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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

TEA is still very much in the news. It is still the largest earner of foreign exchange for this country and there is no reason why it should not continue to earn more in the future. The picture on the cover of a superintendent's bungalow in a tea plantation is only to remind ourselves that the future of tea is still dependent on managerial skills not only in the deployment of labour but also in everything else essential to ensure high production and good quality. *Tribune* has for a long time spotlighted several problems confronting the tea industry and among them the plight of the tea small holders who are called upon to pay what many consider to be an excessively high and exorbitant rate for manufacturing green leaf. We had invited the Tea Manufacturing Association or any concerned person to join in the *Tribune* discussion on this subject. Elsewhere in this issue we have published a statement sent to us entitled PRICE SUPPORT SCHEME: TEA SMALL HOLDINGS AND FACTORIES which no doubt purported to meet the criticisms of tea small holders published by *Tribune*. This statement dated August 8 is under the hand of I. O. K. G. Fernando, Secretary, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Chairman, Sri Lanka Tea Board and we must take it as an authoritative statement on the problem. But we cannot accept it as the final verdict on the subject. We invite our readers, especially those who have pleaded for a less extortionate price for the manufacture of green leaf to submit their comments on Mr. I. O. K. G.'s statement. As far as *Tribune* itself is concerned we are baffled with the statement. It is written in high officialese interspersed with statistics that confuse more than explain. Only experts on tea may be able to understand the mass of figures which confuse more than explain. The simple question is why the Tea Board permits the charge of Rs. 6/12 (or Rs. 6/40) per kg. for manufacture when the average cost is said to be under Rs. 4/- and what many estates still charge is around that figure. The statement does not directly meet this question, but, in our humble view, endeavours to circumvent it by the usual official gimmickry of oiling a deadweight of statistics to intimidate those whom bureaucrats think can be intimidated into silence by an official pronouncement. We cannot claim to have the intellectual eminence or competence of our senior bureaucrats, and that maybe the reason why we are not able to understand the true meaning or purport of Mr. I. O. K. G. Fernando's elaborate and long-worded statement. We have published it in full even without any "sub-editing" to make it more presentable or comprehensible for the layman or our readers who are not versed in the hieroglyphics of the tea industry. There are many questions that simple-minded persons like ourselves cannot but raise on Mr. Fernando's statement, but before we do that we shall await the reactions and responses of our readers. In the meantime, we have received an excellent production entitled CEYLON TEA REVIEW '80 published by the tea brokering firm of Forbes & Walker Ltd. The Company Chairman R. S. Wijesekera in a "centenary message" states: "It is fitting and appropriate that we should recollect in this centenary year the contribution made by our Company for the Development and welfare of the tea plantation industry which we have been privileged to serve as Brokers from the inception in 1881."

Forbes and Walker is a household word in the tea world, and the Chairman concludes his message: "The task facing the tea trade in Sri Lanka, of which the Broking fraternity forms an important segment, is to assist the Government in increasing the export earnings by evolving a more effective strategy to suit national needs. We must involve ourselves in the marketing of this popular beverage by increasing the value added content of our exports through greater processing rather than continuing the traditional role of acting as mere dealers or agents for overseas interests, so that our nation can reap the large benefits accruing from the marketing of processed products..." *Tribune* will deal with some of the problems of tea marketing in a subsequent issue.

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Sri Lanka Economy - 2

Before we examine the Finance Minister's statement in Parliament, it would be useful to refer to the excerpts from the World Bank Report the Communist Party fortnightly *Forward* had spotlighted. One related to wages and prices in 1980: "The World Bank report has this comment to make on price and wage movements in 1980: 'All available indicators point to a substantial acceleration in inflation in 1980, with estimates of inflation ranging from 23% to 38% as against 9—28% in 1979. Once again, a major element in inflation appears to have been the sharp increase in administered prices, which reflect both the effort to eliminate food subsidies early in 1980, and the continued increase in import prices for these commodities. An annual average index of these administered prices rose by 59% in 1980, as against 28% in 1979, while an annual average index of *all other commodities* rose by 26% in 1980 as against 15% in 1979. On a December to December basis, this index of administered prices rose 45% in 1980 as against 19% for other commodities. According to Central Bank indices, real wages declined in the public sector while showing no significant change in the private sector. Table 6 of the World Bank's Report (p. 15) also reveals that the percentage change over the previous year in the Colombo Consumer Price Index was 1.08 per cent in 1979 and 26.1 percent in 1980, and according to an unpublished consumer price index maintained by the Central Bank was 19 per cent and 37.8 per cent for 1979 and 1980 respectively. Comparative percentage change in the Wholesale Price Index was 15.6 per cent for 1979 and 23.7 per cent for 1980'"

