

# TRIBUNE



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Telephone: 36111

## Letter From the Editor

THE COVER we have a picture of a person who is usually described by political analysts as a "floating voter". She has voted in every election since 1965. She says that she and the likes of her had gone to the polls in the full hope that things would be made better for them. In 1965 and 1970 nearly all of them in their little shanty town in one of the suburbs of Colombo had voted for the SLFP. In the 1977 general elections and the Municipal Councils elections thereafter they had voted for the UNP. But most, if not all of them, did not vote on June 4 for the DDC elections. *Why?* This is the question a *Tribune* Investigator asked her. "What is the use...? What do we get out of it? Things are getting worse everyday... Milk tea with sugar is now a dream of the past. Even plain tea without sugar is a rare luxury... we can recite our woes and we also repeat what the UNP in which we had placed so much faith tell us now... they say that the Party is aware of the difficulties caused by the cost of living shooting up and up everyday: that the Party knows of seven and a half million people who earn less than Rs. 300 a month... but the Food stamps today do not even give marginal relief... salary increases are swallowed up by higher prices... it is true that the government subsidises season tickets for bus and train commuters... they help but not very much. Free education, free health services and a few other benefits also help... but as against these talking points our hardships continue to increase by leaps and bounds. We eat less and the kind of food we can now afford cannot keep us healthy... what makes our blood boil is to see a few of the new rich, many of them foreigners, living opulent lives the like of which this country has never known..." This litany of woes and the unmistakable indignation against the display of wasteful opulence of a small class which is conspicuously becoming richer and richer ever day is a writing on the wall no one can miss seeing. This mood among a growing number of ordinary people is undoubtedly the reason why the polling in the 11 districts in the South, West and Centre of the island was so poor. In 1977, 86.3% of the registered voters had exercised their franchise. At no election has it ever been less than 80%. In 16 districts on June 4, the overall turnout was around 47%. In the 6 districts in the North and East, with sharp UNP-TULF contests, about 78% had voted, but in the 11 other districts the average was just under 40%. The absence of a serious contest in these 11 districts may be one reason for this voter apathy. The boycott call by the SLFP, CPSL and LSSP may be another reason. But there is also no doubt that a large number of UNPers (not merely the floating and uncommitted) kept away from voting. They did not want to respond to the UNP appeal to flock to the polling booths, no doubt to register a silent protest. The UNP and the governmental hierarchy will be foolish not to take serious note of this.

# TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review  
Founded in 1954

Editor:  
**S. P. Amarasingam**

Every Saturday

Vol. 25 - No. 43

June 13, 1981

43, Dawson Street,  
Colombo 2.  
Tel: 33172

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

—The Vote	p. 1
EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK	
—DDCs, ASEAN	p. 2
FILM FOCUS	
—Heaven Can Wait	p. 4
NGUVU	
—Nuts, Thefts, Lies	p. 6
CHRONICLE	
—May 17-25	p. 7
RIGHT MAN	
—For ICJ	p. 11
IN A HELICOPTER—5	
—Command Structure	p. 12
ORGANIC FARMING	
—Essential	p. 14
DUST BOWL?	
—In The East	p. 17
LETTER	
—Foreign Service	p. 19
GRAMA SASTRA—4	
—Officials	p. 20
NATO	
—Nuclear Weapons	p. 21
INDIRA GANDHI	
—Soviet Union	p. 22
CONFIDENTIALLY	
—Tea Board—2	p. 24

★ DDCs ★ ASEAN

*Colombo, Sunday, June 7:* Owing to the unfortunate turn of events in Jaffna the Government declared a state of emergency, first in the Jaffna district and then throughout the island. A censorship has been imposed mainly about developments in Jaffna. Stemming from the tensions and difficulties that had arisen on polling day, the election results for the Jaffna DDC have still not been released. The results for the other electorates (16 in number) have been released, but not the number of spoilt votes. It will take us a little time to complete the final computations about these results and make comparisons with the 1970 and 1977 general elections. But in the meantime, a few general observations about the trends that have surfaced at the DDC elections may be of interest to our readers. It will be recalled that of the 24 District Councils, the UNP was returned uncontested in 7. There were contests in 17, 6 in the North and East and 11 in the rest of the island. In the 5 DDC in the North and East where the results have been announced, the TULF won the majority and the chairmanship by polling the highest number of votes, but in two of the five viz., Batticaloa and Trincomalee, the UNP controls the Councils because it has more MPs who become ex-officio members. For instance, in Trincomalee, the TULF had obtained 44,692 votes as against UNP's 42,388, but here the UNP has two MPs to TULF's one, and the Council will therefore have 3 UNP members to 2 TULF. In Batticaloa, too, the situation is the same, but in Mannar, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu, the TULF has the chairmanship and also the majority. But it is significant that in these three, the UNP captured two seats each—the same number as the TULF.

IN THESE 5 DISTRICTS, 78% of the registered number had voted. But in the other 11 districts, the average was under 40% with some districts having polls well under 30%. Analysts in some newspapers have been at pains to show that the UNP had got 66.92% of the votes polled in 16 districts, that the TULF had similarly got 48% in 6 districts

(where the UNP got 47%) and that the 8 districts where the JVP had contested, the UNP had got nearly 73% and the JVP about 20%. The JVP has now representation in 6 Councils with 13 members. It is not possible without the results from Jaffna to make a final evaluation of the attitude of Tamil voters in the North and East towards the cry for Eelam. But in the six districts in the North and East where 78% went to the polls, the voting pattern is significant. In the Eastern Province the UNP got 168,299 and the TULF 156,869 votes. There were also 16,698 votes for Muslim Independents. In the Northern Province (Mannar, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu), the TULF got 348,322 votes, the UNP 341,140 and the Tamil Congress 2,429 votes. Taking the 5 districts in two provinces where the results have been announced, the TULF got 205,301 and the UNP 202,457. It must be noted that in the North and the East, the SLFP, CP and LSSP (which boycotted the elections in the 11 districts) called upon its supporters to vote for the TULF on an anti-UNP basis.

The JVP has now succeeded in getting a national political status. It has representation in Anuradhapura (1), Galle (2), Hambantota (1), Gampola (3), Badulla (2) and Colombo (4). Though it will be claimed by some that the JVP was able to win these positions of strength because the SLFP, CPSL and LSSP did not participate in the elections, the fact is that the JVP has arrived on the national parliamentary level and is likely to stay there. If the JVP does not merely indulge in revolutionary rhetoric and gets down to the day to day problems of the common people, it will offer a serious challenge to the traditional Left in 1983 when the latter attempt to stage a comeback. The Tamil Congress fared badly—it lost all its deposits in every district it contested and where the results have been announced. **In sum, the results of the election provide no comfort for the UNP—a very big negative vote has been registered against it by people who refused to respond to the Party's call for a total poll. The UNP however can rightly claim that it has strengthened its position in the East and gained a foothold in the North. The SLFP, CP and LSSP have only themselves to blame for**

**their sterile boycott politics which did not succeed in making the DDC elections a "farce". Very nearly 50% of the total electorate has voted, and this is much higher than the poll percentages in many developed (old democratic) countries of the West. By their boycott, the SLFP-CPSL-LSSP have also opened the door for the JVP to become a nationally important party.**

WHILST FURTHER and fuller comment on the elections will be possible only after all the results are in, and after the reactions of the different parties are known, there are happy signs, at the time of writing, that rain has started falling in the catchment areas of the hydrel reservoirs. But it is not only the power crisis that has brought difficulties to the industrial and commercial circles in the city. The credit squeeze imposed by the Central Bank has, in spite of modifications and amendments, thrown all trading into a maelstrom of uncertainty and paralysis. The bottom has dropped out of the coconut market, in spite of the valiant attempt to export nuts. Rubber continues to be in the doldrums after the new Rice-Rubber pact with China was signed. And traders and exporters of tea have been hamstrung into inactivity by the credit squeeze. In the meantime hopes are being entertained that Sri Lanka's application for membership in ASEAN will receive a favourable response when ASEAN's Foreign Ministers meet in Manila on June 17. Comments in newspapers in ASEAN countries have shown no enthusiasm for Sri Lanka's application. *Asiaweek* of June 5 in a punch note in its column *Frontlines* pointed out: "Sri Lankans notion that it might join ASEAN hasn't found any vocal supporters in the grouping, which isn't surprising. This slightly nonsensical idea has been mooted several times before and has now been announced as policy aim of the Colombo government. Apparently, no one in ASEAN has risked offending the Sri Lankans by pointing out an elementary geographic flaw in their dream plan, not to mention obvious priorities if the grouping does decide to expand. Brunel can look forward to some sort of status with ASEAN, if and when it so chooses. But before non-Southeast Asian nations are considered for membership—if indeed they are—the logical addition would

be Burma". The clippings from other ASEAN newspapers which have just started coming in are most revealing. We will publish some of them in due course. **Whilst it does not seem easy for Sri Lanka to jump into the ASEAN bandwaggon, the USA has dashed to the ground one of Sri Lanka's cherished dreams, viz., to host the Conference on the Indian Ocean in Colombo this year. Reports from the UN headquarters show that the Reagan administration has refused to participate in any such conference. To have such a Conference at this juncture without the USA will be like staging the play Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark.**

TOWARDS THE END of this month, Sri Lanka will also have an important visitor from China in Huang Hua. He will come after a visit to India. Peking is now waging a diplomatic offensive in South Asia primarily to strengthen its concept of a global anti-Soviet front. Even Zia of Pakistan, a country which is very close to China and is wooing the USA, made repeated statements during the visit of the Chinese Premier that his country will not join an anti-Soviet *cordon sanitaire*. And, what was even more surprising was that he said that Pakistan will not be a conduit for American arms to Afghan rebels. Sri Lanka has now applied for membership in the avowedly anti-Soviet ASEAN, but our Government will do well to ponder on the implications of participating in the anti-Sovietism of ASEAN in a South Asian setting. Even Pakistan is wary about adopting an open anti-Soviet stance. Sri Lanka will also do well to stick to its non-alignment even of the equidistance variety. And when Huang Hua calls on Sri Lanka to join the anti-Soviet crusade, it will be necessary to ask him about the fate of our tea which is being displaced in many markets (Australia already) by Chinese (black) tea. As long as it was a rice and rubber barter agreement, we had balanced trade with China. Now, if there is to be trade, the balance will be against us. We do not know how our Special Committee of Secretaries will be able to formulate plans for balanced trade with ASEAN countries. A magic wand alone will make the impossible possible.

