalaka*".<sup>41</sup>

The *Mahavamsa* records that after the cremation two halls called *Makutammutasala* and *Ravivitasala* were built at this site to commemorate the attendance of the dancing women and the other royal subjects who had assembled there to vent their sorrows.<sup>42</sup> Ariyasingha relates that there was also a pavillion "built over the site of the cremation", quoting a passage in the *Mahabodhivamsa Granchipada Vivaranaya*.<sup>43</sup> This would appear to be the very last reference we have in historical or religious sources of Dutugemunu's cremation.

NOWHERE DO WE READ of any other structure or monument built over Dutugemunu's cremation site. Nowhere do we read of a *thupa* or *cetiya* being built over it. Nowhere do we read of the populace paying homage to his cremation site throughout the centuries. Nowhere do we read that the *Dakkhina Thupa* was built over the ashes of Dutugemunu. Surely the author of the *Saddharmalankaraya* could have, while reporting that the *Dakkhina Thupa* was built at the *Mahapulila-malava* (of which more later) added the words "where Dutugemunu's body was cremated and where his ashes were laid". This would have been the obvious thing any knowledgeable writer would have done if that was true, being aware of the pre-eminence of Dutugemunu in the religious and national history of Sri Lanka.

On the other hand, we have the evidence of the *Mahavamsa* that on his death, Elara was

deified by his conscience-tormented conqueror. He enjoined *worship* and caused a *cetiya* to be built. A *cetiya* is more than a "monument"—it is a *thupa*. The *Mahavamsa Tika* refers to a *Elara-patimaghara* an image house of Elara.<sup>44</sup> Nowhere else do we hear of a tomb being given such extraordinary obeisance for over two thousand years, until, sad to say, this was stopped and a king's will defied, by an order from a mere archaeological commissioner of our time.

It is not surprising therefore, that there was a public outcry when Paranavitana began to dig up the *Elala Sohona* in 1947. He himself says in this connection, "we started to clear the passage opened by old treasure seekers on the Western side. Before we had proceeded very far with this work, however, a certain section of the people of Anuradhapura started an outcry that the Department was desecrating sacred places, reportedly held meetings of protest, sent urgent telegrams to the Ministry to intervene, and in all possible ways tried their utmost to create public opinion against us"<sup>45</sup> Paranavitana had to call the Minister from Colombo to his aid, and print some 5,000 copies of a pamphlet for distribution during the *Poson* season before finally assuaging the feelings of the outraged public.<sup>46</sup> He continued digging until 1948 and his reports of his work are found, as we had earlier observed, in the Administration Reports of the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon. Conservation had been carried on thereafter.

IN HIS REPORTS, Paranavitana disclosed his discovery of a long inscription in Brahmi characters, the longest of its kind in Sri Lanka, on a number of broken slabs. Although thirty-three years have passed since this discovery the translation of the writing on these slabs by Paranavitana has still not seen the light of day. This translation was handed over to the Archaeological Department as early as 1967.

Meanwhile, Saddhamangala Karunaratne, the present Archaeological Commissioner, had edited and translated this same inscription and included it in his thesis for the Ph. D. degree of the University of Cambridge. This learned thesis, entitled *Brahmi Inscriptions of Ceylon* which some of us have had the privilege of cursorially reading at the University Library at Cambridge, is still deserving of publication although it is now twenty one years since it was accepted.<sup>47</sup>

Karunaratne's reading of this slab inscription appears in *Ancient Ceylon No. 1* published in January 1971. What we can gather from this reading is that the inscription relates to various donations given for the maintenance of the "*Tissa-maha-cetiya* of the *Dakkhina Vihara* which had been inviolably established by the great king Pita, son of His Majesty". Paranavitana had observed that "the name *Dakkhina Vihara* occurs in more than a dozen places in the legible part of the document"<sup>48</sup> This we have found confirmation that the mound called *Elala Sohona* was part of the *thupa* named *Tissa-maha-cetiya* of the *Dakkhina Vihara* established in the region of *Vattagamani Abhaya* (the Pitiraja of the inscription circa 80-77BC).

The *Mahavamsa* has recorded that one of the seven warriors of *Vattagamani Abhaya* had "built to the south of the city the so-called *Dakkhina Vihara*"<sup>49</sup> It should be noted that the author of the *Mahavamsa* himself describes it as the so-called *Dakkhina Vihara*, in much the same way as the *Elala Sohona* had come to be described in more recent times

To be Continued

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ISLAM

## AND WORLD PEACE

by N. M. M. I. Hussain

This paper was read at the Asian Christian Peace Conference that met in Colombo in October 1980 on the theme "Theological Basis for Co-operation with the Living Faiths for Peace With Justice". This is the first part of a paper entitled "The Response of Islam to The World Struggle for Peace with Justice".

IT SHOULD BE USEFUL to begin our consideration of the response of Islam to the world struggle for peace with justice by briefly mentioning some crucially important aspects of the international situation. We are living in a world that is becoming increasingly interdependent, and this means that nations have a greater opportunity than ever before of promoting the common welfare of mankind by

taking co-operative action. But the increasing proximity of nations to each other in the shrinking "global village" of our day could lead to a greater propensity to rivalry and conflict. This propensity to rivalry and conflict can now lead to the extinction of man as we are living. In what might come to be called the Age of Hiroshima. For this reason, Islam, just as much as other world religions, has to try to make an useful contribution to the world struggle for peace with justice.

Another important aspect of the present day world is that the process of secularization which began in the West, and which gathered momentum during what was paradoxically called the Age of Enlightenment, now threatens to become global. One of the consequences according to Toynbee is that "In our day Christianity and the other living higher religious faiths find themselves confronted by a common adversary, the old religion of man-worship in the form of the worship of collective human power". There is today a great need for the world religions to try to act together in facing what looks like a global process of secularization.

Geoffrey Parrinder writes that the problem today is how to avoid wars and to turn world society into world community: "The construction of a world-wide harmony is too great a task to be undertaken except with religious faith, for the necessary energy, vision and goodwill are available from no other source". Montgomery Watt writes that mankind today needs a religious community which is charismatic and in this connection he gives a special importance to Islam by saying "Islam more than any other religion has realised in actual life the idea of the charismatic community". Everyone may not agree with Parrinder that world society can be transformed into world community only through religious faith, and every one would not agree with Watt that Islam has a very special contribution to make towards this end, but Muslims will certainly agree, like the adherents of other living faiths, that the task of religion today cannot be confined to individual salvation and that a faith if it is living, has to make its contribution to the establishment of a world characterized by peace and justice.

**The question arises whether Muslims can in fact co-operate with adherents of other religions. This question arises because Islam is a religion based on the revelation**

**provided by a single Holy Book and it is assumed therefore that it has to be dogmatic and that Muslims have to be intransigent and intolerant, and that they have to regard the adherents of other religions as no more than a lot of mere infidels. This notion is a misconception: it is contradicted by the word of God as given in the Holy Koran. It should be useful to establish that it is quite as easy for a Muslim to cooperate with the followers of other religions as for a Hindu, Buddhist or Christian.**

ACCORDING TO ISLAM, the prophet Muhammed confirmed the revelations given by earlier prophets, revelations which had become distorted in practise. The Prophet according to Islam is the "seal" of prophecy, meaning that he provided the final confirmation of the earlier prophecies. The Koran mentions no less than twenty eight prophets, eighteen of whom were Old Testament figures, while three (Zachariah, John the Baptist and Jesus) were from the New Testament. It is to be expected, therefore, that Islam will give a special place to Judaism and Christianity. The Koran says, "Verily those who believe, and those who keep the Jewish religious rule, and Christians and Sabaeans - whosoever believeth in Allah and the Last Day, and doeth right - their reward is with Lord; and there shall no fear come upon them, neither shall they suffer grief."

The Koran gives a very special place to Christ. The Koran accepts the virgin birth, it speaks of Christ as God's "Word which He cast upon Mary, and a spirit from Him", it accepts the Ascension of Christ, his Second Coming and His miracles. It denies that he was the Son of God, the Holy Trinity, and that he died on the Cross. But if the "Son of God" is not to be understood in a physical sense, and if the Holy Trinity does not mean God, Mary, and Jesus, it is clear that Islam and Christianity are even closer to each other than is usually believed. It is not surprising that one of the great modernizers of Islam, Ameer Ali, wrote in 1891, "Excepting for the conception of the Sonship of Jesus, there is no fundamental difference between Christianity and Islam." On the Christian side, it is said that even during the Middle Ages, Roger Bacon took account of Islam's positive contribution to the Divine

scheme of revelation. The Vatican Ecumenical Council of 1965 paid homage to the "truths" that Islam had handed down concerning God and His power, Jesus, Mary, the Prophets and the Apostles. The Roman Catholic Scholar, R.C. Zachner, wrote, "That Muhammed was a genuine prophet and that the authentic voice of prophecy made itself heard through him, I for one find it impossible to disbelieve on any rational grounds....."

It is not really surprising that in spite of all the centuries of conflict between the Crescent and the Cross, some Caliphs ordered churches to be built for Christians, making donations for the purpose. During the Umayyad period, a Muslim governor of Iraq built a church for his Christian mother, at a time of war between Muslims and Byzantine Christians. I take pride in such facts, and in doing so commune with my Buddhist compatriots who take pride in the fact that some Sinhalese Buddhist kings of Sri Lanka built mosques for Muslims.