The next matter highlighted by the *Forward* was that another DEVALUATION was round the corner. This is what it said: "A new devaluation of the Sri Lanka rupee is among the chief remedies to achieve 'stabilisation of the economy', according to the recommendation of the World Bank report. At page 23 it says: 'The most direct and immediate means of encouraging the production of import substitutes is through an active exchange rate policy, which ensures the attainment and maintenance of a realistic exchange rate. While an overvalued exchange rate may operate as a 'brake' on inflation in the short run, the cost of this approach is very high. Production of exports and of import substitutes is discouraged rather than encouraged. The trade balance worsens and external debt becomes increasingly burdensome. As domestic prices get further out of line with international levels, the size of the eventual adjustment increases, and its potential shock effects grow more than proportionately. *An active exchange rate policy is therefore an important element in a stabilisation program.*' Another reason that the World

Bank gives for a new devaluation of the rupee is that 'domestic prices have been increasing more rapidly than international prices', thus rendering the present exchange rate of the rupee unrealistic . . ."

Local prices have been increasing rapidly because local production, especially in the agricultural sector (plantation, subsidial food crops etc—all except paddy) have been lagging and in many cases dropping.

Another point made by the *Forward* was that the KEROSENE SUBSIDY MUST GO: "A demand that the World Bank makes in several places in its report is that the subsidy on kerosene should go. 'The kerosene subsidy', it says in one place 'makes little sense and should be eliminated'. It is learnt that the government has agreed to do so, as well as to devalue the rupee, as conditions for obtaining new assistance from the Aid Sri Lanka Club."

There are no indications that the government has agreed to another massive devaluation of the rupee. There is really no need to do so because the Sri Lanka rupee is pegged to a crawling basket of hard currencies—and it slowly devalues itself. Whether the World Bank wants an open acknowledgement of a change of parity rates before the rupee is pegged again to a floating basket, or whether it wants the country to pursue a policy in imports, exports and production that will activate export trade and thereby improve currency values is not clear. Whatever it is, there is no doubt that the value of the Sri Lanka rupee is dropping daily.

The *Forward* then moves on to the G.C.E.C. which is one of the star economic turns of this Government. "The achievement of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission is described as 'fairly modest' in the secret report of the World Bank to the Aid Sri Lanka Club. However, the Bank thinks these achievements are of 'symbolic' importance in view of 'Sri Lanka's poor past record on foreign investment'. By December 1980, the report says, the GCEC had approved 137 projects with a total projected investment of Rs. 4 billion. Not all these projects are however likely to go forward', the report comments. It points out that 67 of these 137 projects had, by the end of 1980 'only reached the stage of signing agreements with the GCEC'. 45 had reached the stage of having commenced building operations'. Only 23 projects, with a total investment of Rs. 137 million, had actually begun commercial production. The report reveals also that 23 approved projects had been 'withdrawn'; and 'four signed agreements have been cancelled and at least six other signed agreements are considered inactive'. Obviously proper care has not been exercised in signing agreements.

"The average amount of foreign investment in the 45 projects that have begun to mature is 800,000

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dollars per project, the report says. Of the 137 projects where signed agreements exist, only 27 consist of wholly foreign investment companies. 69 projects are joint ventures while 15 are totally domestic enterprises. Government infrastructural expenditure on the Katunayake scheme had been Rs. 240 million, other than expenditure by individual Ministries and departments. The land available under the first two phases at Katunayake is exhausted, and new zones are planned at Biyagama as well as 35 more acres at Katunayake. Most of the firms that were in commercial production were manufacturers and exporters of ready-made garments. However, in the World Bank's opinion, the GCEC 'has not been excessively discriminatory about the investments it approved'. It says: 'Thus, for instance, some of the exports by foreign garment firms may have been at the expense of potential exports by Sri Lankan garment firms'. The report shows that Sri Lanka had in 1977 a 'quota leeway' especially in the US market. But the slack was divided on a 50-50 basis between foreign GCEC firms and Sri Lankan firms outside. 'There is some evidence', the report says, 'that GCEC firms undercut Sri Lankan firms for specific orders'. Unused textile quotas were also 'rented' to foreign GCEC firms at less than their market value, causing 'social losses to Sri Lanka.