After we went to press, the state of emergency has been lifted, and the developments and situation in Jaffna has been discussed in Parliament. *Tribune* will publish articles and comments about the happenings in Jaffna and other allied matters in the next and other subsequent issues.

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FILM FOCUS

## Heaven Can Wait

I THOUGHT the best person to give his comments on HEAVEN CAN WAIT (Savoy) was my friend E. C. T. Candappa, who once suffered an illusion that ecclesiastical messengers were celestial beings and was brought down to earth with a thud. He writes: "My cinematic experience which covers about forty years of film going recalls many films with similar themes, and *Heaven Can Wait* matches the best and excels many. This one has the advantage of a very sophisticated script (by Buck Henry who co-directed it with leading actor Warren Beatty). The simple story line of the transmigration of the soul of a quarter back football player (Joe Pendleton) declared prematurely dead owing a celestial bureaucratic blunder is buttressed by some telling comments on terrestrial mores, especially relating to big business and high life is carried by some truly deft direction, superb photography and sensitive acting by such stars as James Mason, Julie Christie and Jack Warden. Everything could have been ruined by heavy handedness, yet all is saved by a gentle touch. It is a rare film of subdued power and tenderness clean and bracing as mountain air and equally invigorating. However poor houses were an indication that few are inclined to climb such heights. It is a credit to the film that an implausible plot is acceptable, and to its good humoured approach that its satire is dispensed in terms of quiet irony. At a superficial level, it is a film for sports fans, especially rugby, football fans."

E. C. T. who took in *Taxi Driver* as it ticked away to the end of its successful and memorable ride at the Regal himself quotes the doyen of discriminating film goers, Johnny Carvalho, who said, "Not since Citizen Kane have I seen such superb camera angles". To which ECT adds: "I went primarily for a look at Robert de Nero and found he was but a part, though a brilliant part, of a meticulously directed film. Director Martin Scorsese maximises the peculiar capacity of the cinema to scrutinize detail, and does so with discrimination and telling effect. The story of the sick taxi driver who plots to kill a US Presidential candidate and prepares with the same thoroughness as De Nero for a film role, desists at the last moment but does part of the President's job instead, of cleaning up a part of the City of its social pollution, is told at a taxi pace, varied according to the situation. It is an index of the power of the spell cast by the film that it kept the audience glued to their seats. You can't do otherwise considering who's at the wheel".

**THE SWARM** (*English*): An Irwin Allen Production, with a high powered cast, and 2,200,000 buzzing bees that spin a plausible story, opening a window to the shape of things that could overtake humanity, if the ecological and environmental balances are tampered, without a thought for the future generations. Yet unborn. A swarm of killer bees invade a nuclear powered controlling centre in America, and decimate the staff in toto by their death dealing stings and sheer force of numbers that cloud the skies before they retreat to their hideout. Into this grim and gruesome scene steps cautiously an air commando unit under the touch command of one (Richard Widmark), to look around for any survivors, with the computers still bleeping away, till a Dr. Craine (Michael Crane) an entomologist breaks on the scene to recount details of the winged attack that had taken place, predicting that more would follow if immediate countermeasures are not taken to eradicate the menacing mass. He is placed in charge of operations from the very top, and the air force chief bows to it with doubts and suspicions. A Professor (Henry Fonda) who is also the final word on the habits of the insect in question is flown in as a first step, and while precautions are being

TRIBUNE, June 13, 1981

activated step by step, the bees maintain their sporadic onslaught on individual groups and towns, with calculated precision which are taken unawares by the sudden swoops. All experiments keep failing till Dr. Craine hits on a hunch, that is directed at an Achilles Heel instinct of the bees who respond positively. You might look for the panacea and what follows on the screen, but the photography was excellent as the advance and retreat of the swarm were all scooped up with a technical finesse that is rare. There were sagging moments in the story, particularly in the laboratory sequences, but the bees spread their wings over these shortcomings, every time they closed in for the kill. The cast was impressive but not tapped to the utmost and a few opportunities went awry. Veterans Olivia de Havilland and Fred Macmurry shed a nostalgic glow to the film, although rather irrelevantly so. The bees however outshone them all under the director's command, as they darkened the horizons with murderous toxins, before they declared total war on peaceful citizens for a while, and descended in clusters—sequences that have to be seen to be believed. So take some time off for the film. It was incredibly deadly while it lasted!

**SATARA PERA NIMITHI** (*Sinhalese*): A bold film in the hands of Director Sunil Ariyaratna, whose cine creations retain an exclusive originality, and seldom disappoint. Set to the strains of pirith incantations that serve as a backdrop to glorify the four-fold precepts of the Enlightened One, the story is centred around a young bhikku (Dharmasiri Bandaranayake) who having entered the higher halls of learning, fights a losing battle when faced with the sensuous ways of all flesh, which befriends him in the curvaceous form and figure of pretty Teannita Somarawira. Shedding his robes, he takes the latter in marriage, and at the summit of his marital fulfilment, encounters a traumatic and tragic revelation that sends him back post haste to the vocation, he had deserted. I thought Dharmasiri gave an excellent portrayal of a young bhikku at sixes and sevens in his personal life, and Teanita did not waver either, but it was Joe Abeywickrema, who in his detachment as a ferry man who saw the vicissitudes of life in philosophic isolation by the *Ganga Addara*, who stole the sequences from the main characters, although briefly.

TRIBUNE, June 13, 1981

His caustic references to women in general who appear in many changing veils when out to trap their man, proved convincing in the context of the story proper. Neil wore that amount of quixotic charm as a home wrecker, while Sriyani Amarasena as the priest's widowed mother, to whom fate dealt all the unkind cards in the slums she survived in, with a tottering family, shone as usual to expectations. The film skated on ice in taking on a delicate theme, to get its message across very well. As a Wesak release, I understood the film ran into a little storm, but the story in my opinion is for all seasons with a bouquet for the virtues of a celibate life. Try not to miss it—you should like this one.

**SHAFTS BIG SCORE** (*English*): This MGM production is pandering mainly to the popularity of a coloured find, Richard Roundtree, as the story gets off to a confusing start. As shaft, the private tea with a 007 style, Roundtree moves in a triile late from his frolics in bed, to answer the SOS of a friend who decides on suicide in the interval. The cops get there earlier, to pick up the remains, of one who blows up having packed his pounds in the coffin. The local mafia too joins in the hunt for the money and the cops step aside to let them have it out with shaft. Action is rationed out evenly, but a helicopter chase in the final moments is the *piece de resistance* of the film.—the latter will neutralise all its shortcomings and novice Roundtree's too. Its your choice now.

James N. Benedict

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## Exhibition Of Caricatures by BEVIS BAWA

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*Admission Free*

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## Nuts, Theft And Lies

by Bwana Rafiki

Two days ago I saw a whale which had been dragged into shallow water at the entrance to the Chilaw lagoon by fishermen. Part of its body had subsided in the sand a fisher friend told me but it could use one of its flippers which it occasionally moved horizontally backwards and forwards under the water as I stood beside it. Its eye was shut fast, but it could be persuaded to open its mouth to its fullest extent. I felt sorry for the animal because it was as helpless as a man nailed to a cross. Later that day I was responsible for a man almost losing his life. He was drowning while I and a vast crowd of people watched him from the bridge. Not one of us could be persuaded to go to his help until eventually a man whom one or two people afterwards said was called Shelton swam out to him from the bank. By this time the drowning man had been so long under water I would not have given him a chance of survival. However, as far as I know he survived his ordeal.

The current picking which has been just concluded, of the 6th crop of coconuts must have seen one of the fastest picks this estate has known, the hundred acres of the combined estates picked in three days, the crop certainly the smallest ever, although the nuts are big, and yet we had to promise to increase the pickers' wages before the head *baas* would agree to come again in two months' time. The pittance we shall get for these coconuts, in spite of the enhanced price of nuts, will certainly not be nearly enough to enable us to carry on. This is where Providence always comes in and so I am not worrying. In fact the disappointing crop has its advantages, for it will enable me for one both to accept gladly certain changes forced on me by others and to initiate other changes myself all with a view to economy, as I shall probably duly record in *Nguvu*. Providence always works to the good. Even bad governments play their part in this process.

What a day, the day I have written about, the feast day of the Dumb Ox who years after his death was accorded the title Angelic Doctor and lived in the 13th century. To start with, on the home front there were great changes in my establishment, certainly a matter of great economy if it lasts. I did not plan the changes, but I accepted what I had to do consequent of certain decisions of others. Taking account only the personalities of the persons involved they were certainly not changes that I welcomed. However, if I can make it a little clearer, they had made their decision and I made mine. This had to occur of course on the morning of the Visiting Agent's visit, before he arrived. The people involved had done me grandly and loyally for my father's visit some days before when there was a similar crisis on then but this time they seemed adamant and not likely to change their minds.

Both the people involved are boys, sons respectively of a watcher and a milker on the estate. So I called in the wife of our newest employee, and an employee herself, to do the cooking, and what a great job she made of it. The trouble has had to do with the cost of living, theft about the house and among the provisions, a house in an appalling state of dirt, and so on and so on. I complain that I have to constantly hand out money for our food and that I do not see food commensurate with the money that I am asked to provide, that three people do not seem to do the work that one person used to do in my bungalow, that I cannot keep biscuits or a plantain to let it get ripe. My former employees' response to all this was to say in the case of one that he would not enter the kitchen, and in the case of the other that he would not enter the house. So there you have it. Fine lads both of them in other respects and reliable in many ways too.

Well, when writing I do seem to take a long while to get to the point. Further, when leaving the estate, unless I leave at dawn, I seem chronically unable to get away. It may be because I spend so little time here that my conscience plays on me for leaving yet again once more. Yet I think it is a mistake to get stuck in a rut. I think it is hard to break out of this habit and I think one must make an



effort to do so. It is very tempting to run along a line, a railway line, where you cannot deviate. I have already ploughed a deep furrow between Colombo and the estate. And yet on the other hand there is the parable of the narrow door and the broad road that leads to hell. You have to get to heaven through the narrow door. I think the truth is that life must be lived in depth and furrows are not deep. It is a mistake to live on one place and neglect the others for man is of many parts, any man and every man. Yesterday a watcher tried to tell me that if he was to do his job properly and stop thieving by others, he must lie about the quantity of nuts stolen, and that the police demanded he do so.