THE KORAN does not speak of the other great world religions, Hinduism and Buddhism. According to Islam the one unforgivable sin is polytheism, and it might seem that Islam cannot view Hinduism sympathetically. But the polytheistic aspect of Hinduism is subsumed in the notion of the Atman and there should be no difficulty for a Muslim in accepting Hinduism as a great religion, a point demonstrated in India by the religious syncretism of the Emperor Akbar and others. Whether or not Buddhism is atheistic and whether or not Ananda Cumaraswamy was right in believing that the Hindu idea of Atman is present in Buddhism also, it remains that Buddhism speaks of a transcendent reality, "There is an unborn, not became, not made, uncompounded," which is not inconsistent perhaps with the Islamic idea of God as a transcendent reality beyond human understanding. It can be argued also that Islam in one of its aspects is close to Buddhism, the aspect shown in one account of the Prophet's vision on Mt. Hira of the vanity of human achievement, as meaningless as "the beat of a gnat's wing" in comparison with the splendour of God.

According to the Koran, the fact that there are different religions has to be explained as arising out of the will of God. It says, "And if the Lord willed, all who are in

the earth would have believed together. Would thou compel men until they are believers?" The Koran also says, "For each we have appointed a divine law and a traced-out way. Had Allah willed, He could have made you one community. But that He may try you by that which He hath given you (He hath made you as ye are) so vie with one another in good works. Unto Allah ye will all return."

There are similar texts elsewhere in the Koran, and it is impossible to read it without coming to the conclusion that according to Islam the Divine has revealed itself "at sundry times and in diverse places". It is understandable that Goethe should have written, "If this is Islam, do we not live in Islam?" There is no difficulty about Islam co-operating with other living Faiths in trying to bring a better world.

I come now to a consideration of Islam's relevance to the major issues of our time. We are living at a time characterized by increasing rivalry and conflict, the consequence of the failure to evolve a satisfactory international order and the fact that the world is divided between nation-states and ideologies. The detente which seemed to be taking shape during the Seventies is now in severe straits, and there is the possibility that dissensions between the great powers may lead to a nuclear holocaust. In addition, we are witnessing conflicts between Afro-Asian countries, and it may well be that we are entering an era of Third World wars.

Western nationalism, which had its roots in the Christian ideal of mystical community, showed immense creative dynamism but thereafter it became secularised and destructive. Some, like the historian Toynbee, think that the defining characteristic of the nation-state is that it goes to war. It has been noted for some time that countries having the same ideology get involved against each other in dissensions and sometimes conflict, and it seems therefore that the most important reason for the conflicts of our time is that there is insufficient sense of human community and the fact that the world is divided between nation-states. It is important to consider what should be the Islamic attitude to the nation-state.

To be continued.....

HOW?

## MILK FOR THE MASSES

by R Kahawita

In a recent issue of "The Tribune", there was a great deal of unmasking of the activities of the Milk Board. During this "attack and counter attack tactics" one of the officials (vide 'Milk For The Masses' by Augustus Vinayaratnam CDN, 7/1/81 and Tribune 14/3/81) disclosed that there were 80,000 suppliers and the collection was 180,000 litres a day. We are interested in these two figures only. We are not interested in what happens to the milk collected. We will encourage The Tribune sleuths to continue with the investigations and expose what is there to expose in the national interest.

If we just divide the amount of milk collected by the number of suppliers we get the magnificent figure of 2.25 litres per supplier; which is equivalent to 2.7 bottles of milk as understood by the average milk vendor. The number of milking animals maintained by the 80,000 suppliers must be more than 80,000 animals. If so, yield per animal is much less than 2.7 bottles per milking cow. But let us be generous and assume that the suppliers handle only 80,000 heads of cows. One cow per supplier, then it amounts to that in spite of cows being air-lifted from Denmark, New Zealand, India, Holland and our own efforts to up-grade local cattle from 1934—45 years of concerted effort, and millions of rupees of expenditure—we have not been able to breed a cow that yields more milk per day than the back-yard stray Sinhala cow of the villager.

Really, there is something wrong in our efforts at breeding milk cattle. We have set up National Animal Breeding Centres, Live Stock Authority, Live Stock Boards—nobody knows what other institutions have been set up to improve the cow to produce "Milk for the Masses". All these seem damned rot. If we import milk and milk-foods with the salaries, wages, transport costs, maintenance of vehicles, overtime etc. of the NHB, we will be able to provide each person a bottle of milk a day free, and also save a couple of million rupees annually. If The Tribune is digging up rotten carcasses, we cannot blame them. That publication is only attempting to create a public awareness of what is happening to our money

and into how many pockets that money goes before it reaches the pint of milk in the cow's udder. We have been playing the fool too long and time has come for the Government to undertake a fact-finding investigation "Can the country produce a milk cow that will yield sufficient milk to maintain a family that has taken to dairy farming?". We have been attempting to do this since 1934, and if the result is to produce 2.25 litres per cow per day; Is it worth? What are the reasons for such poor results? These are what the Minister of Live Stock Industry should undertake to investigate. This should be the first task to be tackled by the Ministry, before venturing on new projects to produce more milk. There must be sufficient data collected over the years to make a critical analysis of the results achieved so far.

Air lifting milk cows from temperate or cold countries will not produce "the milk for the masses". Let us first understand the problem, before we go on a spending spree, study-tours, multiplying collecting centres, live stock farms etc. A poor peasant does better with his scrub animal than the high sounding National Institutions are doing. From the farmer's point of view, these institutions are "charity begins at home joints". Not meant to serve the public.

Like in Agriculture we have not understood that cows cannot be raised without land. Land and Agriculture including live stock must go together. They cannot be separated, even though our experts may think so. In the early years when we ventured into this province of Agriculture we understood the problem. Before a breeding project was undertaken at Ambawela, the first step was to open up about 1000 acres and develop the land with grazing grasses. It was only after the land was available that the exotic dairy cattle were introduced into the area. Even earlier than that, Mr Baker who first brought English and Scottish dairy cattle to Nuwara Eliya established the grazing land—now known as Baker's farm—before he brought his animals, cattlemen etc. to the country.

Unfortunately, we have separated Land from Agriculture as if Agriculture could be developed without land. It may be our experts are thinking far ahead, to meet a future situation when land is not available for Agriculture, answer is hydroponic culture where soil is not



necessary. It looks as if a situation like that has come, where bulk of the land is owned by the State, and what land is in the private hands, is being fragmented to distribute among the family members. This is what happened to our paddy lands. Over the centuries, the land was divided, sub-divided and fragmented till each holding has become the size of a "Postage Stamp". With this minute holding, we hope to develop a dairy industry, to be self sufficient in rice, export to other rice eating countries, with target yields of 150 bushels per acre at the national level, and also feed the millions that invade the country from the 'mothers' womb' annually.

To solve the milk problem the peasants must have sufficient land for grazing and constructing shelters. There was a time when dairy animals were stall-fed. It was possible then because cattle feed was cheap and every wayside boutique had stocks. Today it is so expensive and so difficult to procure, stall feeding has become more expensive than feeding one's family. This was really the reply we got from our "cattle keeper", when we asked him to supplement grazing with a maintenance ration. His reply was "Sir, I have to spend Rs 12/- per feed per day for the cow, when it cost me only Rs. 5/- to feed my family. How can I do it?" There is more wisdom in these few words than in the volumes published as to "how to keep dairy cattle", by our experts. Until we understand this problem, the milk supply puzzle which the **Tribune** is attempting to unravel will be there and we will have to be content with 0.87 bottles per cow. These are the so called Development undertakings; to push through them, we are ever tightening our belts.

Our ever-watchful Minister De Mel has sounded a warning gong about our finances and spending indiscipline. This is not the first time he has done so. He has done it many times, but he seemed to have escaped the guillotine so far though the foreign press is forecasting that some thing is to happen. He has said, according to press reports, "That the country is well on the road to economic disaster before long". We know it. For, the poor peasant whose cow we are trying to upgrade, that economic disaster has hit him. Ask him what his daily diet is. He will say—**"Rice and salt water, sometimes a bit of scraped coconut if he can afford it"**.

This is not the fare our V.I.P's are served, when they go around opening five star hotels and restuarants. "Ignorance is bliss" they say, But we will soon face the reality as forecast by our Finance Minister—for saying so he might join his Parliamentary colleague who has been driven into the wilderness, a sacrifice worth making for telling the truth to save this Government.

X X X

LETTER

## MILK FOR THE MASSES

Sir,

The publishing of the article titled "Milk for the Masses" by a Ministry spokesman Mr. Augustus Vinayagaratnam and Point of View by a Correspondent of the **Ceylon Daily News** titled "Milk for the Masses—Or Milking the Masses", in your journal of March 14, 1981, provides a very clear picture of the prevailing mess in the State's Milk Production, Collection, Processing and Marketing Services.