'Summing up, the report comments that: 'The conclusion must be that some of the growth in garment exports would have occurred anyway and without the GCEC incentives'. With regard to the generation of new employment in the GCEC firms, the report says that by the end of 1980, approximately 12,000 persons had found employment 'of whom more than 11,000 are in the garment factories'. The aggregate projection of over 50,000 for all approved projects 'is probably an overestimate and in any case includes many jobs which will not be created until the mid-1980's 'Nor is there any evidence', the report adds, 'that any of the existing or agreed projects will make much contribution to the technological capability of Sri Lanka, since the requirements are confined mostly to unskilled or semi-skilled machine minding, assembling or basic tailoring labour'. In the World Bank's opinion, the incentives given by the GCEC, which it lists as 'low wage, educated labor, raw materials and location', as well as the extensive tax and other concessions, will not be enough to attract foreign investment sufficiently. It recommends that foreign investors are allowed 'majority ownership; in joint participation ventures wherever they do not have total investment'.

With that the *Forward* closes the GCEC chapter and turns to the Mahaweli which is described as a high risk strategy. 'Even though Rs. 200 million was cut from the Rs. 4,000 million allocation for the accelerated Mahaweli development scheme in the 1981 budget, the World Bank report still refers to the scheme as 'over-ambitious' and a 'high-risk strategy'.

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It states that, as far as this 'lead project' is concerned, 'expenditure in 1980, for instance, was 91 per cent higher than estimated in the budget for the year'. It calls the scheme 'severely front-loaded with identified investments exceeding available resources by 39% in 1981, by 21 per cent in 1982, by 10 per cent in 1983, and by 7 per cent in 1984 and 1985'. Projected budgetary investments 'continue to greatly exceed available resources . . . by 15 per cent'.

'It also states that there is 'a foreign financing gap of 305 million US dollars in 1981' and that the gap in the period 1982 to 1984 will be 'particularly severe'. The Kotmale Project (84% of the total) remains 'substantially under-funded', but 'shortfalls are also significant for Victoria'. Therefore, the report concludes that 'there appears to be no escape from a cut in capital budget to a level of Rs. 15 billion in current prices in 1982'. The problem largely arises from the decision to pursue four large headworks simultaneously. 'This is bound to place an enormous strain on physical and financial resources, as well as implementation capacity, with a consequent simultaneous slowdown in progress in all projects. . .'. The headworks, it is claimed, are needed to meet power requirements. This is certainly so, but not only must the attendant risks from pursuing a program that endangers the macroeconomic stability be set against the gains from additional power capacity, but the simultaneous implementations of four headworks delaying the commissioning of the power projects. 'Moreover, it is still an open question whether the power investments now being prepared under the program represent the least cost solution to Sri Lanka's power requirements in the 1980's. . .'

Finally the *Forward* deals with HOUSING FACT & FICTION. It said: 'Hard facts on the progress of the government's housing programme, as provided by the National Housing Development Authority to the World Bank and included in Table 17 of the Bank's confidential report to the Sri Lanka Aid Club tell a different story from the usual propaganda of the government and the Ministry of Housing on this matter. The announced target for the 1977 to 1983 period is 100,000 houses, although the Minister sometimes announces targets of twice this amount or more. This is made up of 50,000 aided Self-Help houses, including model villages; 26,040 electorate houses; 18,011 urban units to be directly constructed by the NHDA (which includes finishing work started by the previous government); and 562 public servants' quarters. Added up this amounts to 88,613 units, or 11,387 units short of the announced target of 100,000 units. However, by the end of 1980 only 24,794 out of these 88,613 targeted units had actually been completed. These comprised 7,180 out of the targeted 18,011 urban units to be directly constructed; 35 out of the targeted 562 public servant's quarters; 8,699 out of the 50,000 units programmed for aided-self-help and model village housing; and

5,880 out of the targeted 26,040 electorate houses. (N. B. the construction of electorate houses on a direct basis has now been abandoned and a switch to self-help housing may be substituted). At the end of 1980, the number of units 'under construction' and not yet completed was 28,293. This consisted of 10,000 direct construction units, 527 public servant's quarters and 17,766 aided self-help or model village houses.