Needless to say I protested. I am a day late writing this last paragraph for I quite forgot about it yesterday which was as well for I would have been just too tired to react, but by delaying I am able to record what two of my cousins had to say on the subject of lying for in just a couple of words one of them made it very clear that one is not justified lying even to secure a conviction however common the habit, and as for the police, the other made it clear that corruption among the police is by no means confined to our country alone. I had better drop the matter here except to say that I have had several robberies on the estate recently including housebreaking and that in spite of it being a country place rendering detection more easy, in no case has the loot been traced by the police. Years ago when a thief was caught by the police with goods on him, he got off and the stolen articles are still lying in a court precincts.

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## SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

### May 17 - 25

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—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLDP—Sri

Lankadipa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chintamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakra; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

**SUNDAY, MAY 17:** The Government has decided to release Rs. 60 million to pay for urgent drugs and dressing requirements of government hospitals and also keep the patients provided with their meals. Foreign Minister A. C. S. Hameed has been invited by the United Nations to be a member of an important inter-government mission to canvass support for the UN Interim Funds for Science and Technology for Development—SO. A special report to greet the Queen of England when she visits Lanka later this year will cost 25,000 pounds Sterling in foreign exchange; at the present rates of exchange that will be around one million rupees; the special report is to be published in the *London Times* owned by Australian press tycoon Rupert Murdoch; in a letter to the International Division of the *Times*, the Minister of Finance has agreed to authorise the release of a sum of 25,000 pounds to meet the cost of this report; the Minister has also directed the *Times* to ensure that the reporters who will arrive in Lanka will make their reports personally to him and discuss the format of their reports as well as the main articles. A Thai, reported to have visited Sri Lanka on seven previous occasions, was yesterday nabbed by Customs officials while attempting to smuggle out a large number of "geuda" stones. Prime Minister R. Premadasa returned last night from a four-nation tour which he described as highly successful; he told the large gathering at the Colombo Airport that the leaders of the four ASEAN countries, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand had agreed on bilateral trade with an emphasis on removing the balance of trade which was against Sri Lanka, and greater economic cooperation; Mr. Premadasa was met at the Airport by Acting Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando and other Ministers, Deputy Ministers and MPs. The Ministry of State has called for an immediate investigation, to ascertain whether Sri Lanka's image is now being damaged by the notoriety Colombo is gaining as the Sin City—WK.

**MONDAY, MAY 18:** Vesak dawned at 3.12 a.m. to mark the 2,525th anniversary of the passing away of the Buddha; this day also celebrates the birth and enlightenment of the Bodhisatta, Prince Siddharta Gotama. The Central Bank has requested all foreign banks here to refrain from recruiting trained and experienced hands from the local banks without the sanction of the heads of the respective local banks. The approximate availability of water for power upto yesterday was only for 11 days, the Ceylon Electricity Board announced yesterday—*CDN*. Electricity consumers will once again have to face a tremendous increase in electricity rates with the industrial sector and commercial establishments having as much as a 100 percent increase; these astronomical increases which are likely to come into effect from August this year will be imposed as part of a massive plan drawn up by the Ceylon Electricity Board to avert a power crisis in the future especially in 1982 and 1983. All export-oriented industries will be exempted from the credit squeeze; this was decided at a meeting Senior Deputy Governor of the Central Bank Dr. H. N. S. Karunatileke had with heads of commercial banks last week—*SU*. No papers will be published tomorrow, May 19.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20:** There is power now to last only eight days; the energy situation is deteriorating fast and as at yesterday the reservoirs were only four per cent full, Power and Energy Ministry Secretary James Lanerolle said last night. Colombo's Mayor Sirisena Cooray said yesterday that the Government was not giving the Municipal Council any money for the purchase of equipment for the clearing of garbage in Colombo; he had asked for 12 million yen out of the 380 million yen line of credit from Japan to buy equipment and lorries to replace the 20 year old fleet but without success he said. President J. R. Jayewardene as Minister of Power and Energy, has directed the Ceylon Electricity Board to permit Vesak illuminations today also; there will be no power cut between 6 and 6.30 p.m. today. The Kelaniya University Council yesterday empowered its Vice Chancellor to remove the suspension order on six students imposed by the Council at its last meeting—*CDN*. Mrs. Punitham Tiruchelvam expired on Tuesday after having ailed for sometime; she was the wife of the

late M. Tiruchelvam, QC. Today is D-Day with only 10 days' energy left, the Meteorological Department will forecast when the long-awaited South-West Monsoon will break; last morning, weathermen sent up a massive wind-tracking balloon; data transmitted from its sensitive instruments indicated that there were strong winds and heavy cloud formations were moving towards the south western coastal belt; according to a preliminary analysis however, the chances are that the Monsoon will break this week; if it does, the two hydro power reservoirs—Castlereagh and Mousakelle—will certainly get a fair share of the rain; meanwhile, the Ceylon Electricity Board is making plans to meet any emergency; yesterday the CEB in a special appeal urged the public to further cut down on the use of electricity; the one-hour concession granted for Vesak has drawn quite a load off the national grid; estimates of the extra power consumed will be made today—*CDM*. The Ceylon Electricity Board prepared plans to extend the existing power cuts yesterday as the power situation reached the gravest point. Prime Minister Premadasa has directed that all garbage points on roadsides be eliminated immediately—*SU*.

**THURSDAY, MAY 21:** The dollar proceeds of a loan of US 18.8 million (about 345 million) can be used by Sri Lanka for the purchase of goods and services from the United States of America under a new type of assistance from that country. Sri Lanka will seek membership of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN); Government yesterday decided to ask Foreign Affairs Minister A. C. S. Hameed to take such steps as are necessary in consonance with the procedures of ASEAN; this was announced by Cabinet spokesman State Minister, Anandattissa de Alwis at a press briefing yesterday; at the Cabinet meeting a report submitted by Prime Minister R. Premadasa on his recent tour of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand was taken up for discussion; President J. R. Jayewardene pointed out that on March 1, 1961 (five years before ASEAN was established) he had moved a resolution in Parliament that government should either by conference or negotiation between the countries of South East Asia namely Burma,

Ceylon, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore initiate the inauguration of an integrated plan for industrial development of the area and for the purchase and sale of raw and manufactured goods processed by them; this was moved by President Jayewardene on that date as a private member's motion and was accepted by the House, Mr. de Alwis said. A 19-hour powercut will be imposed if rain fails to fall in the catchment areas in the next 10 to 12 days. There will be electricity supply only from 7 p.m. to 12 midnight. The Central Bank yesterday informed heads of commercial banks and the State owned Bank of Ceylon and People's Bank that the credit squeeze applied to the financing of non-essential imports and non-productive ventures. Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel submitted a memorandum giving details of 18.3 million US dollars loan for Sri Lanka under PL 480 for the year 1981; this money will be used to buy wheat from the United States. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide a loan of US 25 million dollars for development of System B under the Mahaveli program. A proposal submitted by the Minister of Agricultural Development and Research to establish an International Dambala (Winged Bean) Institute in Sri Lanka was approved by Cabinet yesterday. The International Development Association (IDA) will give Sri Lanka a loan of 73,300,000 Special Drawing Rights (about Rs. 1,520 million) for financing the Accelerated Mahaveli Program; the loan is interest free; repayable in 50 years and carries a grace period of ten years; a service charge of 0.75 percent per annum will be levied—*CDN*. The Defence Ministry yesterday asked the Police high command to make full investigations into certain incidents in the North and East in which a TULF MP and a number of UNP supporters had been attacked; Defence Ministry sources said that on Monday evening, Mr. Kadiravetpillai Thurairatnam, MP for Point Pedro and a number of his supporters were attacked at Kamkadandkulam when they were returning after a TULF meeting at Murunkan—*CDM*. While the power in the country's two main hydrels stood at 3.8 per cent—an eight day power supply at present consumption levels—the Ceylon Electricity Board yesterday deferred its plans to extend the existing power cuts. Police protection is to be given to a number of candidates contesting

the National Development Council elections in the North and East, after they were allegedly threatened by a terror group—*SU*.

**FRIDAY, MAY 22:** Sri Lanka's commitment to the democratic process and her pragmatic economic policies have been commended as a useful model for other developing nations in testimony given by US Deputy Assistant Secretary Jane Coon before a House Subcommittee concerning foreign assistance to Sri Lanka. The power situation is bleak; only 10.5 million units of power sufficient only for nine days is now available. Mr. James Lanerolle, Chairman of the Ceylon Electricity Board said yesterday; Mr. Lanerolle said that according to the Meteorological Department there were no signs of the South-West monsoon breaking and no rain had fallen in the catchment areas—*CDN*. Gunmen opened fire at a school teacher in Paranthan yesterday and robbed a payroll of Rs. 25,000 from him; the teacher was carrying the money from the bank to be paid as the salaries of the staff of the school. A Sri Lankan application to join the Association of South-East Asian Nation (ASEAN) could be considered at next month's ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting in Manila, Philippines Foreign Minister Carlos Romula said today. A five million rupee academy will be set up by the Government in Trincomalee to train Sri Lankans in seaman-ship; the move stems from an increasing demand for skilled personnel on foreign vessels. While the country's economy is threatened by the grimmest power crisis, the electricity consumption on Wednesday reached an alarming high of 4.5 million units, half of the stored energy in the two hydrel reservoirs; this alarming figure was the highest recorded since the introduction of the five-hour power cuts in February this year; the normal demand when the power cuts were not in force was around five million units—*SU*.

**SATURDAY, MAY 23:** From Monday the new power cut hours in Colombo and its environs will be from 6 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.; the present five and a half hour power cut is being extended to 8 hours in view of a grave power situation which has left us with reservoir capacity for only 8

days of limited supply. The Rs. 100 million Sri Lanka-Libya Agricultural and Livestock Development Company Ltd., formed on Wednesday under the Libyan Lanka Agreement will commence work immediately to uplift the livestock industry; Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman who took keen interest in the formation of the company has told the Libyans to bring in cash and expertise and help develop the livestock industry in Sri Lanka. The export of petroleum products and textiles has earned considerable foreign exchange for Sri Lanka while earnings from traditional exports have dropped during the last few years. Mr. M. H. M. Naina Marikar Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning told a seminar on Export Development at the Hotel Taprobane yesterday—*CDN*. The Special Presidential Commission probing acts of maladministration and alleged abuses of power is expected to decide this week whether notice should be issued on former SLFP Minister Hector Kobbekaduwa and former MP D. M. Jayaratne to appear before the Commission. Kiiinochi Police yesterday began a hunt in the Poonaga jungles for four suspects who robbed Rs. 25,000 in cash and cheques from two school teachers on Thursday; the gangsters staged the daring robbery on Thursday morning when they opened fire at the school teachers before making off with the money which was being taken from the bank school to pay the staff their salaries—*SU*.