The fact that after 3½ years after the UNP Government took over, the Ministry continues to attribute the mess of today to lack of adequate management and disciplinary control and other Institutional drawbacks which are largely the Board's legacies from the previous administration, would indicate the degree of inefficiency and lethargy of the Ministry. In spite of sustained press criticism, consumer and producer complaints, charges of corruption in the purchase and sale of milk and milk products, colossal waste, mal-administration and general inefficiency, the only action a lethargic Ministry appears to have taken was to refer these charges to the Auditor General's Department or the Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry for inquiry and investigation. A dynamic and efficient Ministry keen on serving the masses should not have taken more than a year to have cleansed the Milk Board of corruption, mal-administration and all other ills inherited from the previous administration. Any drastic measure which the Ministry would have had to take in the process of the clean up, would undoubtedly have had the support of the masses who have been milked for far too long.

The Milk Board came in to existence under Milk Board Act No.12 of 1954: "to establish and maintain efficient and cheap milk production and marketing services, and to promote the establishment and maintenance of such services by local authorities and by other bodies and persons approved by the Minister, for the purpose of ensuring that an adequate supply of milk of good quality at reasonable prices is available to consumers of milk in Ceylon". The Act also provides for the Minister to appoint the members of the Board and the Chairman of the Board from among the members appointed to the Board. The Minister is also empowered under the Act to remove from office, if he thinks it expedient to do so, any member of the Board without reason stated.

That the Milk Board was in a chaotic mess and a hot bed of corruption and a virtual "White Elephant" when the UNP took over in July 1977 will not be disputed. We now have another undisputable fact that the UNP which promised the people to wipe out corruption, waste, nepotism, mal-administration etc., did not take any meaningful action to clean up the Milk Board and to provide the masses with an adequate supply of cheap and quality milk and milk products. The Ministry's claims to have increased Milk production have not been substantiated by statistics in spite of your challenge. Now after a further 3½ years of corruption, waste and mal-administration, the Ministry has decided to throw in the towel and hand over the Milk Board's factories to the private sector. A clear acceptance of absolute incompetence and inefficiency. We only hope the Ministry will not abdicate its responsibility to provide the masses with a supply of CHEAP and good quality milk and milk products. It is hoped that the Milk Board Act will be suitably amended to ensure that the producer and the consumer are not exploited by the Private Sector and that quality control is stringently enforced as Milk is highly perishable and an ideal media for the propagation of disease.

"MILCHED"

Ragama,  
20. 3. 1981

## TRADITIONAL VALUES

### AND CHANGING LIFE STYLES

by Suvimalee Karunaratne

MODERN KITCHENS with their battery of labour saving devices are no doubt a boon to the housewife, especially these days when labour for domestic service is so scarce and expensive but thank goodness in many a home the traditional kitchen continues to co-exist with the modern 'pantry' as an useful auxiliary. What a pity it would be to see these old fashioned kitchens disappear altogether from our homes. Mind you, I am no advocate of firewood as an ideal fuel for cooking nor do I think we should resist modernization or change caused by the pressures of modern living - but when certain aspects of our way of life begin to disappear, one becomes apprehensive that our whole way of life, with our sense of values and customs to boot, is in danger of disappearing.

In some homes today the old fashioned kitchen has been assigned the role of a museum piece and even made to look as ornamental as possible. I once admired the transformation of an old fashioned kitchen into a dining room, all painted white and the hearth made use of as an interesting feature of the room with brass, copper and pewterware decorating it. Charming, one may call it, but one also wonders how symbolic such adaptations are of a deeper national malady - that of making a showpiece of our customs which no longer seem to have any meaning for us.

Take for instance the Esala erahera. So commercialized is this unique historic perahera of ours, that many people have forgotten its real function - its religious significance. Year in and year out this magnificent pageant with all that tradition and history behind it, careers through the streets more for the benefit of tourists and traders it appears, than for anyone else. The masses come to see it no doubt, but they come more to be entertained than to venerate. We grumble about the lack of vitality in the perahera but perhaps this is a reflection of the social and economic factors operating on it, which in turn is an indication of how strongly we feel about the function or the significance of the perahera in this day and age. Whatever the reason for the lack of

vitality, the perahera deserves to be preserved as a national treasure and exhibited each year as a foremost cultural event.

Today our lives are influenced by foreign life styles more than in the past, exposed as we are to mass media from all over the world. Certainly there was a slavish colonial mentality in the 'good old days', with western habits, modes of dress and western education being readily acquired but all these influences had only been skin deep, leaving our ingrained values intact. In short, the older generation did not turn their back completely upon traditional values. Now-a-days instead of customs being an outward expression of our inner values, customs seem to be worn like garments, to be taken out for an airing as it were at new year time, for instance, and then put back into moth balls after the festivities (with the trappings of kavuns, kokis, kiribath and bulath etc.) are over.

In this context of perishing old values, it is worth recounting a memorable meal I had at the home of an acquaintance recently. His house was equipped with all the modern conveniences available, like rice cookers in the pantry to television in the sitting room, but what was most impressive was the presence still of traditional values among the members of that family.

The meal to begin with was simple and enjoyable and typically Ceylonese. The assortment of tastily prepared curries exuded the aroma of newly ground condiments and roasted chillies. As we ate the hostess and her daughter stood by at the table, serving us and passing round the dishes. Now this truly was charming! The eldest member of the household, the great-grandmother, came out of her room to welcome us. She was barefoot and wore a freshly laundered chintz cloth and a spotless white lace long-sleeved jacket. When the time came for some of the members of the family to leave, they took leave of the elder members in the traditional manner with palms joined in worship and bending low. It was a sight indeed to fill one's heart with pride and joy.

WITHOUT COMMENT

## USA, Poland & Pakistan

### NO AID FOR POLAND IF TRADE UNIONS ARE SUSPENDED

Washington, March 30. President Reagan and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt agreed today that their countries could not give further economic aid to Poland if measures were taken to suppress Polish labour unions, the White House said..... In a speech on his economic plan to an AFL-CIO Labour Union Meeting, President Reagan briefly mentioned the tense situation in Warsaw. "We watch with great interest the struggle of our fellow workers in Poland. Their courage reminds us not only of the precious liberty that is ours to nourish and protect, but of the spirit in each of us, everywhere", he said. The Polish workers stand as sentinels on behalf of universal human principles. They remind us that on this good earth the people will always prevail". --Reuter.



### ZIA CHOKES FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, PARTIES.

Islamabad, March 26. The interim constitution of Pakistan, promulgated by President Zia-ul-Haq on Tuesday, takes away all fundamental rights and abolishes all but three political parties -- Tehrik-i-Istiqal, Jamma-i-Islami and Muslim League (Chhatha Group). The ban on political activities will paralyse even those parties allowed to exist by virtue of their having registered themselves with the Election Commissioner a couple of years ago. Details of the presidential order broadcast by Radio Pakistan in a special bulletin on Tuesday night show that the new constitution precludes the revival of abolished parties, which include the Pakistan Peoples Party, the Pakistan National Party (Bizenjo) and the National Democratic Party of Wali Khan and Sher Naz Mazari. Properties of all these parties stand confiscated. The ban on political activities paralyse the three national parties that survive. To ensure that parties like the PPP are not revived in some other form, the order laid down: "No political party shall be formed after the commencement of this order except

with the previous permission of the Election Commission.' --Reuter.

### P K CHIEF JUSTICE AND OTHER JUDGES SACKED

Islamabad, March 23. Pakistan's Chief Justice and up to eight other senior judges were sacked today when they refused to take a new oath of office giving President Zia-ul-Haq unfettered freedom to change the country's constitution. Chief Justice Anwar-ul-Haq told Gen. Zia in a letter that his conscience and earlier Supreme Court decisions defining the limited legality of the country's military government prevented him from continuing in office. Gen. Zia has severely restricted the powers of the civilian courts and the rights of lawyers -- a main focus of opposition to his government. Judges, requiring to swear a new oath, will not be allowed to consider any case challenging the government or judgements by its military courts. Habeas corpus proceedings have been restricted and the civilian courts have been denied the power to hear any case affecting people held under preventive detention.....Reuter.



### US JACKS UP AID TO PAKISTAN

New York, March 24. The Reagan administration has tentatively decided to offer Pakistan 500 million dollars in military and economic aid for the fiscal year 1981--82, according to official sources. This represents a substantial increase in the amount offered by the Carter Administration to Pakistan to strengthen its military and economy in the context of the Soviet actions in Afghanistan. The Carter Administration had offered 400 million dollars, in both military and economic assistance, over a two-year period which Pakistan had rejected as "peanuts".

While proposing greater assistance to Pakistan, top officials of the Reagan administration have stated that Pakistan could be used to funnel arms to the Afghan insurgents. A State Department spokesman said the arms aid could be used to buy US war equipment at low rates, adds AFP. In addition, the Reagan administration has offered "a credible security guarantee to help Pakistan in a crisis", he added. The

opening of an arms supply relationship with Pakistan will require legislative approval by the US Congress which in 1979, enacted a law prohibiting supply of such assistance to any country that explodes a nuclear device or is known to be preparing to do so. --Reuter



### 8 BILLION DOLLAR US ARMS AID

March 25, 1981. With the advent of the Reagan administration in Washington, the US has gradually taken upon itself the task of not only equipping Islamabad with sophisticated armaments worth over 2.5 billion dollars, but also with the most advanced military systems. These include F-10 aircraft of the type 79 (stated to be superior to the MiGs), the entire Hawk systems of missiles and developed communication and radar equipments. A Significant fact is that Washington as in the past is selling surplus stocks of military hardware through subsidiary agents to Islamabad at one-fourth the actual price. This makes it apparent that the 2.5 billion dollar worth of armaments signify weaponry valued at well over 8 billion dollars. --Reuter.