'Thus, at the end of three and a half years, less than one-quarter of the promised 100,000 houses (including several housing schemes started by the former Minister of Housing) had been completed, while a little more than another one-quarter was 'under construction'. The World Bank report also reveals that the housing programme for 1981 had been reduced by Rs. 280 million while house construction costs had increased by a further 24 per cent in 1980. The National Housing Development Authority owed contractors Rs. 400 million for work they had done in 1980. There was also an unfinanced gap of Rs. 377 million on the budgetary outlays for housing for 1981. The Ministry, the World Bank report says, hopes to finance all this by raising Rs. 500 million' through sales of about 2,200 units already completed as an average price of Rs. 250,000'. Thus, whoever gets the houses that are completed it certainly will not be the workers, the middle class or the urban and rural homeless. The report also adds: 'Land prices remain very high, as do house prices in Colombo'. ...'

Having extracted all that it thought necessary for its purpose of criticising the economic policies of the Government from the confidential report of the World Bank, the *Forward* ventured on an interpretative analysis and comment on its last page: "The decision of the IMF to restore the two sources of finance on which the government depended heavily—namely the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the Compensatory Fund Facility (CFF)—came, in the picturesque phrase of Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel (*CDN*, 16/6) in the nick of time'. These facilities, which had helped to keep the government in funds through temporary accommodations on the lines of an overdraft, has been suspended by the IMF a year ago to compel the government to restore 'financial discipline' on its 'overheated economy'. On the IMF's nudging, the Aid Sri Lanka Club, had also suspended any further assistance to Sri Lanka until this was done. This economic brinkmanship of the IMF and its Aid Club paid off. Although the Minister of Finance fumed and threatened to go to the commercial banks, this bluff was soon called. Reluctantly, the government started to 'cool down' the economy to the IMF's taste through massive cuts in 'development' expenditure, and in housing and construction, a credit squeeze, and pruning the Budget beyond recognition. The main emphasis was shifted to promoting exports and export-oriented industries that guaranteed quick returns.

'The results, of course, are well known. The government ran into what it politely called 'liquidity' problems or in other words, the problem of finding enough cash for its day-to-day expenditures. Following an example set earlier by the late Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, the government made do by raiding its more well-heeled corporations. The screw was put on those who kept postponing settling accounts with the Treasury and the Inland Revenue Department. Two out of the three major props of its 'development' programme—namely, Mahaweli and Housing—were put on starvation diets. The Treasury Bill limit was increased considerably. The situation got so critical that the Government's basic economic strategy of the so-called 'open economy' was threatened. Demands for its modification and even abandonment began to grow within the UNP itself.'

And it concluded its comment thus: "Having taught the government a lesson about what can happen if it doesn't go all the way with the IMF, brinkmanship was called off before its recipient keeled over. Like a losing boxer saved by the gong, the government seized the respite gratefully. It immediately drew a tranche of Rs. 1,400 million from the IMF to clear arrears and meet overdue commitments. The Minister of Finance made it clear that the government would not abandon its 'open economy' policy of 'liberalised imports'. The IMF's decision to call off its temporary ban would, the Minister said, 'enable the country to sustain its import program'. But this would have to be done in future without the frills, in keeping with the lines laid down by the IMF. In its report to the Aid Club meeting in Tokyo this month, the IMF has also, according to inspired leaks to the state-owned newspapers, recommended, further injection of aid. It has made no bones about the fact that its decision is politically motivated. Sri Lanka, it insists, is a useful model that the imperialists want other developing countries to follow. Therefore, this 'bold experiment' should not be allowed to fail. May be the government got above itself and tried a fast fiddle here and there, but it has now been slapped, cut down to size, and suitably chastened. The state-owned newspapers report 'sighs of relief' in government, business and Central Bank circles over the IMF's decisions and recommendation. But political circles wonder what quid pro quo is expected in return. As the government has been earlier agreed faithfully to toe the IMF line in economic policy, these circles expect that the 'quid' will be in the field of foreign policy. In Pakistan, massive US aid has been followed by an assurance from President Zia that a request by the US for bases and military facilities in that country will not be rejected. Will President JR Follow suit in regard to Sri Lanka if the Aid Club accepts the IMF recommendation?'