**SUNDAY, MAY 24** The state corporation sector owed the Commercial Banking system a massive Rs. 3.8 billion at the end of the first quarter of this year, the Central Bank the said in a confidential report to the government. Of this sum, Rs. 2.6 billion were owing from dozen corporations from whom the respective commercial banks have found it increasingly difficult to make recoveries; the Central Bank has said many of these corporations have also exceeded the overdraft limits imposed on them, the report said; some of the big borrowers listed in the Central Bank report are, the CWE Rs. 485.1 million outstanding on March 31; the State Plantations Corporation Rs. 449.7 million; the JEDB Rs. 452.3 million; the Wellawatte Spinning and Weaving Mills (Rs. 73 million); the Building Materials Corporation Rs. 164.5

million, the Tractor Corporation Rs. 129.5 million, the National Textile Corporation Rs. 387.9 million; CTB Rs. 99.3 billion, Steel Corporation Rs. 115.5 million and the Weaving Supplies Corporation Rs. 80 million. The extended power cuts will drastically affect the country's industrial output with even the threat of lay offs in production looming on the horizon. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) could become embroiled in South Asian disputes if it admitted Sri Lanka as a member the *Straits Times* said today; in an editorial referring to this week's announcement by Sri Lanka that it wanted to join the five-member group, the newspaper said; "by admitting Sri Lanka ASEAN runs the risk of becoming embroiled in South Asian disputes which are none of our concern and should stay that way." Jaffna police are investigating into the alleged throwing of human excreta put into the TULF branch office at Ariyalai on Thursday night; according to police headquarters, several unknown persons who had broken into the office along the Kandy Road had committed the offence *SO*.

**MONDAY, MAY 25:** The five hour island wide power cut will not be extended to eight hours from today as earlier planned; this is because the South-west Monsoon has arrived in Sri Lanka: the Department of Meteorology announced that monsoon conditions had been firmly established from early morning yesterday; however rains had so far been confined mainly to the coastal regions and no rains as yet were falling in the hydrel catchment areas; it is expected that the rains would reach the hydrel catchment area during the current week; a spokesman for the Electricity Board said that the total water storage for hydro power generation which stood at the equivalent of 9.4 million units on Saturday morning had fallen to 7.6 million units early yesterday; he said the five hour island wide power cut will be continued and that the situation would be watched closely for further developments—*CDN*. Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that despite threats by multinational companies to increase the prices of infant milk foods, the CWE will continue to issue vitamilk at the present price of Rs. 4.95. The Telecommunication Department has reverted to the com-

puterised telephone calls billing system from the beginning of this year, although it had proved an absolute flop when it was introduced in 1972 and later abandoned. An eight ship US task force led by the 81,000 tonne aircraft carrier *Kitty Hawk* left Singapore for the Indian Ocean today after a four day visit, informed sources here said—*CDM*. There has been steady decline in the paddy purchases of the Paddy Marketing Board and the Food Department during the past few months; according to a Food Department spokesman, most of the farmers sold their stocks to the open market, since they were able to obtain higher prices—*SU*.



POINT OF VIEW

## The Right Man

by Veritas

SOME WEEKS BACK His Excellency the President stated at a public meeting that his United National Party Government believed in *Appointing the Right Man for the Job* and that the yardstick to making a selection of appointment to a job or post should not be loyalty to the party, friendship or relationship. It is interesting to find out to what extent these principles enumerated by the President have been observed in a recent selection made in Sri Lanka in support of the candidature to perhaps one of the highest Judicial offices in the International World. We refer to the appointment of a Judge to the vacancy that will arise in the Membership of the 15-member International Court of Justice situated in the Hague, Netherlands. This august body which has 15 members, each elected by the General Assembly of the United Nations a 9 year period of office, has representation from all over the world. The ICJ, as it is commonly called, has in its court eminent Jurists and Judges of great international repute. When a vacancy arises in the Court, each country member of the United Nations, is requested by the UN Secretary-General to nominate an individual for consideration to fill the vacancy. The country's nomination is done by a national group set up for this

purpose in each country. The nomination made by the national group from each country is then submitted to the Secretary General of the UN who then submits the candidates so proposed for a vote by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The candidate getting the most number votes is then appointed to the vacancy in the International Court of Justice. SRI LANKA has also nominated a candidate for this vacancy in the ICJ. The Sri Lankan nominee is Mr. H. W. Jayewardene Q.C.—a brother of the President. The Selection Board (that is, the National Committee for Sri Lanka) consisted of the Chief Justice Mr. N. Samarakoon, Mr. M. Tennakoon (former Chief Justice and now Chairman of the Law Commission) Mr. R. Ranganathan, Q.C. and Mr. H. W. Jayewardene Q.C. We understand that there was one other candidate before the Selection Board, namely Dr. C. G. Weeramantry—an eminent Sri Lankan who is now working in Melbourne, Australia, as Professor of Law at Monash University. Dr. Weeramantry was formerly a Judge of Ceylon's Supreme Court and had left for Australia in 1972. During the past few years Professor Weeramantry has published several books and won international fame as a jurist of repute. He has kept Sri Lanka's flag flying very high. While conceding that Mr. H. W. Jayewardene is a brilliant lawyer and perhaps the best civil lawyer in Sri Lanka today, it is argued that the membership in the International Court of Justice in the Hague is more suited for legal scholars and jurists and not practising lawyers and that in that respect Professor Weeramantry's claim for candidature could not be easily overlooked. It is not our purpose to pass judgement on the type of bio-data that is best suited for candidature to the ICJ. But must be appreciated that several Asian countries will fight for this vacancy since it is the vacancy to the Asian seat in the ICJ and any Sri Lanka candidate must be strong enough to contend with other Asian candidates especially from India, Singapore, Malaysia etc. It is in that background that some feel that Professor Weeramantry may have been a better candidate.

THIS, HOWEVER, is a point of view which is debatable. But the criticism of this selection of Mr. Jayewardene is not limited to the

conflicting claims of the two candidates. It goes far deeper and raises issues as to the correctness of the procedure adopted for the selection. The Committee of Selection has selected one of its own members. It is also well-known that the selection was not an unanimous choice. One of the members of the Selection Committee is said to have voted for Professor Weeramantry. In that background there was a 2-1 vote in favour of Mr. Jayewardene (since we assume that Mr. Jayewardene did not vote for himself). In that background, it can be argued that by Mr. Jayewardene continuing to be a member of the Selection Committee (while offering himself as a candidate) the only other candidate (Professor Weeramantry) was deprived of the impartial judgement (and perhaps the vote) of another member of the Selection Committee. had Mr. Jayewardene stepped down from the Selection Committee (since he was himself a candidate) then his vacancy on the Selection Committee could have been filled by another who may have voted for Professor Weeramantry. In such an event, there would have been a tie (a 2-2 vote) and the final outcome may have been different.

On 6th May 1978, Mr. R. P. Wijesiri the Hon. Second M.P. for Harispathuwa has also raised several questions in Parliament regarding this vacancy in the ICJ and the selection of the Sri Lankan candidate by the National Committee. He had wanted to know (a) who was selected; (b) who did the selection; (c) the names of the members of the Selection Board; (d) who were the candidates and (e) details of the bio-data of the individual candidates. The questions have not yet been answered and it would be interesting to know with what detail the answers will be given. Normally, Parliamentary questions receive only short answers. About two years ago also, when an European vacancy to the ICJ arose, Sri Lanka put forward Mr. H. W. Jayewardene as its candidate but he was not successful. It is learnt that the Sri Lankan Mission in the United Nations will lobby very hard to get its candidate appointed this time to the ICJ vacancy. It is also remoured that the Sri Lankan lobby for the chairmanship of the Law of the Sea Conference (which was contested by Sri Lankan Mr. C. W. Pinto on the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Shirley Amarasinghe) was not pushed to the bitter and

because Sri Lanka was more keen on putting all its weight and goodwill in the United Nations behind its ICJ candidature.

**This is only a point of view. Others may see it differently. After all, what we want is the right man for the job. We hope this comment of ours is taken in its proper spirit—with malice to none, with firmness in the right as God gives is to see the right etc. etc.**



IN A HELICOPTER—5

## Mahaweli Command Structure

by S. P. Amarasingam

THE CIRCUIT BUNGALOW of the Sugar Corporation at Kantalai is a neatly appointed and suitably furnished hostelry. From all appearances and from all reports it is well run. The changes are more than at circuit bungalows run by other government departments and corporations, but it is claimed that this is run without a subsidy from the Corporation itself. Most circuit bungalows are run at a loss on subsidies from the government or a corporation. I had a long and interesting chat with our helicopter pilot Manamperi. I discovered that he was the son of a former head of the Irrigation Department and who had also served on the Mahaweli Board. I had known his father way back when he was a junior Irrigation Officer. It is small world especially the world in Sri Lanka. Pilot Manamperi has done a great deal of flying inside Sri Lanka and from him I learnt about the topography and geography of many areas in the island. An aerial view often reveals much which is not visible whilst travelling on the road. There were several officers from the Mahaweli Board and Authority, but I could not talk to all of them. But Rohan Wijeyanaikē, a planter turned a Settlement Officer (my designation) in system H, impressed me as one who was anxious to concretise the dream of Minister Gamini Dissanayake has entertained ever since he

became the Minister of Mahaveli and also the Minister of Lands. He has wanted a realistic and "non-bureaucratic" approach to the problem of settling people on the land.

MANY LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEMES under all governments since Independence in this country have floundered because of basic defects not only in the selection of allottees but also the methodology adopted. What was even worse was the rigid approach of bureaucrats in charge (more often than not) contributed to the failure of these schemes. Readers will recall that *Tribune* has over the years published articles about the plight of many colonisation schemes which never got off the ground into maximum utilisation or even minimal profitability. In a piece entitled the *Mahaweli Journey* in the *Tribune* of February 28, speaking about one of the oldest colonisation schemes it was pointed out: "As we drove through the lands of the old Minipe Colonisation Scheme of D. S. Senanayake's days it was abundantly clear that the cultivation of paddy as well as other crops was neither intensive nor scientific. Most paddy fields—in spite of the availability of water—were full of weeds (there were only rare-exceptions of weed-free fields) and other crops were conspicuous by their absence. With the present costs of production and the unimaginative and minimal government floor prices, intensive and scientific cultivation of paddy or any other agricultural produce to obtain maximum yields was simply not possible for the ordinary colonist or peasant with no liquid cash reserves. He had to be satisfied with a subsistence level low-yield harvest whilst he sold his own labour power elsewhere to the mudalali or to government at construction sites. Nobody spent time or energy to grow subsidiary food crops, fruits or vegetables on their allotments because the produce could not be marketed at anything like reasonable prices. The paddy lands in the old Colonisation Schemes can, in fact, produce three times or more if proper cultivation methods are adopted. And subsidiary food and other crops can be multiplied several times if proper marketing facilities are assured. This is the situation in all the old colonisation schemes throughout the island and the settlers in the New Mahaweli areas will face the same problem. Unless the Government is able to solve the problem of marketing, agricultural

production will lag—even with all the water in the world. . ."