### Next Week

- ★ OUR FOREIGN SERVICE  
- Serendib
- ★ REAL DEVELOPMENT  
- Ranil Senanayake
- ★ IN A HELICOPTER - 2  
- S. P. Amarasingam

Official Exchange Rates of Commercial Banks to their customers for Telegraphic Transfers fixed on Tuesday this week were as follows:--

CURRENCY	FER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. Dollar	Rs. 1802.50	Rs. 1805.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 4046.75	Rs. 4052.75
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 861.20	Rs. 862.80
French Franc	Rs. 364.65	Rs. 365.35
Japanese Yen	Rs. 8.5230	Rs. 8.5370
Indian Rupees	Rs. 318.80	Rs. 319.20

WHAT IS IT?

## Past, Present, Future

by K. Kanapathypillai

IN THE GLOAMING: the dusk of a tired evening, fast receding into the total darkness of a new-moon night, I sit on a half-charred stub of an Ingesaman tree lying in a corner of the esplanade of the old 'Farangi-smelling' town of Batti. And I snatch a view and watch, and the familiar expression: '**Onthi vala vala thantha**' is borne on the evening breeze. It strikes my ears, and I get nostalgic reminiscences of the 'good old days' when the Portuguese held sway over the Eastern seaboard of Sri Lanka and ruled over it, and in their religious zeal and fanaticism destroyed things idolatrous. Then the temple bronzes and images were consigned to the sea, and the **Mamanga** and **Kokkaddicholai** temples miraculously escaped the iconoclastic activities of the then rulers.

Then was the time when the Thimilars had their settlements in Thimilar Theevu and the Mukkuwas held sway over the Thimilars. Between them they had built a temple in the orthodox traditional 'Agama' style, with 'Sthupi' and 'gopuram', 'Vasantha mandapam' and 'theertha pond': and still the ruins of this temple lie hidden in dust, and debris under the fast-invading jungle tide at Thimilar Theevu. The jungle has been cleared, the ruins have been dug, and brought to sight and made to see once again the light of day. But the glory of the Thimilars is no more, and the sovereignty of the Mukkuwa rulers has dissolved and sunk into the slimy ooze of the lagoon. This is a very old story, perhaps partly divested of truth. It is only a half truth or a ga bled version of it, as most history is bound to be. It is somewhat shattering though it is redolent of a forgotten past that is fast slipping underneath the tread of a once virile race. Today their descendants are fishers, and boatmen, tillers of the soil, hewers of faggots and drawers of water. Other races have come, and other annals are being fabricated. The old order has changed giving place to new. The Thimilars have faded into oblivion, so have the blunderbuss power of the Portuguese and the scintillating glory of the Mukkuwas Vannigars. With the blustering North Easter they came to these shores, and with the parching Kachchan they have gone. Whither? Who knows.

And yet I sit on the half-charred stub, dozing, half-asleep half-awake to find a magic web of lingering reminiscences weaving round me. But the dream has come true. The dead has come to life. The bleached bones have been covered with flesh and blood, and life and breath have returned. **It is alive. The dead Township has come to life. A broken limb has been made whole, a splintered skull has been brought into shape, a lacerated breast smashed out of shape into a chunk of beef has been re-moulded into a mount of balmy beauty. It is all a magical change. A town is taking shape. And who are the architects and the craftsmen? Let us think; Let us pause before we hazard an answer.**

A cyclone-battered township, shattered and torn and in tatters and shreds, convalescing, with a frayed margin of a hundred defaced villages and thousands of decapitated buildings, has assumed a form and inspired a breath. It awakes, it arises, it stirs, and it breathes, and regains its full vigour and consciousness: a sensibility that is an admixture of joy and of strife.

THE COURT HOUSE, a heap of mortar and bricks of Dutch days, broken floors, crumbling massive pillars, flaking-off mortar and lime walls: all in shambles: a shameless, topless feminine form: a beggar-maid attempting in vain to hide her shame under a pile of rotting and stinking and decaying cadjans and splintered furniture: stands re-miniscent of a glorified past stripped of the imperialist glory and the grandeur: where once the red-coated henchmen, the beefy militia marched and stood to attention and heard the court crier—a venerable remnant of the Portuguese rule—vociferously shout out; 'silence there'; where 'my lord', the judge of the Supreme Court of the Island of Ceylon in his ermine and periwig—the symbol of benevolence and justice—dispensed justice, and where his Lordship was right royally escorted flanked by the mace carrier and the helmeted Police officer sedatelo timing a goose step; and where his Lordship after having taken his royal oath at St. Andrew's Church entered the court-house and ascended the dais adorned with the insignia of British imperialistic power: the lion and the unicorn fighting as it were, for the British crown.

Those days are no more. Only the sad crumbling edifice remains: a tattered guardian of

law and order. It spins a yarn so sad, so dark, and so gloomy. It has become an object of the Dada art of yester days: the cranky, crazy art of the period; 1915-1920. A distorted heap of bricks and mortar, of broken benches and splintered dais, of cracked and crooked beams with elbow bends and sinuous curves, of a collapsing and caved-in roofthatch: all, all have conspired to complete the picture. Aren't these aptly and artfully significant of a past that is dead, and a future brim-full of promise.

The new court House that is slowly yet majestically rearing its head is indeed a massive form: much more massive than what stands sniffing and snuggling close by like a much-petted giant child clinging to its dwarf mother's apron strings. The very scaffolding is a forest of leaf-less scorched bamboos; and the pillars stand tall and square like a thousand masts of a massive fishing fleet. Crowned with an arched gigantic cyclone-proof roof, it is characteristically boastful of a modern architectural configuration. Entering the edifice one is lost, nay engulfed in its cavernous immensity. Is this not loudly meaningful? Doesn't it proclaim the supremacy of the law that it is intended to house? A new dawn is breaking, a new life is awaking, a new rule of law is taking form and a life. And won't it don a dharmistic ermine and periwig: justifiably independent and lawfully sovereign.

IN THE FAR DISTANCE, yet not so far, looming so large, so dark and so elephantine in appearance is an object once again emblematic of the imperialist power of olden days. There stands the Dutch Fort, now occupied by the Kachcheri. A horrible, beetle-like, clumsy pile of rubble and lime and mortar of a sort, hedged by an imposing rampart, on top of which two bullock carts can drive abreast, and where the corners are so spacious as to accommodate a dozen dinosauric V.O.C. cannons assimilating pre-historic monsters. The watch-towers are still there with such an aura of power that one might even today expect to find a Dutch Commissary standing there bolt upright; all attention, and the embrasures, some of them still have a cannon or two pointing in the direction of the Dutch Bar, and here was oppression; here was rape; here was a ragged religious order that came

mixed up with a buccaneering oppressive tenor which gave the order: Take this book and kiss it, and swear by it, and you shall find your way to heaven and everlasting peace. It was of a different sort: different from the message of love and compassion of the blessed ones.

And today the rampart has cracked reminding one of the power that has cracked and gone. And shouldn't the powers that be pat it and patch it and make it whole, for "dead men seldom bite". The vices have crept into the gloomy vaults. They of the quondam generation are no more. The inscription of Kulakodan is prophetic: Thus it goes

'முன்னே குளக்கோடன் மூட்டுந் திருப்பணியை  
பின்னே பறங்கி பிடிப்பானே--மன்னுகேள்  
பூனைக் கண், செங்கண், புகைக்கண்ணன்  
போய் மாற  
மானே வருகாய் விடும்?

'Once of yours Kulakodan reared this sacred edifice,

And on a later date the Farangis will capture it--  
Kisten to this, O, king!

One after another they will hold sway over it:  
The cat eyed, the red-eyed, the smoky-eyed,  
And finally will rule the Vaduka'.

This prophetic verse is brimfull of an esoteric meaning. It might mean the final rulers will be just, righteous and benign. But Who?

52, Angle Road  
Batticaloa

K, KANAPATHIPILLAI

X

X

#### MISCELLANEA

### POWDERED MILK IS KILLING THIRD WORLD BABIES

Hamburg. About ten million Third World babies die each year from diseases caused by drinking powdered milk instead of mother's milk. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is now considering new moves against the manufacturing of powdered milk, most of them multi-national combines, which violated the 1979 voluntary code to curb publicity in developing countries. The Health Organisation has been advised of 682 cases of deliberate violations of the code.

About ten years ago almost all babies in Third World countries were brought up on

mother's milk. Since then powdered milk has taken over in many regions, mainly because of an intensive advertising campaign that extolled the virtues of (powdere!) cow's milk. A few countries such as Jamaica have since banned milk powder promotion. A few advertisements conceded that mother's milk was irreplaceable but published that message in small print. Powdered milk packages often did not carry full instructions and did not always use the language of the country importing them. Uninformed mothers have been known to dissolve milk powder in dirty water and to use feeding bottles that have not been sterilised—DPA.

## ATTEMPT ON REAGAN

Washington. Although most Americans were shocked by the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan, the sorrow that swept across the country was not unanimous. After the shooting, newspapers reported an undercurrent of anger and hostility towards the conservative President even while he was in hospital having bullets removed from his chest. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, a school class of 12-year olds was reported to have cheered the announcement of the attempt on the President's life, "I was dumbfounded, I don't know what to do", one teacher said. The **Baltimore Sun** quoted a young civil servant who feared losing his job because of the President's proposed cuts in government spending as saying: "He had it coming to him" A class of poor students in Baltimore was reported to have burst out laughing when told of the shooting.

The **Washington Post** quoted a black junior high school student as saying: "A lot of people were really happy that Reagan got shot. I can't blame them because of all the cuts and everything. But I don't think anybody likes to see him brutally murdered." A twenty-year old woman security guard in Baltimore said: "What did he expect, stepping on poor people this way? I'm going home to celebrate". Three of her colleagues agreed. A pregnant owner of a food shop in a poor neighbourhood tried to temper the hostile reactions. "The young people have been coming in here saying they're glad it happened, that they wish he were dead", she said. "But they don't know about life"

Bruce Russel (Reuter)



TRIBUNE, April 25, 1981

## PAK SKYJACK

### NEW STATESMAN VIEW

There is mounting evidence in British and American press to show that the skyjack of the Pak plane was organised by Zia — "REAGAN'S MAN IN ISLAM-ABAD" — to liquidate the Opposition, sack the Judiciary and set up a personal dictatorship in Pakistan. We publish some revealing extracts from the *New Statesman*, 13.3.1981.

So far, the only beneficiaries of the hijacking appear to be the military regime. Islamabad claims that the hijacking was masterminded by Murtaza Bhutto in Kabul. This is obviously a possibility, though it is clear that the act did not have the support of either his mother or his sister. There is another, more sinister explanation: the hijacking could well have been an initiative by Pakistan's military intelligence, through their *agents provocateurs* in the PLA to crush the burgeoning opposition activities.

Zia is certainly desperate enough to cling to any available lifeline. His isolation in the country is now complete — even the right-wing mullahs of the Jamaat-i-Islami refused to serve in the General's latest 'civilian cabinet! He has sought compensation in International affairs, and was openly delighted at Reagan's entry into the White House. Pakistan — an Islamic banana republic living on borrowed time and money — began to be portrayed by apologists as beleaguered 'frontline state' confronting the war machine of the Soviet Union.

The hijack ordeal went on for thirteen days and gave Zia the perfect opening to discredit his chief political adversaries — the family of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whom Zia had executed in April 1979. The Bhuttos have spearheaded a campaign to oust Zia and end Pakistan's four years of martial law. Six weeks ago, they managed to rally Pakistan's squabbling opposition groups into an unprecedented political alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy. But through skillful propaganda, Zia managed to link the

late Prime Minister's political bloc, the Pakistani People's Party, to the seizure of the airplane.

With all but one of the hostages a Pakistani diplomat murdered by the hijackers — once again, the fragile opposition alliance began to crumble. Zia also appeared to be getting a boost from the United States. The Reagan Administration's review of American policy towards Pakistan is expected to ease the pressures that Jimmy Carter put on in two areas, human rights and the development of nuclear technology. "These (issues) don't mean nearly so much to Reagan," said a diplomat in Islamabad. In addition, Washington may relax existing restrictions on weapons transfers and increase military aid.

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## NUCLER WAR

### What It means?

By Alexander Kuzin

People have the right to know that a modern thermo-nuclear bomb of one-megaton yield, which strategic missiles can deliver to any spot in the Old World, or the New, can reduce a modern city of a million people to a pile of ruins, killing over half its population in the initial days, and dooming the other half to tormenting afflictions and ultimate death.

\*THAT the stockpiles of bombs of this magnitude maintained in combat readiness are not counted in units or hundreds, but are counted in the tens of thousands! This means that if a nuclear war does happen to break out, such a number of bombs may easily be used both against the country attacked and against the attacker country in a retaliatory strike, which would kill at least half the population, destroy 70-90 percent of the principal industries, totally rupture communications and electric transmission, and lead to famine and chaos in the economic life of the country (ies) involved.

\*THAT nuclear weapons are basically different from all weapons used in all previous wars, because on top of their tremendous destructive force and high temperatures which burn up everything tens of kilometers from

the target, they also produce lethal radiation. People who might survive the blast will be killed by this radiation weeks, months or years after.

\*THAT the blasts of nuclear bombs — atomic, thermonuclear or neutron bombs — introduces a new factor, that of radioactivity, into the environment. If a nuclear war does erupt, environmental radioactivity will rapidly soar, attaining levels at which life could no longer exist. Whoever does survive a nuclear war would be doomed to genetic extinction.

\*THAT even the smallest neutron bomb of a kiloton yield will result in the agonizing death of all irradiated people within one km of the blast in the first few weeks. Furthermore, they will be conscious all this time. And all people within two km are doomed to afflictions caused by the remote effects of irradiation.

—APN



## DALAI LAMA'S SISTER

### ON TIBET

New Delhi, Last month, Pemo Gyalpo, sister of the Dalai-Lama the spiritual leader of the Tibetans who has been living in exile in Dharmasala in Northern India since 1959, returned from a three-month trip to Tibet. In an interview to a correspondent of the French periodical **Quotidien de Paris**, she accused China of "merciless extermination of Tibetans" and "destruction of their culture". "I regard it my duty", Pema Gyalpo said, "to correct the erroneous views spread in the West by persons who have undertaken trips to Tibet under the strict supervision of the Chinese authorities and who depict today's life of the Tibetans in rosy colours". According to her, the delegation which she headed had worked out its itinerary in advance, after having studied reports by earlier delegations. However, "the Chinese government ruled that visits to most of the specified locations were completely out of the question. The excuse was that there was too little time and that our visit to Tibet coincided with the rain-season when roads become impassable".



Pema Gyalpo emphasized that throughout the 103 days of their stay in Tibet, the Chinese Authorities closely followed the delegation. Nevertheless, the delegation managed to visit 41 cities, many villages and camp-sites. While in Lhasa, the administrative centre of Tibet, from sunset to about 2 a.m. the delegation members talked to representatives of the Tibetan people who told them of their horrible sufferings under the Chinese rule. A long list of persons who were tortured, put into prison or died of hunger was read out to Gyalpo and members of her delegation. "Many Tibetans had to eat grass for years, a lot of them died. Wherever we were we saw homeless children begging at the roadside or looking for the remains of food at the bottom of cans thrown out by Chinese clerks or soldiers". In February the American newspaper **Christian Science Monitor** said that poverty was a reality of Tibet where more than 100,000 people go to bed hungry.

Gyalpo also said that "apart from their merciless programme of destroying the Tibetan civilisation, the Chinese are plundering Tibet, depriving the country of its natural resources". Forests are being felled on a vast area, and timber is being shipped to China's central provinces. Not long ago Gyalpo told the Hong-Kong weekly **Far Eastern Economic Review**: "Never before in my life did I cry so much and so often as during this trip. Every-day meetings with our destitute and stem-broken compatriots revealed a real tragedy. We could not hold back our tears when we were told about atrocities committed by the Chinese", Gyalpo's words add to the interview given by the Dalai Lama to the Italian newspaper **Messaggero**: "The principle of respect for national minorities and local autonomy is completely trampled upon in Tibet".



POLAND

**BREZHNEV**

Prague, April 7:

"A clear and realistic analysis of the results of the past years that has been made, major and realistic tasks in home and foreign policy that have been raised, a clear course for further development of socialist democracy and of the initiatives of the people that have been outlined - all this shows that the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia firmly holds the positions of Marxism-Leninism," said Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet who leads the CPSU delegation to the 16th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. He made a speech at the Congress today.

Leonid Brezhnev pointed out that the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia approached its 60th anniversary which is to be marked this year "as militant and mature social force that has accumulated a wealth of valuable experience of political struggle, of management of society. This experience is the guarantee of the successful socialist construction in Czechoslovakia itself. It is also of great significance to other parties to the international communist movement as a whole. "The countries of the socialist community", Leonid Brezhnev went on to say, "resolve versatile and, naturally increasingly deeper and more complicated tasks along the path of the further development of the society of mature socialism. And we have to do it in the conditions of mounting opposition, and sometimes, openly hostile actions on the part of the most aggressive forces of imperialism. In this situation, more than any time before, the key to success for all of us is in the following. Firstly, to work better, more efficiently, in a more organised way, developing our economy, culture and socialist democracy. Secondly, to continuously strengthen the unity of the fraternal countries, their all-round, increasingly deeper cooperation in all areas, to join in the most rational way forces and resources in the interests of each of our countries and of the whole community."

Leonid Brezhnev drew attention to the fact that class enemies "are doing everything to hamper the advance of socialism,

to erode it from inside. For that purpose they are using any means: economic pressure and blackmail, false propaganda, flattery and demagoguery, support and encouragement of counter-revolutionary forces, where they still exist, and other types of subversive activities. Similar attempts are now being made with regard to the Polish People's Republic. However, the Polish communists with the support of all genuine patriots of Poland will be able, one should believe, to give a fitting rebuff to the designs of the enemies of the socialist system who are at the same time the enemies of Poland's independence, will be able to uphold the case of socialism, genuine interests of the Polish people, the honour and security of their motherland. As to the Soviet Union, it was and remains a loyal friend and ally of Socialist Poland. On that score, I am sure, we have a common stand with Czechoslovakia, just as with other countries of the socialist community'.