THIS IS A MATTER I had discussed with Minister Gamini Dissanyake on many occasions and he had always said that one major cause for the poor showing in the schemes was bureaucratic approach at management level circumscribed by FRs and ARs. For the settlement work in the Mahaweli, he has tried to handpick bureaucrats whom he felt would be different. But to add leaven to the team, he very correctly chosen some successful tea planters who had made a success of producing tea and marketing the produce. I had always been impressed by the way the old British entrepreneurs (of the colonial era) had organised large-scale plantations by utilising resources including labour (settled in lines) to obtain maximum production at the lowest possible cost. The *periya dorai* and his *sinna dorais* together with the KPs, Kanganies and other supervisors were on the field at the crack of dawn and they were on the field through the day—except for short spells in the office. Tea plantations had thereby become gold mines and the investment had yielded returns several times over. **But it was a different story in the case of most of our colonisation schemes.** The exceptions were few and far between and these had succeeded because of the men in charge, who were willing to work from dawn to dusk (and even thereafter) and attend to all matters connected with the scheme. But most officials put in charge of the schemes had carried the 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. rule to the colonisation sector and they had spent more time in their offices or at meetings or in travelling (circuits) than on the field. The results were tragic. The country's investments in colonisation schemes and agricultural projects have not generally yielded adequate returns. Every one who has examined governmental agricultural endeavours is agreed that red tape and bureaucratic *diktats* from ivory-tower offices were the main cause of their failure. Minister Dissanayake's experiment in using expertise from the higher ranks of plantation management in settlement work on the Mahaweli is a bold one. I hope it works. I expect this will meet with resistance from the entire bureaucratic machine that has dominated and monopolised all governmental activity. **Rohan Wijeyanaik**

struck me as one who would be able to bulldoze his way into making the settlements in Area H on the Mahaveli a working and profitable proposition. I had heard a great deal about Rohan when I was up in Nuwara Eliya some months ago talking to senior planters about the malaise in the planting industry. Rohan was one of the first to respond to Gamini Dissanayake's call for management expertise to spearhead the thrust of co-ordination and settlement in a field totally different to estate management. I only had a very brief conversation with him and I agreed to the suggestion that I should spend a day or two in the actual theatre of his operations. This I must do whenever the opportunity presents itself. More about Rohan after I visit system H in the Kalawewa region. I had visited Gal Oya in the early days when civil service giants like Shirley Amerasinghe, Kanagasundaram and I. M. de Silva had been in charge. I had discussed with them the castles they had hoped to build, and later I saw how far the reality of achievement was from what their dreams had envisaged.

DURING AND AFTER lunch, I asked Minister Dissanayake many questions about the concept of the Command structure for the Mahaveli Project. He said that since he took over the work of several allied Ministries—all centred on Mahaveli and settlement of lands—he has had to change and modify his thinking several times. He had already learnt many lessons in the crucible of actual experience. He said that he had finally, in consultation with others who were engaged in the projects, arrived at a form and structure which he thought would move the huge Accelerated Mahaveli Scheme into purposeful action. He said it was already moving in the right direction. He said it would be wrong to be rigid: further changes would be inevitable. Outlining this structure, he said, the Ministry was the apex mainly in policy decisions and financing. The executive arm of the Ministry was the Mahaveli Authority and under this came (i) the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau which monitored all the construction works of the contractors (reservoirs, dams, etc. etc.); (ii) the Mahaveli Board which was responsible for all the downstream construction work; (iii) another section (to be soon given a statutory status) was

in charge of settlement and the problems of settlers, draught animal projects, alternate energy resources etc. etc. The key figure in the Mahaveli Authority was Mr. Panditharatne whom I decided to see as soon as I was able to arrange a meeting. Minister Gamini Dissanayake has a clear picture of what has to be done to make Mahaveli work and also how he hopes to achieve it. He does not, happily, seem to be inhibited with rigidity or inflexibility, and he invited me to examine not only the Command structure but the entire operation in any way I wanted. He said he would welcome criticism and constructive suggestions.

The time was getting on to four o'clock. It was time to get back. When I got into the Helicopter, I did not realise that I was in for the biggest surprise of this trip.

*To be concluded...*

+ + +

## ORGANIC FARMING

# To Avoid Ecological Disaster

by Dr. F. K. R. Aluwihare

"Man has lost the capacity to foresee and forestall. He will end by destroying the earth"—Dr. Albert Schweitzer. "Charles Darwin considered the earthworm as nature's plough, which had been working long before man started ploughing the soil". (*Indian Express*, September 1980). For three or more decades Man's so called scientific farming has been slowly but surely killing this humble creature that many of you will remember from your lessons in biology. School room knowledge was no doubt not profound, but, at least we knew that this creature enriched and aerated the soil. More about the earthworm later. A letter from a correspondent Oswald Abeydera of Tissamaharama in the *Weekend* of May 17, 1981 describes how thousands of cattle have been "butchered" in the process of what is euphemistically called



"development". He writes of the plains known as "Kiri pattiya", which during the region of King Kavantissa were the grazing ground of the royal herds. He claims that "two decades ago thousands of buffaloes were found in Ruhunu, but the advent of the tractor dealt a death-blow to the cattle owners". They could not compete with "tractor farmers" and so they sold their cattle and, today, there is little sign of the once famous product for which Ruhuna was famous "Meekiri" so much so that buses coming into the district bring curd from Colombo and Batticaloa. He adds that "our district development has been confined to Peugeot 504s and four-wheel drive jeeps cruising round the areas but little evidence of the Lunugumvehere Scheme making our valleys green and our silos full of paddy".

DR. SUSAN GEORGE author of *How the Other Half Dies* delivered a talk to the SLAAS when she was in Sri Lanka last year and told us that according to present figures 5,500 small farms in the USA are "eliminated" every week since only the big farmer can survive. She advised Sri Lanka to develop an agricultural system based on her own traditional patterns. About the same time last year, agricultural experts from Japan met members of the National Youth Service Council and they also told these young people to use traditional methods for paddy cultivation; to avoid artificial fertilisers and pesticides saying that these inputs "deplete the soil quality and make it infertile". There is today in the USA a strong move by some farmers to abandon the use of artificial fertilisers, pesticides and weed killers and to practise what is called organic farming. J. L. Rochdale a pioneer in this field, as long ago as 1941 ran an 80-acre farm using compost made from farm waste, leaves and animal manure. He produced a magazine titled *Organic Gardening and Farming*. Today, these methods have been used successfully on farms up to 500 acres. Have you seen *Span* Magazine? It is available here, but is published in New Delhi by the American International Communication Agency. In September 1979 there was a thought-provoking article by a journalist William Tucker. He had written this feature earlier for the *Atlantic Monthly* and it was reproduced in *Span*. Here are a few extracts

that may interest Sri Lankan farming enthusiasts: "The organic position... is that, if the farmer keeps his soil in good condition, the plants will pretty well take care of themselves. Even conventional scientists are willing to admit that we still know almost nothing about what happens to nutrients when they pass from soil to plant, but we do know that the decline in organic matter in American soils is already having obvious effects in their loss of tilth and increasing hard pan conditions". He continues by saying that "the soil condition should be a primary concern if not the primary concern of the American farmer". Tucker emphasises the fact that organic farming can be "competitive economically" and will become even more so, since the price of chemical fertilizer is rising. "There is an enormous potential for dealing with a large portion of the country's environmental problems by recognising that organic materials are actually a resource and not waste. More than half the USA's river and ocean pollution is caused by human sewage that should be composted into an important agricultural product. The problem of animal manures is ten times as great in volume and could be treated in the same way". Apropos waste such as city garbage, research has shown "that one lakh of worms in a 32 square feet container have the potential to convert 300 to 600 kilos of waste into manure in less than four days (*Indian Express*—feature titled—*In Praise of the Earthworm*—S. Sharma September 1980).

OTHER VICTIMS of modern developments in agriculture are birds and bacteria—in fact all soil biota. William Tucker's article in *Span* related the experience of one Farmer Roman Wortman. One day when this Nebraskan farmer rode out from his yard, to spay his fields with a new pesticide he found that he was leaving dead birds behind him. He then rode back to his farmyard and found dead birds where he had sprayed just half an hour earlier. From that day in 1972 Wortman never used pesticide, weed killers or artificial fertiliser on his 320 acre farm, where the residues of nitrogen-fixing alfalfa, soybeans and clover are ploughed under after harvesting. He does extra cultivating to get rid of the weeds and relies on wildlife and beneficial insects to keep his pest population down to

manageable proportions. He does not disrupt the soil life every year by turning it over with a deep-cutting plough, but barely scratches the surface with a shallow chissel plough. Because of the increased amounts of organic matter, his soil has more tilth or plowability. More important, however, is Wortman's attitude towards farming, which he calls promoting life. 'I don't need the chemical companies selling me the nitrogen they pull out of the air by burning natural gas. . .I've got millions and millions of bacteria doing the same thing for me right here, and they are doing it for free. I don't need an irrigation system—I've got earthworms aerating my soil so the rain-water will soak down into it instead of running right off. I am working with nature now, instead of working against her.'