"It is in complex external conditions", said the Head of the CPSU delegation, "that the glorious Republic of Cuba - an inseparable part of the community of socialist states - is solving the tasks of the development".

--CETEKA

## REAGAN - CRONKITE INTERVIEW - 3 HUMAN RIGHTS

In a one-hour interview on March 3 with Walter Cronkite, who retired last month as the long-time anchorman for CBS television news, President Regan set out his views on current problems. From the transcript of the interview furnished by USICA, we publish excerpts on important subjects of international significance. This week's instalment the concluding parts deals with Regan's views on human rights and his economic programme

*Mr. Cronkite:* What place do you think human rights should have in our foreign policy.

*The President:* I think human rights is very much a part of our American idealism. I think they do play an important part. My criticism of them, in the last few years, was that we were selective with regard to human

rights. We took countries that were pro-eastern, that were may be authoritarian in government, but not totalitarian, more authoritarian that we would like, did not meet all of our principles of what constitutes human rights and we punished them, at the same time that we were claiming detente with countries where there are no human rights. The Soviet Union is the greatest violator today of human rights in all the world. Cuba goes along with it, and yet previously, while we were enforcing human rights with others, we are talking about bettering relations with Castro's Cuba. I would - I think that we ought to be more sincere about our position on human rights.

*Mr. Cronkite:* Do you believe that our requirements for military allies and bases should take precedence over human rights considerations?

*The President:* No, I think what I'm saying is that where we have an alliance with a country that, as I say, does not meet all of ours - we should look at it that we're in a better position remaining friends, to persuade them of the rightness of our view on human rights than to suddenly, as we have done in some places, pull the rug out from under them and let a completely totalitarian take over that denies what human rights the people had had.

*Mr. Cronkite:* Doesn't that put us in the position rather of abetting the suppression of human rights for our own selfish ends, at least temporarily until such time that we can make those persuasive changes?

*The President:* Well, what has the choice turned out to be? The choice has turned out to be they lose all human rights because there's a totalitarian takeover.

*Mr. Cronkite:* Your appointment to the head of the human rights section over at the State Department is Mr. Ernest Lefever, of course. He testified to the House Subcommittee in 1979, "In my view, the United States should remove from the statute books all causes that establish a human rights standard or condition that must be met by another sovereign nation," Do you agree with that fiat statement?

*The President:* Well, I've never had a chance to discuss with him just how he views that or what he believes the course

fledged partner of the United States in the struggle against Communist expansion. Should we drop all of our concerns about human rights in South Africa?

*The President:* No, no, and I think, though, that there's been a failure, maybe for political reasons in this country, to recognize how many people, black and white in South Africa, are trying to remove apartheid and the steps that they've taken and the gains that they've made. As long as their's a sincere and honest effort being made, based on our own land, it would seem to me that we should be trying to be helpful. And can we again take that other course? Can we abandon a country that has stood beside us in every war we've ever fought, a country that strategically is essential to the free world? It has production of minerals we all must have and so forth.

*Mr. Cronkite:* Mr. President. excuse me.

*The President:* I just feel that myself, that here, if we're going to sit down at a table and negotiate with the Russians, surely we can keep the door open and continue to negotiate with a friendly nation like South Africa.

*Mr. Cronkite:* The Argentinian government has just arrested internationally respected heads of the principal Human Rights Organisation there. seized their list of 6,000 persons who've disappeared under this government, Is the United States going to protest that?

*The President:* I have not had an opportunity -- that just happened, as you know, and I haven't had an opportunity to meet with Secretary Haig on this. In fact, I don't have -- the only information that so far has been presented to me is that it did happen,

*Mr. Cronkite:* Let's move to some domestic affairs which think you're rather interested in these days and the whole country of course, Now that they face the stone-hard reality of it all, 150 liberal organisations have gotten together to campaign against your budget cuts and social welfare programs, Middlewestern and Eastern. Northeastern states are concerned that the programs favour the sunbelt. Some farm organisations are concerned that the subsidies

are being cut, of course, all accross-the-board. Now, these people who are beginning to see that they're going to get hurt a little bit on these cuts, Are you still optimistic in the face of all of this opposition that it can be done?

*The President:* Yes, I expected that opposition. And one of the reasons I'm optimistic is because we've received 100,000 letters and telegrams since I made the speech on the 18th. We so far have been able to open and read and catalogue about 5,339, I think the figure is. And of that first 5,000-plus messages, 92 and a fraction percent are totally in support of our program and what we want to do.

I know that polls have been taken and a national poll recently has shown an even higher percentage of people in the few times that I get out of here and can meet the citizenry, I find the same thing. It just is true, you feel it, you sense it, you hear it among the people out there. I'm afraid a little bit like Senator Long said that when you start to cut in the budget the slogan in Washington has been for too many yes, "don't cut you and don't cut me, cut that fellow behind the tree." And I think these various groups are representing a lot of people behind the trees.

*Mr. Cronkite:* Your target ceiling on federal spending is 695 and one half billion dollars with a 45 billion dollars deficit. How much higher than that in that budget can Congress go without seriously endangering your program?

*The President:* Well, I have to say that I believe our package has been so carefully worked out that they endanger it if they start picking off any parts of it. Our program is aimed not only at reducing a budget, but with tax features of it, at stimulating the economy, increasing productivity, which means more jobs for our people, and which will reduce inflation. And

I believe in our program. Yes, there will be a 45 billion dollar deficit. but just think what that means. That means that deficit would be double that without our program. And that is why we're presenting it literally in a package.

As a matter of fact, Prime Minister Thatcher told me that she regretted in her own attempts that she's been unable to cut government spending as she knew she would have to do to cure their ills. And she said one of the reasons was she tried piecemeal, tried piece by piece to get this reduced, that reduced and one by one, they just knocked it off and turned it down.

Mr. Cronkite: I am just curious. Did she volunteer that or did you ask her what went wrong with her program.

The President: No, she volunteered that, yes.

Mr. Cronkite: Well, do you see a parallel there? There is a Conservative government, came in with much the same sort of a plan that you did to turn back the clock on socialistic advances, a revolutionary approach to the change, and it has failed miserably there. Unemployment is higher than any time since the great depression. Thousands of small businesses have folded.

The President: Yes.

Mr. Cronkite: Industrial production is low. Why isn't that a parallel to your problem?

The President: Well, you see, I think in her case, we have to recognize how much farther down the road England had gone. She has great industries now that are government-owned monopolies and losing their shirts as a result because government doesn't run business very well. She was up against -- well, we've now seen the Labor Party split in its own convention and Left Wing take over. She was up against that powerful Left Wing element that was sabotaging. I don't think her experiment is over. I have confidence in her and I admire her greatly and her courage and she's still going at it. I think we might have the same problems, but we still have the infrastructure. We still have this great industrial capacity of ours here. And if people would only look at it what we're trying to correct that's gone wrong is; if some years ago when things were going better -- government was only taking 19

percent of the Gross National Product? It's now taking 23 percent, and it's been increasing, it's on an upward line if we don't head it off. And so that cost of government plus the fact that the only way we can maintain that is by continued borrowing to the point that we're close to having a trillion dollar debt. A trillion.

Mr. Cronkite: I understand you're still trying to visualize a trillion dollars.

The President: Yes.

The rest of the interview centred on how Reagan hoped to get his program accepted by Congress and the people of the USA.

X X X

## IN A HELICOPTER--I TO KANTALAI

By S. P. Amarasingam

A helicopter ride over Sri Lanka is commonplace for some, but for the likes of me it is perhaps once in a lifetime. And it happened unexpectedly. The invitation came like a bolt from the blue. "You write so much about our rural areas..... about the Mahaveli..... you always talk about a worm's eyes view..... would you like to have a heli-view.....?" Who wouldn't?

And so, one sunny morning, I went up in a helicopter for the first time in my life. Besides the pilot, there were four of us -- Minister Gamini Dissanayake, Mahaweli Authority's Livestock Chief Chris de Saram, photographer Prasana and my humble self. In spite of the cracks in lighter vein about weights, the helicopter took off without any difficulty, no doubt because of many compensatory facts in size.

I have flown over the city of Colombo in Dakotas and Avros as they came in to land or take off from Ratmalana. But they were only fleeting glimpses of the city from a window seat where the view was often obscured by the plane's wings. But a helicopter view is something totally different. One can see all round in front and with a little difficulty (and partially) behind too. One had a total view of the ground below on one's side and also the scene on the other through the windows across. With the choppers noisily whirring above, conversation

was difficult, but was possible with a little effort. I was not in a mood to talk. There was too much to see. I had a motor map spread out on my lap, but I did not need it to identify roads, places and landmarks as we went along. It was a territory I had traversed on the ground -- hundreds of times. The pilot told us that we were cruising along at 110 m.p.h. with a steady headwind against us.

Our destination was the Tobacco Corporation Farm (or what is left of it) on the Kantalai-Allai road near Trincomalee. Five thousand acres along the banks of the Mahaweli it was the land which SLFP Minister Sooriyaratchi had begun to develop as a cattle farm with some foreign aid. Why the Tobacco Corporation went in for cattle is a mystery, but after seeing this vast expanse from a helicopter, there is no doubt that it is one of the finest pieces of a real estate for buffaloes as well as neat cattle ('neat' to distinguish ordinary bulls and cows from mud-loving buffalo's. The helicopter, a Ranger Jet, did the distance in one hour and fifteen minutes.

I am jumping ahead only to give readers the destination to which the helicopter was taking us. We followed the railway line up to Mirigama and then straight to Kurunegala passing Polgahawela on a side; then we made a beeline to Dambulla and thereafter kept over the motor road below (which turned and twisted a little) right up to the Kantalai tank. Ten minutes' flying eastwards from Kantalai towards Allai brought us over the Sugar Plantations and Factory and a little further on to the buildings which were once part of Sooriyarachchi's farm (not far from Seruwila). A helipad was marked with white paint on a small open stretch and the helicopter landed without any difficulty after the circling round to come down in easy stages. Getting to this out-of-the-way spot, not far from the delta of the Mahaweli in little more than an hour from Colombo, was a new experience for me.

But I must get back to where we started, that is over Colombo. The old familiar landmarks were clear -- Beira lake, the Town Hall, Maradana Railway Yard and St. Lucia's Cathedral. We crossed the Kelani river high above the railway bridge. But what struck me as we passed over this parts of Colombo

were the large number of new buildings that had sprung up in the last three years, not merely high rise structures but a very large number of buildings all over the city. The Crow's Island Housing Scheme stood out with a magnificence all its own on a little tongue of land by the sea where the Kelani river flowed into. Before I had time to scrutinise each new large-sized construction in the midst of rambling buildings of old Colombo, Ragama was glittering in the sun ahead of us. The railway line was below and trains seemed to move at what seemed to be snail's pace.

After we passed Polgahawela and reached out to Kurunegala, on our right, rose the foothills of our central highlands, with mini-peaks protruding here and there like little sentinels proudly on guard. Helicoptering from Colombo to Kurunegala, it was apparent that the drought had struck the most luscious and luxuriant part of the coconut triangle with a viciousness that nothing could hide. Tanks, big and small, were parched dry, only a few had a little muddy dirty water at one end. The impact of the drought -- caused by a North-East Monsoon that had failed completely after a partial South-West -- was even more apparent as we went from Kurunegala to Dambulla. Tanks that were bone-dry dotted the landscape. Crops which had depended on the rains to fill the tanks had failed.

It was a bleak scene until we neared Galewala and Dambula. Here, water diverted from the Mahaweli had produced a rich harvest. There was much activity, harvesting, threshing, transporting. Kalawewa glistened in the distance on our left and Dambula Oya and Kandalama were down below us. Without Mahaweli water this whole region would have been a drought-struck arid waste like the lands we had passed over.

I knew the motor and rail roads of the areas over which we had just passed. I had journeyed on them many many times. I thought I knew my Ceylon (Sri Lanka) but the perspectives that unfold when one views the scene from a helicopter -- flying not too high -- are totally different. No wonder the epic poets of old placed Ravana and Rama in flying chariots to give expression

to the finest imagery that poetic licence could create with language ordinary mortals use.

I have little or nothing of the poet in me. And epics are not my line. But if Rama and Ravana had really travelled the way we did, they would have known the beauty of Sri Lanka even in her driest mood. There have been droughts in this island from the most ancient of times. There were droughts even when our mountains were fully wooded. The Mahavamsa has recorded droughts that drove people to seek refuge in neighbouring India. But droughts then were few and far between. But now man's devastation of nature has made droughts endemic. The forest cover has been destroyed. The montane catchment areas are bare, the hill sides are eroded and the top soil has been carried down to silt tanks and fill up river beds.

The Deduru Oya, which should have been full of water at this time, (if the North-East Monsoon had not failed), had only sandbanks to show. The river that wound its way below us, with little dribbles of water here and there, looked like a half-dead albino snake glistening in the sun.

As we flew over Habarana, a tourist complex stood out like an ugly and grotesque blotch on nature's bounty. Tourists may bring a few dollars to a few Sri Lankan

pockets for a few years, but I cannot see anything permanent or eternal in these alien encrustations on the true ethos of Sri Lanka. Tanks, dams, reservoirs, water channels, farm lands, trees, plantations are different—they are genuinely productive and are in keeping with the traditional way of life in this island. But these tourist complexes bring no prosperity to the people at large. To the villager and other humble folk, it means prostitution, narcotic peddling, poaching, stealing, cheating — everything that parasitism spawns.

Tourism, at the best of times, cannot survive for long in a developing country like Sri Lanka which has to import nearly everything the tourist uses or needs. It is an industry that soon turns counter-productive because it is essentially parasitic. We can sell our beaches and our sunshine only if we have an adequate supply of prostitutes (male and female), hard narcotics and good food — all at cheap prices. A recession turning into a slump in the developed affluent countries will bring a slow death to our already highly over-capitalised tourist industry. Maldives has more sunshine and better beaches to sell at cheaper prices. Prostitutes can be imported like they do canned meat.

to be continued.....

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Notices

**The Land Acquisition Act (chapter 460) as Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964 - Notice under section 7**

Reference No. 94 3232

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below/the land described in the Schedule below have been acquired. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No. 137 (part III) of 16.04.1981.

**SCHEDULE**

**Situation of Land**

In the village of Walliwala, Ward No. 6 of Walliwala within the U. C. Limits of Weligama, Weligama Korale West D. R. O.'s Division, Matara District.

**Name of Land**

Kahatagahawtta alias Rabinelgewatta - Ast. Nos. 244 and 248 Galle Road.

**Lot & Plan No.**

Lot I in the P. Plan No. 06/1005

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

Reference No. ATH 1/322

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No: 139 (Part III) of 30.04.1981.

**SCHEDULE**

D. R. O's Division : Colombo  
Situation : Ward 40, Thimbrigasyaya within Colombo Municipal Council limits

Village ; Kurunduwatte.

Name of Land : Assmt. No. 4, Jawatte Road.

Lot No. : 01-

Plan No. P. P. Co. : 572.

H. C. Gunawardane.

District Land Officer and Acquiring Officer. of Colombo District. The Kachcheri, Colombo

Date.- 6th April 1981.

GRAMA SASTRA - 40

**SCRIBBLINGS ON UVA**

by Gamiya.

**RANKONDA**

Rankonda, the Man of the Golden Spine says, and the villagers agree, that he is 105 years old. Some said that his horoscope reads at 1873. Born in Batugamanne, Ragala of the **berawayo** (drummer) caste, he is so short of hearing that "he cannot hear the drum-beat anymore". Wise man, and patriarch (mutta) of Deiyannewei, off the Buttala-Kataragama road, he is looked up to, by old and young of the area. They watch him eagerly as he goes with a springing gait along the bunds near fields of waving paddy.

He recalls a time when Monaragala had only two boutiques, Badal-kumbura only one and Deiyannewela was an old village. Once he took 15 bushels of paddy as surplus, and it fetched a record 75 cts a bushel. He spoke of a man of his day who sold a box of matches for two bushels so that the buyer would see the wonder of a match-lit fire. "I was a drummer years ago when the Kataragama procession was a wonderful event; thanks to Kataragama deviyo, I have lived long, but today I have a great fear. Years ago, there was a *dana* on a kaiyya, or collective basis".

He rattled on and on, unseeing, unheeding, and we recorded his second-childhood prattle. Here's the outcome. "What is this life today, when the rich get richer, the poor get poorer, the trader gets the day and the producer gets nothing. Take girls today. They are good and submissive, but some are adept at sewing, embroidery, *karmantha*. But they go together with men freely and openly, even before marriage. That is not good. Some people are going from bad to worse today. Others are getting better."

"Some people respect the police. Others attack the police, who poke fun at them and what they hold good. Or take fertilizer: some say their harvest goes to the dogs when fertilizer is used while others use straw ash for compost, with great success. With harvest and fertilizer, still there is no **metta** (friendliness). Few listen to **bana**; few go to the temple; few reform their lives. Only 1/10 of the people are good. Who feeds a poor beggar today? All seem to be

hoarding, full of *tanha*. Believe me, they will suffer. Honour your parents is a first injunction; so says the Buddha. Mathematics (*ganang*) says: 8 bushels—is one *amuna*, but Morality (*sila*) says. “give a little to your parents”.

Rankonda might be 85 or more. He may even be 100, as he says and the villagers approve, but his message seems perennial. There were tough men in those days, really. I recall old Dunugolle gederu, off Obbegoda where they raised the kurakkan of yore but had no kindly word for the dubious kurakkan preparations of today.

X X X

#### FILM FOCUS

### WATER & FIRE

One of the last of the film greats to be released in the last decade has last hit our screens, thanks to the Liberty Cinemas Ltd., and the National Film Corporation who have made it possible. This column has tracked the progress of this film for some time, and it can state unreservedly that very few productions have registered such a searing impact on the movie goers, so as to even keep them off the beaches, from their daily immersions, for fear of waking up later in the oesophagus of killer sharks! I have been skipping through the pages of the relevant novel, written by Peter Benchley, son of another novelist Nathaniel Benchley and a grandson of the well known humourist Robert Benchley to whom the following remark is acidly attributed; “It took me fifteen years to discover, I had no talent for writing, but I couldn’t give it up, because by that time, I was too famous”.