IN SRI LANKA, we too have a dedicated organic farmer, Malcolm Upa Arachchi who runs Pelawatta Farm in Pupurangala, Uva. Like Wortman he had used the present day conventional aids such as a tractor, chemical fertiliser, pesticides etc., from 1959, until in 1975 he abandoned all these artificial aids to food production. How and why did he take this step? A Dutch friend who regularly visited him persuaded him to change to organic farming saying that "Do you know that the residue of the insecticide sprayed is consumed by you. It is a slow process of killing". After many discussions, Malcolm decided to meet the older farmers in the area and learn about ancient traditional methods of farming and about pest control. His techniques and results were published in the *Ceylon Observer* just over one year ago and again in the *Weekend* on June 16th the same year. His methods are summarised below: (1) The use of compost from his own pits made from leaves and farm waste. He also uses animal urine and dung; (2) Mulching the land—"the rays of the sun do not penetrate into the soil of his farm. He has mulched his land with layers of straw and grass" says Eustace Wijetunga in his article in *Weekend*—"This keeps the soil damp all the time." (3) Traditional methods for destroying pests. These are described in detail and a few examples only are given here but, the general principle is to grow aromatic plants at intervals since the smell "drives away harmful insects". The plants that have been mentioned are: (a) Mee

trees—the small of the flower being the important factor; (b) Minchi (Mint) and (c) Saldiri (Celery); (d) Suwandatala—grown in paddy fields and (e) Kapparawaliya (Coleus aromatica). Malcolm claims that any one of his acres gives double the yield of any one acre where the so-called modern inputs are used. He invites interested people to visit him study his records, and spend some time, residing in one of his Cabanas. Finally Malcolm said that "microbes are destroyed when insecticide is sprayed making the soil infertile and barren" Readers may have noticed that almost the identical words were used by visiting Japanese agricultural experts. Our Sri Lankan Environmental Consultant Dr. Ranil Senanayake wrote that "Pesticides create more long term problems for the farmer than they solve—they also reduce the natural productivity of the soil". He does however add that "this does not mean that pesticides have no beneficial uses. They are a very valuable but very potent weapon against the pests of man's crops."

HOWEVER, as in the case of any potent weapon THEY SHOULD BE USED SPARINGLY AND AS A LAST RESORT" (*Sun*, June 20, 1980—feature titled NATIONAL HEALTH CRISIS). The *Sunday Observer* of May 31st carries a caption "Excess chemicals in Farms a health Hazard". This caption to a feature by Gamini Weerakoon and the main theme of his article strongly support the arguments for ORGANIC FARMING OR WHAT another journalist Gamini Navaratne has called "FARMING WITH NATURE". Gamini Navaratne has written about organic farming in the *Sun* on and off for more than two years, but, we are not aware whether or not any section of the Department of Agricultural or the Post Graduate Institute have thought seriously of running a farm like Malcolm's farm in Uva, even as a pilot experimental project. Gamini Navaratne wrote an excellent article titled HOW TO AVOID A DUST BOWL (*Sun*, April 4, 1981) in which he describes in detail the work done by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Abadan, Nigeria, which has developed a new system of farming with leguminous trees that promises provide good yields of crops for the tropics from the same plot year after year—with no chemical fertiliser (according to a report in

EARTHWATCH issued as a supplement to PEOPLE, the quarterly magazine published by the International Planned Parenthood Federation). It is depressing to read that the organisation Freedom From Hunger is also proposing to introduce so-called scientific farming to the farmers of Rajarata. Would it not be wiser to introduce the farmers to the systems promoted by the Nigerian Institute. It is however heartening to read that there is a proposal to establish an Institute of Research and Development in Bio dynamic Agriculture, in Jaffna. Dr. Terje Nypan, Director of the Institute of Bio Dynamics in Switzerland told *Weekend* that the Institute would work in collaboration with the University of Jaffna and the Department of Agriculture and a Model 40 acre farm would form part of the project. The Swiss Institute had developed various biological pest control methods one being a spray of onion juice and herbs". Writig from Jaffna, Richard D. Karunairajan sent in an article on a technique of water conservation which he described as FARMING WITH A PITCHER, (*Sun*, January 10, 1981). Could not the Freedom From Hunger campaign study this system for the cultivation of "water melons, musk melons, all varieties of gourd, pumpkins and other similar plants". In an earlier article Karunairajan has said "Most peasants in the less developed countries may be unlettered but they are the inheritors of some of the finest agricultural systems and techniques that have sustained them and their ancestors through the centuries". Let us now study anew these systems but at the same time let us introduce to the farmer the Integrated Pest Management methods used in China and by organic farmers in the United States, and so save Sri Lanka from ecological disaster.

29, Park Road,  
Colombo 5.  
May 29, 1981.



TRIBUNE, June 13, 1981

EAST SRI LANKA

## A Dust Bowl?

by K. Kanapathipillai

THE VAST EASTERN SECTOR of Sri Lanka with a north-south stretch, extending from Kokulai Bay up to Arugam Bay, and an east-west bulge extending from Kalkuda Bay up to the Uva Piedmont, which was once noted for its flourishing expanse of dry-zone forests, rich in very useful and valuable timber trees such as Milla, Halmilla, Satinwood, Ebony, Teak etc., is not only fast becoming depleted of its timber wealth, but in years to come will soon become what is known in American environmental parlance as a DUST BOWL. Dust bowls, sand banks and bad lands are topographical features characteristic of areas that have been rendered arid and barren by man's short-sighted, inordinate, wanton ravage of nature's precious gifts that have assumed the form of natural landscaping known to ordinary man as natural vegetation.

Call it what you please, the fact will have to be admitted and intelligently cognized that forest cover is a rare and precious gift of nature that should not be exploited by selfish, short-sighted man who persists in "slaughter-raping" nature. Time is that man has his eyes opened, his vision widened and sharpened so that he might view nature's gifts with true circumspection. Despite the fact that far-sighted men of science in the persons of illustrious Charles Darwin, A. R. Wallace and J. C. Willis have, with prophetic acumen, warned us, in Sri Lanka, as far back as 1911, against this impending disaster of the un-planned and short-sighted cutting down of valuable timber trees, and the attendant destruction caused to useful medicinal herbs and shrubs and brushwood and lianas, man in Sri Lanka, the marauding "timber shark" that he has turned out to be, especially the timber-rooking species of the south-west coastal region, has gone on pounding his perilous way, little realizing that he is cutting the solid earth under the feet of his future generation, and digging as it were their graves. He is laying the explosive train for

the deadly blast that is going to lay waste the future eco-environment of his mother land with a wealth of "ape anduwa" sense of patriotism! It is supposed to lurk in each and every fibre of his being.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, this subject has become blatantly patent; and that is environmentally to use a slang yet graphic expression denoting something hopelessly deteriorating and wasteful—we are going down the *pallam* (slope), sliding down our economic and environmental declivity. Like the proverbial ostrich we are following a blind-folded policy. This very significant chapter in our bumper tome of "development plan implementation" we have purposely glossed over with a wilful, studied elision. At least so it appears to be to the common citizen. Successive Governments have been consistent in having adopted this ostrich-like policy of shutting their eyes to the pressing events and needs so patently perceptible in nature's or derof events.

Of course it is not possible and not prudent to pin-point the issues and say: here lies the nub, and there is the rub. But then, how can a Sri Lankan, so patriotic in his affirmations and convictions, afford to lose sight of such an important and vital issue as: environmental deterioration and devastation that would soon transform this "pearl in the Indian Ocean" into a Dust Bowl—an ARIZONA? Perhaps in half a millenium or so this Isle of copper-coloured sandy beaches—Taprobane—as it was designated of yore, might become truly an arid zone and would *perforce* be renamed: ARIZONA.

WHAT A TRAGIC SITUATION man—thinking animal that he is—is faced with, in this land? Why not confront the problem fairly and squarely? But there emerges the question: Who is to face the music? And how best can the issue be tackled? Here is the situation as it does exist in East Sri Lanka. The cyclone of 1978 had devastated and destroyed over 80% of the vegetation including agricultural plantations: fruit trees, natural forests and reforested plantations, mainly of teak. More than 300,000 acres of natural forests and 30,000 acres of valuable re-forested plantations of teak were destroyed. In this sad plight in which the region was plunged, many

government agencies and other foreign organisations came in numbers to give aid to the affected people. In some areas the rehabilitation work is still in progress; but still, neither the government nor the foreign social service organisations have thought of improving the natural eco-environment by replanting and reforesting the cyclone battered region.

**There is one aspect of cyclone rehabilitation that has shocked the people of Batticaloa, and that is, that the Ministry of Land and Land Development has almost virtually abandoned the notion of bringing back to pre-cyclone status the natural vegetational cover of the region. The attitude of the Forest Department is in no way encouraging. Despite the colossal damage and devastation to the forests and forest plantations, and the several reports that appeared in the news papers and the news weekly, the *Tribune*, to the effect that the Eastern seaboard is fast turning into a desert, there appears to have been no comprehensive plans, proposals and programmes of rehabilitation drawn and implemented by either the Ministry of Land and Land Development or the Forest Department.**

The officers of the Forest Department are brimful of excuses for their apparent apathy. They trot out excuses of this sort: Say they: we do not have the necessary funds allocated for this very useful purpose of rehabilitating the damaged forests; we are almost broke; we do not have the funds needed for raising even a few plants for carrying on the much-flaunted "Tree planting campaign". This is the gist of the burden of their lamentation.

HERE ARE some approximate figures that might serve as a suitable comment. In 1979 the planting programme for the Batticaloa District was in the region of 20,000 acres; but hardly 100 acres were replanted. In 1980 the planting programme for Batticaloa was 20,000 acres; of this hardly 75 acres were reforested. In 1981, it appears, no money has been allocated to replant even one acre for raising plants for distribution to the public. It would appear as though the ministry has

affected a drastic cut in the minimum vote for the Forest Department, pruning it down from 16 million rupees to 5 million rupees.

Despite these stringent measures adopted by the Government a "New Director of Forestry Consultants" and other personnel are on the ascendant on the bureaucratic horizon. The people take it on faith that this new Director of Forestry Consultants is a specialist in that line a person who has the rare capacity of a Trimen or a Willis, to bring back the fast-fading greenery like an emerald pall dropped from the blues, in another decade or even less. It should be his bounden duty to rehabilitate and consolidate the cyclone-battered vegetation and bring back to pre-cyclone status the eco-system that is today in a shambles, and not merely to conserve ministry funds for less important and less urgent programmes.

**The people are painfully and distressingly becoming aware of this:** that the State Timber Corporation has extracted millions of cubic feet of superclass timber from the cyclone devastated area and used it to swell their coffers: that the STC is spending large sums of money importing machinery and equipment for the purpose of timber extraction, and getting it sawn into marketable timber. Can a small country like Sri Lanka afford to spend money on these sophisticated gadgets? That the fat "timber sharks" of the southwest coast, the affluent timber merchants, have been raping the forests in a wanton and wasteful manner governed by a rapacious craving for self and filthy lucre: that the STC has plans for the construction of an imposing building complex which might cost millions: that the Government has already given orders for the removal of the D.F.O.'s office that has been in Batticaloa—the Provincial capital—from early British days, to Amparai, and this to be done; i.e., the entire stock-in-trade and personnel to be shifted to Amparai: as on 10.5.81 and the Batticaloa office to be converted into a sub-office. This is certainly not a democratic action.