It has certainly not taken his grandson Peter, that long anyway, while on the literary road, he has worked as a reporter for the *Washington Post*, an associate editor of *Newsweek* and as a speech writer for the late President Johnson USA. His stories and articles have appeared in numerous magazines, including the *New Yorker*, and the *National Geographic Magazine*. **JAWS** is his first novel, his two previous books being a story for children and a book based on his trip around the world. Peter Grosvenor of the *Daily Express* was to the point and briefly so about what he thought about the

novel. He said “Pick up *Jaws* before midnight. read the first five pages, and I guarantee you will be putting it down breathless and stunned”. Well *Tribune* readers to get you into the mood, I will introduce you to the first few lines of the novel and you may take the rest of the ghastly story from the silver screen.

“The great fish moved silently through the night water, propelled by short sweeps of its crescent tail. The mouth was open just enough to permit a rush of water over the gills. There was little other motion, an occasional correction of the apparently aimless course, by the slight raising or the lowering of a pectoral fin — as a bird changes direction by dipping one wing and lifting the other. The eyes were sightless in the black and the other senses transmitted nothing extraordinary to the small primitive brain. The fish might have been asleep, save for the movement dictated by countless millions of years of instinctive continuity: lacking the flotation bladder common to other fish and the fluttering flaps to bear oxygen bearing water through its gills, it survived only by moving. Once stopped it would sink to the bottom and die of anoxia. A hundred yards off shore, the fish sensed a change in the sea’s rhythm — the vibrations were stronger now and the fish recognised prey. The sweeps of its tail quickened, thrusting the giant body forward with speed as it closed in on the victim”. The toothed terror understated in the book as a fish was a giant killer shark that froze and emptied the beaches of a small holiday resort in Long Island to a standstill and now over to the film, **JAWS** (*English*); A popular holiday resort, Amity Island, remains as tranquil as its blue waters, till a marauding 25 foot 3 ton Shark shatters the peace by picking its victims with a vicious ferocity in this Universal Production directed with a rare excellence by Steven Spielberg. The initial onslaught is by moonlight on a swimming and streaking beauty whose chewed remains are cast ashore. The Police Chief sizes up the tragedy and the cause of it, but runs into garrulous opposition from the Mayor and his cohorts when he attempts to close the beach temporarily for sea-bathers. A couple of victims more in quick succession and panic takes over leaving a deserted beach, and



open warrant to the Sheriff (Rod Steger) Brody, Shark-killer (Robert Shaw) Quint, and an oceanographer (Richard Dreyfuss) to have the voracious killer run down. Brody accepts the assignment with academic fervour, while Quint grasps it for a cash reward and Hopper bowing to the dissecting knowledge he has acquired of the finned foe he has to face as a service to his fellow men. The threesome set out to the deep for the rendezvous, reinforced to the hilt with all the equipment for the task, and a battle royal between Man and Fish gets under way on the high seas, when the man eater gets down to its bait, but with cunning, to 'radar' in the motives for the feed.

The resultant fury he unleashes, lashing around the vessel has seldom been captured on the screen with such venom and a rare technical brilliance. The gory outcome of the confrontation is for you to see and this column does not wish to divulge more of the shocks in your own visual interest. Suffice it to say however that tension mounts with every crimson ripple on the ocean, and eventually you will be pivoted to the gruesome struggle, to leave the cinema in a daze and may be with second thoughts about seaside ablutions. This tripple academy award winner has veered trifly from the novel proper, but with a purpose to take your mind off the trimmings and root it to the technical finesse of a fearfull story. Shaw, Schneider and Dreyfuss contribute immensely to capture the mood of this unusually brilliant film by their heroic portrayals. As suggested in the blurbs, spare your children the intense impact of the film, but for those amongst you, who share with Quint, the all knowing, that there is no such thing as a smart fish, wisdom will certainly dawn to the genius of at least one such, who kept returning to the fray to outwit them all in the Amity waters. And just another thought when you are long out to sea by yourself, keep the beachline within reach, for you could yet keep loving the sea from the beach in one piece without getting that far -- Get it?

*THEE (FIRE) Tamil*; This film produced by Maharaja Organisation locally and shot in Sri Lanka is a super dazzler, that should hypnotise all action lovers. The photographer is eyecatching to a fault, and takes in all

our scenic splendour as very few films have done before. As the eldest son of a Trade Union leader (AVM Rajan) who pawned the interests of his followers under blackmail, and shied away from his family in shame, Kanth and his brother reached manhood in the maternal loving care of their mother (Sowkar Janaki) who brings them up between toil and tears. While her elder son who finds the scars of his early life difficult to erase, grows up with revenge and resentment in-built in him, the other (Suman) treads the path of righteousness. While the former is caught up in the coils of a capital smuggler, the latter becomes a Police officer who is assigned the task of eradicating the likes of his now notorious brother.

This conflict, thus inflicts the family and breaks into the open, while one becomes the hunted, and the other the hunter under the same roof. I will desert the outcome of the story here to dwell on the technical brilliance which needles the film. The screen glitters colourfully and literally too in the many sequences shot in and around the five star hotels that stud Sri Lanka. In between of course, there are the fierce Karate chops and fisticuffs in which Rajani Kanth excels beyond expectations. *Thee* has certainly been a costly production and has been returning rich dividends in our country as well as in India, with Major Sundararajan, Thengai Seenivasagan and Manorama too lending their reputed talents to enrich the story. While Sri (Nāeya) Priya emerges rather colourless, it is left to our local starlet Tamara (Shoba) Subraminiam to inject that amount of glamour that the story needed. Her cabaret sequence was a very polished one that came easy on the eye, she certainly exuded much promise in this her first film I believe, and packs enough curvaceous and histrionic talent that should lift the local Tamil film scene from the doldrums it is in now. This costly production has set the box office on fire too and is assured of a long run. Even if action is not your meat, taste this film for its visual brilliance -- you will assimilate it all the same. Well done Maharajas for this visual venture.

JAMES N. BENEDICT

# CONFIDENTIALLY

## SMOKING OR HEALTH?

IS IT NOT NECESSARY TO PLACE ON RECORD the fact that **Contact** in his **Roundabout** column in the **Sunday Observer**, March 29, had an interesting piece entitled "Smoking or Health"? That this is what is said: "It was good reading in Friday's **Daily News** that no less a person than President **tayawardene** himself had come out against **Jobacco** smoking. He had asked the Media's help in this aspect and "**Contact**" can take pride that he has been one of those few local newspapermen who had campaigned against smoking. In this context we refer to a recent review of the World Health Organisation's campaign 'Smoking or Health - the Choice is Yours' which has come out with some startling facts of how people in the poor countries are being induced to take to the tobacco weed. The study reveals that although there has been a marked decline in cigarette smoking in Europe and North America there has been an alarming increase in the habit in developing countries. And the reason given for increased smoking in the Third World is fantastic - Emulation of the life styles practised in industrial countries deliberately promoted by tobacco companies'. People in Third World countries for instance, are being persuaded through massive advertising that affluence is compatible with smoking and that affluent people normally smoke, the WHO study says. On the other hand, current estimates suggest that non-smokers now outnumber smokers in Britain, Sweden and the United States. In the US alone 30 million have successfully abandoned the habit and it is said that only one in three smoke in the United States now. The report notes that while in developed countries there are strict controls on promotion, it's virtually out of control in the developing countries. Sri Lanka and Kenya are cited as two exceptions of the Third World for enforcing obligatory health warnings and ban on smoking in public places like cinemas and buses. What's most important to developing countries is the observation in the report that some companies are marketing stronger and more addictive brands in the Third World than in Western countries. For example one brand contained only 18 mili-

grams of tobacco tar when sold in the West but 31 miligrams when marketed in Kenya. Nicotine content was 0.9 percent per milligram when sold in the West but 2.0 percent when sold in Kenya. Medical men point out that while Sri Lankan smokers are given a health warning on the packs, they are clueless about the tar and nicotine content of their cigarettes which are claimed to be cancer inducing substances'.

That there is no doubt that **Contact** has also drew attention to the fact that Total doctors who had made a song and dance about the dangers of smoking have lapsed into total silence and inactivity after an initial fan-fare of publicity? That apart from spotlighting the health hazards in smoking, **Tribune** has specifically focussed attention on the damage to our agriculture and forest lands by cultivating tobacco instead of much needed food crops? That to add to what **Contact** has pointed out that in Malaysia, according to the same WHO report, more money is spent on cigarette advertising than on any other form? That in Nigeria, the cigarette manufacturing industry has launched 'a massive marketing campaign'? That the world cigarette market is dominated by seven multinational corporations? That between them they spend £1 billion a year on advertising alone? That tough strictures on advertising in Western states have forced these firms to turn to Third World countries? That according to the British American Tobacco Company's latest yearly report there has been "considerable growth" in cigarette sales and profits in Asia, a boom in cigarette manufacturing in Brazil and Argentina and "significant increase" in profits in El Salvador and Honduras? That today WHO is working in conjunction with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) on a study to compare the financial benefits of cigarette manufacturing with the health cost of smoking-related diseases. That the WHO hopes that as more and more information flows from WHO and other international organisations concerned with health, smoking will be greatly reduced and that manufacturers will become more responsive to expert opinion on the dangers to human health from excessive cigarette smoking?