**Isn't this a high-handed action? And the wonder of it is that it is going to take place without even a silent demur from the MPs and Ministers of the Batticaloa District.**

TRIBUNE, June 13, 1981

Now, whatever be the outcome of these observations, it would have to be admitted that a truly scientific research body of ecologists will have to be set up embodying the Department of Forestry as its nucleus with a view to safeguarding the eco-environmental climate of the country as a whole: that a separate Timber Extraction Department or Corporation is an anomaly since it only performs destructive exploitation of forest wealth and nothing of a constructive nature.

52, Angle Road,  
Batticaloa.

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LETTER

## Foreign Service

Sir, after reading one of the most thoughtful, earnest and conscientious piece on Foreign Service by Serendib (*Tribune*, 2nd May 1981) written in a vocabulary which owes much to social psychology, I find myself troubled by the thought that one cannot really establish general guidelines on the kind of problem spelt out by Serendib. One might even hazard the guess that his analysis is not a computer printout from fed-in facts or between competing tenable arguments. But hunting the Foreign Office is never out of season especially when the UNP is in power.

The life of the Foreign Minister is spent tethered to an inclinable seat in the DC 10 viewing foreign policy through a Perspex window, peering nonchalantly at the planet below only to be disturbed by the slave maiden treatment of the airhostess. Sri Lanka's low rating in the world is not in any way due to the bungling ineptitude of the *Quangos* (political appointees) or the professionals but to the cumulative errors of our political masters of both the major political parties and our poor economic performance. What our diplomats of either category have done is to conduct a very effective rearguard action to conceal the degree of our folly and restore to some extent the dented image. There isn't much difference between a professional and an amateur. It is very much like changing the

Guards—even Caligula's horse will deliver the goods with a modicum of training. What is required is the quality of innocence so aptly portrayed by an obituarist in relation to the late Mr. Raju Coomaraswamy. I have visited two or three capitals in Europe recently and I was intrigued at the way a career diplomat was trailing three steps behind our Foreign Minister at the airport whereas *Quango* was walking alongside the Minister sharing a joke with him. There is a distinction without a difference. That really accounts for the preponderance in the appointment of career diplomats as head of missions. The career diplomats like the Singapore girl are great ones to lie in the classical Henry Wotton style. Whatever may have been the validity of this definition in the days of Sir Henry Wotton, it is not certainly not true any longer, even in today's vastly more permissive society.

It is interesting to note that the taxpayer is committed to a budgetary allocation to the tune of Rs. 100 million for keeping up appearances abroad. Take for example the question—What does the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to the Court of St. James is paid to do? The answer is that he represents Sri Lanka to the British people. This will be summarily dismissed as palpable nonsense by the average taxpayer. No Englishman however retarded would form his view of Sri Lanka from the envoy and change it with each new one. The right answer is that, apart from receiving Cabinet Ministers at the airport, making appointments to visit their counter-parts, sometimes going along on the visit and passing on routine messages, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner does nothing, not forgetting the offerings of Reggie Fernando in the *Sunday Observer*. If there is a matter of grave importance between the Government of UK and Sri Lanka, it is of course taken up directly between President Jayewardene and Margaret Thatcher. If it is not so important, it is left to our Foreign Minister. If it involves money, the Finance Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel handles it with his opposite number. That is the pattern. What then is the answer to our problem? As rightly emphasised by Serendib, the diplomats of either category should have one ruling passing—"how to see and how to obtain investment". They should believe in it as Socrates believed in reason or Goethe in

nature. But alas that is not to be. Their main obsession is glamour and exotic horizons—schooling of their children in Oxford or Harvard and free medical checkups. We have a long way to go to justify the budgetary allocation. Perhaps we must muddle through. But of course, Serendib must keep his fingers crossed, even though he knows the Foreign Service from stem to stern, from top to bottom.

**G. K. de Mel**

Kennan Lodge,  
Dewale Road, Nugegoda.  
25 May 1981.

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GRAMA SASTRA—41

**Scribblings on Uva**

## **Agriculture & Officials**

**by Gamiya**

TOP, BOTTOM AND IN-BETWEEN. A three-tiered cake is all right, provided no poison lies in my tier. The people may be 'below', the decision-makers may be 'above', and the officials may be 'in-between'. If they are *for* the people, they will be loved and they will be right, because the People are sovereign. *Jana-rajaya* (Republic) means that the People are the Crown. Hence, Crown-lands must first be the People's lands, and if Agricultural Officers corner land (this has to be studied and seen to), then they bring discredit on any existing government. If for flimsy reasons they "buy up" land for a thousand and sell for six and eight-thousand an acre, they must be hounded out of the place ruthlessly, for they bring utter discredit to a regime. Once, a peasant told me: "*Aanduwa rathran, niladhari mandalya ketha, kilutu, kunu vargayak, murgayan vage*".

It is high time the Government saw urgently to two sectors of officials: in some areas of the country, i.e. *Agriculture* and *Health*. I knew of an Officer (I will not designate him) who cornered 27 varieties of sugar-cane and started his own Nursery and gave up the official State nursery. The new one became

his private affair. Another chewed betel, sang *pel kavi* (watch-hut songs) but despised the people and even gave a man much to drink and got him to sign off a big portion of his land—“*nobody sees us, nobody, bothers us and so we are far away and can do what we like*”, is their constant assertion to cuddle self. It is high time a Government that says it is interested in people, get down to this their prime duty. It is not too late.

Agriculture means Food, means Life. Health means restoration of that life when once it has been brought low. The Buddha's *bana* was food for the mind and heart; his *dana* was food for the person. He himself was health giver (*Maha ausadha panditha*, the great wise healer). What would he have said had he seen the low-down activities of some (may be very few) officials who are 'selling their side' and are a blot on the agricultural department escutcheon.

I once knew of a Health boss in a South Asian Buddhist country (lets call it Sri Lanka for the nonce), who addressed a large gathering at 2 p.m. The revered Monk of the area was present. This official was dead drunk, and several times he pointed to the kindly monk said: “*I thank this mister (mahattaya) for having come here, for having come here, I mean this mister...*” etc. It was a crude joke. The Buddhist faithful resented it. The monk tolerated it for a few minutes, perspired and walked away, because the basic civilities were not there, the politeness needed for a member of the Sangha was not there. But the man still goes on at his post, unseeing, unthinkingly, lord of all he surveys. No official who openly flouts the fifth precept of Buddhism should be allowed anywhere in Buddhist territory, least ways a *Health official*.



TASTE OF PARADISE

## Salvadorean

When the Joint Trade Union Action Committee called a General strike in July last year, advancing among others a demand for

TRIBUNE, June 13, 1981

Rs. 300 wage increase, the employees of Lever Brothers who belong to the All Ceylon Industrial & Commercial Workers Union struck work. The management re employed their workers after a short period, taking them on as new entrants on a six month probationary period. This period ended on January 31st.

On this date the management of Lever Brothers summarily dismissed 52 workers. This number includes all the office bearers of the union, the remaining members of the Working Committee and some members of the Executive Committee. In addition, the management has extended the period of probation by a further three months for over 300 other workers. Together, this compromises those who are active in the union.

The Labour Department has suggested a compromise formula whereby these 52 workers be taken back on a further three months probation. This was rejected by the management. Unilevers, the parent company, recently sent in a new Chairman to head the Sri Lankan Company. A British national, he has been in service with Unilevers in El Salvador.

Jayantha Somasundaram



NATO

## Nuclear Weapons

Washington: NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting which concluded in Rome in the first week of May focussed considerable attention on negotiations with the Soviet Union with respect to mutual reductions in European-based NATO and Soviet so-called long-range "Theatre Nuclear Weapons". In 1979, Atlantic Alliance members agreed on what was, at the time, labelled a "two-track" approach to arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union looking toward potential mutual cuts in theatre missiles in Europe. "Two track" was another way of saying that, while several NATO members would accept planned deployment of new American-made weaponry on their territory, the US would commit itself

to explore with Moscow ways to reduce the number of such Missiles on both the NATO and Soviet sides. The planned deployment of new NATO missiles was itself decided on as a necessary response to new and more formidable Soviet weapons which were already in place.

The United States—as American Secretary of State Haig explained in Rome—has now reaffirmed its 1979 commitment to the two track approach. It will take steps to work with the Soviet Union on developing a framework for negotiations. Back in 1979, the assumption had been that such negotiations could take place in the general context of SALT III negotiations, which were then expected to follow Soviet American SALT II talks and the SALT II treaty. The SALT II treaty has not been approved by the United States Senate, but the US commitment to search for negotiating paths towards Theater Nuclear Weapon cuts in Europe still stands. As Secretary Haig noted at the end of the NATO meeting, the United States hopes that Soviet-American talks at the Ambassadorial level will lead to formal negotiations with Moscow by the end of this year. The Secretary added that just as important as the affirmation of this decision was the “strong consensus” that supported the decision. This, in Haig’s words, has reaffirmed “the indivisibility for our NATO alliance”. It must be pointed out, however, that American willingness to enter into such discussions should not be thought of as some sort of favour to the Soviet Union. Whatever is achieved will be accomplished in the context of western security interests. Nor should this commitment to European arms control negotiations be construed, in any way, as abandonment of US and NATO concern with the overall question of Soviet international behaviour. Commonsense clearly suggests that success in arms control talks in any category must depend to a significant degree on how the United States and the rest of the alliance continue to view Soviet policies and actions around the world—VOA.



MRS. INDIRA GANDHI

## The Soviet Union

*New Delhi, May 27:* Inaugurating a two-day national convention of the newly-formed Friends of the Soviet Union society in New Delhi, Mrs. Gandhi contrasted the activities of the Western countries with those of the USSR on issues like racialism, colonialism, apartheid as well as India’s economic development to emphasize the abiding significance of Indo-Soviet friendship. “It is untenable to interpret non-alignment as an equidistance from the super-powers”, Mrs. Gandhi underlined. “On the contrary non-alignment is something very positive. It means taking every chance to improve the outlook of peace and to adopt a clear stand on matters on which we have strong convictions”. In this context, she observed: “Did not the so-called democratic West take obstructive positions on decolonisation and apartheid? Even now looking at the support given to South Africa and Israel. Its record does not shine”. On the other hand, the “Soviet Union’s consistent stand on such matters has brought us closer together” she noted. She also clarified: “The position is not of our voting with the Soviet Union so much as the Soviet Union voting with the countries of Asia and Africa, and supporting freedom movements and struggles against colonialism.” Earlier, Mrs. Gandhi said amidst applause that she was attending the convention “not as a leader but as a friend of the Soviet Union”. Omdp-Soviet friendship, she declared, is “time-tested” one which has helped India in adverse circumstances. This friendship “need not be at the cost of friendship with others”. “Unfortunately, this has not been appreciated by some countries who take the view that either we are completely with them or we are against them. It has even been stated openly that non-alignment is ‘immoral’. That approach seems to persist, despite some change over to mere subtle phraseology. “This attitude makes them anti-India,” she said. Referring to the positions taken by the West and the USSR towards India’s economic development, Mrs. Gandhi pointed out: “It is not secret that the West did not approve of our developing heavy industry and achieving self-



reliance. It is to the credit of the leaders of the Soviet Union that they extended a helping hand at that most crucial stage of our development. Bhilai, Bokare and so many other projects are witnesses to this. She said India had 'tangibly benefited' from constructive cooperation with the USSR in the economic field. Mrs. Gandhi recalled how Mahatma Gandhi was dubbed by British imperialists as a Bolshevik agent in the twenties and thirties and Jawaharlal Nehru faced the same kind of malicious attack.

Mrs. Gandhi also mentioned the cultural links and interaction of Indian arts and artists with Russian and the tremendous impression of the Russian Revolution on India. The determination and courage of the Soviet people thwarting foreign designs also made a deep impact in India, which was fighting to shake off alien rule. The Indian independence, which shook the "coping stone" of imperialism, was fought by the common masses, peasants and poor people under the inspiration of Gandhi and Nehru. Mrs. Gandhi said India was no exception in being attracted to the Soviet social and economic experiments which had won the attention of Motilal and Jawaharlal Nehru, Rabindranath Tagore and many other Indians. The Soviet initiatives in national planning had specially been watched with great interest leaders like Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon and Mr. K. D. Malaviya played important roles in this regard. She recalled how Soviet planning and establishment of basic industries had considerably influenced Indian planning which however was different from that of the Soviet Union. Stating that India had drawn upon the Soviet experience Mrs. Gandhi said that she believed in adopting good ideas wherever they were found—APN.



## GOVT. NOTICES

My No. 3/42/Ma—99

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

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars see Part III of Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 145 dated 12.6.1981

### SCHEDULE

*Situation:* Poyaranwewayah Village, Wagapanaha Pallesiya Pattuwa, Dambulla Divisional Revenue Officer's Division (New Divisional Assistant Government Agent's Division) Matale District.  
*Plan and Lot No:* 1 Lot in p.p.Ma. 591.  
*Extent:* 05 A. 00 R. 26 P.

Kachcheri, Matale.  
21st May 1981.

**Mrs. S. K. Annaraj,**  
*District Land Officer.*  
*Matale.*

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Notice under Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) as amended by the and Acquisition (Amendment) Act. No. 28 of 1964.

Reference No. ATH/2175

It is intded to acquire the land desribed in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 145 (Part III) of 12.6.1981.

### SCHEDULE

*D.R.O.'s Division:* Colombo.

*Situation:* Ward No. 44 Kirillapneo, within the M.C. limits of Colombo.  
*Village:* Kirillapone.

*Name of land:* Bulugahawatta (Assmt. No. 211 Polhengoda Road).

*Lot No.* 847  
*Plan No. P.P.C.:* 5306

**H. C. Gunawardene,**  
*District Land Officer and Acquiring Officer of Colombo District.*

The Kachcheri, Colombo.  
Date:- 25th May, 1981.

CONFIDENTIALLY  
**Tea Board-2**

IS IT NOT SIGNIFICANT that *Tribune* has received a very large number of letters and comments about "the pricing of the cost of manufacture of tea by the tea factory owners to small holders who supply them with green leaf?" That most of those who have written are either smallholders or those pleading for them? That whilst there may be an element of bias in their conclusions, there is no doubt that the facts they rely on are true—so far *Tribune* investigators have been able to find out? That we invite the Tea Board and factory owners to correct whatever is wrong in what follows below and we will be happy to publish their side of the story if they have one? That it would appear that in 1979, there was agitation from the Tea Manufacturers' Association stating that owing to the increase in price of tea chests and fuel a higher rate should be paid to them for the cost of manufacture that was being deducted from the price they paid for green leaves? That many meetings were held at the Tea Board office chaired by former Chairman Warusavitarne? That the Tea Board did not then have a Statistics Department geared to collect all data that was required and that therefore the Board was compelled to accept the figures given by the Tea Manufacturers' Association and the private sector manufacturers? That the SPC and JEDB never made any representations asking for a higher price? That planters of experience were not satisfied with the figures supplied by the Association whose members refused to table their certified Balance Sheets or accounts? That even in the absence of certified accounts, the price of Rs. 4/60 per kg. for manufacture of green leaf was arbitrarily agreed on by the Tea Board? That this sum is customarily deducted when green leaf is purchased from small holders?

THAT thereafter in 1980, after the price of oil and tea chests had gone up a little more, a fresh agitation was started by the factory owners for a higher price? That by this time the Tea Board had set up a Statistics Department to determine working costs with the cooperation of the JEDB and SPC and even privately owned estates willing to co-operate in this matter? That the Statistics Department

found that the average cost of manufacture was around Rs. 3/75-3/90 per kg. of made tea and that the price of Rs. 4/60 per kg. was a fair price, leaving the manufacturer sufficient to cover depreciation and a good margin of profit? That in September 1980, it is understood, agitation had started that this price should be raised to Rs. 5/60 per kg.? That by this time the Statistics Department of the Tea Board was collecting the figures for the cost of manufacture monthly from the estates of JEDB and SPC who buy green leaf from the small holders? That the average cost still remained around Rs. 3/75-3/90 per kg.? That these statistics were tabled at a Board Meeting? That though the cost was only Rs. 3/75-3/90 per kg, the majority on the Board, which included government officials, were persuaded to increase the rate to Rs. 5/60 per kg. when the cost was still around Rs. 3/75-3/90? That it is said that former Chairman Warusavitarne had protested against this increase and that this protest was formally recorded in the minutes? That it is significant that though the private sector firms refused to table their accounts (the state owned SPC and JEDB were willing to do so), the Board decided to fix the price at Rs. 5/60 per kg.? That this gave a margin of nearly Rs. 2/- per kg.? Which meant that the small holder was being grossly exploited? That even before the Board agreed on the price, some manufacturers had begun charging the small holder Rs. 5/60 per kg., and one of them, it is alleged, was a member of the Board? That inquiries made at the SPC and JEDB show that even now (in 1981) that they were taking in bought leaf and that the cost of manufacture was between Rs. 3/75 and 3/90? That whilst what has been set out above appears to be incontestable, *Tribune* is prepared to publish whatever anyone who has a different version has to say? That some of those who have written say that former Chairman Bertie Warusavitarne was a kind of nigger in the woodpile so far as the tea factory owners were concerned? That many small holders allege he was quietly eased out of the chairmanship (by the usual Sri Lankan technique of character assassination) mainly because he disagreed with the decision to charge exorbitant rates for green leaf manufacture? That whether this is true or not, it is not for us to decide, but what people say about it is a matter of public interest?

TRIBUNE, June 13, 1981

# Vacancies in the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka

## POSTS OF ACCOUNTANT GRADES II & III.

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the above posts vacant in the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.

### POSTS OF ACCOUNTANT GRADE II:

#### Qualifications & Experience:

- (a) Intermediate Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, OR
- (b) Parts I, II & III of I.C.M.A. London, OR
- (c) Parts I, II & III of A.C.C.A. OR
- (d) Diploma in Accountancy with a minimum of 4 years of accounting experience of which at least 3 years should be after obtaining the above qualifications.

**Age:** Not less than 25 years.

**Salary Scale:** Rs. 1,350/- (8x50) Rs. 1,750/- per month together with Govt. approved allowances.

### POSTS OF ACCOUNTANT GRADE III:

#### Qualifications & Experience:

- (a) Intermediate Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, OR
- (b) Parts I, II & III of I.C.M.A. London, OR
- (c) Parts I, II & III of A.C.C.A. OR
- (d) Diploma in Accountancy with 4 years of accounting experience of which 1 year should be after obtaining the above qualifications.

**Age:** Not less than 25 years.

**Salary Scale:** Rs. 1,000/- (14x40) Rs. 1,560/- per month together with Govt. approved allowances.

**NOTE:** The selected candidates may be placed at a point on the above scales depending on their experience and qualifications.

Applications indicating age, qualifications, experience and other relevant particulars should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the undersigned on or before 26th June, 1981. The post applied for should be clearly indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Applications from persons in the State Sector will be considered only if the Head of the Department/Corporation certifies that the candidate can be released if selected.

**SECRETARY GENERAL,  
Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka,  
500, T. B. Jayah Mawatha,  
Colombo 10.**

# Vacancies in the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka

## POSTS OF ACCOUNTANT (SUPPLIES) GRADES II & III

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the above posts vacant in the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.

### POSTS OF ACCOUNTANT (SUPPLIES) GRADE II:

#### Qualifications & Experience:

- (a) Intermediate Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Or
- (b) Parts I, II & III of I.C.M.A. London, OR
- (c) Parts I, II & III of A.C.M.A. OR
- (d) Diploma in Accountancy with a minimum of 4 years of accounting experience of which at least 3 years should be after obtaining above qualifications.

The selected candidate will be responsible for the foreign and local supplies functions, for procurement, storage, issue of equipment and materials ordered. Documentation relating to letters of credit, Bills of Lading etc.

**Age:** Not less than 25 years.

**Salary Scale:** Rs. 1,350 /- (8x50) Rs. 1,750 /- per month together with Govt. approved allowances.

### POSTS OF ACCOUNTANT (SUPPLIES) GRADE III:

#### Qualifications & Experience:

- (a) Intermediate Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, OR
- (b) Parts I, II & III of I.C.M.A. London, OR
- (c) Parts I, II & III of A.C.C.A. OR
- (d) Diploma in Accountancy with 4 years of Accounting experience of which 1 year should be after obtaining above qualifications.

The selected candidate will be responsible for the foreign and local supplies functions, for procurement, storage, issue of equipment and materials ordered. Documentation relating to letters of credit, Bills of Lading etc.

**Age:** Not less than 25 years.

**Salary Scale:** Rs. 1,000 /- (14x40) Rs. 1,560 /- per month together with Govt. approved allowances.

**NOTE:** The selected candidates may be placed at a point on the above scales depending on their experience and qualifications.

Applications indicating age, qualifications, experience and other relevant particulars should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the undersigned on or before 26th June, 1981. The post applied for should be clearly indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Applications from persons in the State Sector will be considered only if the Head of the Department/Corporation certifies that the candidate can be released if selected.

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