The Communist Party is the only Opposition Party with a propaganda machine that offers any sustained criticism of the government's policies. They are

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carried in the Sinhala daily *Aththa* and the fortnightly *Forward*. But such analyses appear only rarely. For the rest these papers are of agitational onslaughts to portray the Party's current line. Even if Party chieftains derive satisfaction that they had hit upon the truth and exposed the claims of the Government, the impact of the CPSL's propaganda on the public and the masses is minimal.

Why? That is a question for the student of political science and history.

Next week we shall see how the Finance Ministry looks on all these matters.



DDC ELECTIONS—8

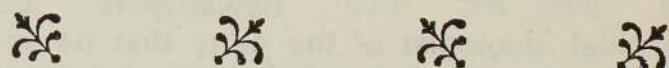
Cpsl (2)

THE CPSL FORTNIGHTLY of June 15 carried comments reflecting the Party's reactions and attitudes to the Elections and the different parties. The front page of the *Forward* carried an editorial note entitled *DRESS REHEARSAL*: It read: "The Communist Party has made two new and important points in its statements on the recent violence in Jaffna and the so-called election to the Development Council there. First, it has connected the violence in Jaffna with the growing trend toward "state-sponsored and state-patronised terrorism" against political opponents that is a special feature of the present UNP regime. As the CPSL rightly says, the state terrorism let loose in Jaffna on May 31st and June 1st is the latest manifestation of the trend that began with attacks by UNP-sponsored thugs against picketing trade unionists in 1980 led to Somapala's killing. Secondly, the CPSL has warned that the UNP sponsored interference with the DDC election in Jaffna may well be a dress rehearsal for what is in store for the whole country in 1983. President Jayawardene insisted on going ahead with the June 4 polls in Jaffna although an official committee he had appointed had advised him, as is now admitted, that conditions did not exist for a democratic election to take place. The Returning Officer has reported extensive illegalities and malpractices. Even the President has now said that many ballot boxes were missing and that some had been "taken to a hotel". Many polling stations opened late and closed early as election staff feared what may be in store for them under condition of a state of emergency and a curfew. 'Elections' like this have recently occurred in Guyana and elsewhere. Was what happened in Jaffna a tryout 'dry run' to see whether this can be repeated in Sri Lanka in 1983

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if no other means of putting off electoral defeat is available to the UNP? It is necessary that the full story about what happened in the DDC election in Jaffna is made known".

The front page lead story was entitled DDC FLOP STARTS NEW UNP IN-FIGHT. It read: What may well become a major internal struggle with the UNP has been sparked off by the party's poor showing at the DDC polls. Although the state-owned mass media screech about the UNP's 'massive victory' and the government tries to keep its new DDC members sweet by giving them four-figure allowances, the more serious sections within that party think differently. They concede that the boycott campaign was a success in all districts that polled in the south of Sri Lanka. This is a particularly bitter pill to swallow as President Jayewardene and other UNP leaders, supported by the mass media, went all out to appeal to voters not to stay away from the polls—even if they did not intend to vote for the UNP. The big drop in the vote that the UNP got in 1977 also has these elements worried and scared. They are particularly apprehensive over the two-thirds boycott and 20 per cent drop in the party's vote in the Colombo District, which has been the beneficiary of the government's consumerist policies for the last three years and which the UNP regarded as one of its main political bases. Another shock is the over 10,000 drop in votes received at Kotte, which the UNP wants to make Sri Lanka's new capital and where the new Jayewardenapura Parliamentary complex is being built. The striking fall in the UNP votes in constituencies which returned UNP Ministers and Deputy Ministers in 1977 has also shaken the UNP to the core.



his grip' and should step down. JR loyalists retort that as Minister of Local Government, Premadasa also bears a big share of blame for the DDC debacle."

This comment shows that the CPSL continues to indulge in its wishful thinking that factional squabbles inside the UNP were gathering momentum, particularly the President Jayawardene and Minister Lalith Athulathumudali. Differences and bickerings exist in every party (including the CPSL) but there is no evidence that any differences inside the UNP was likely either to split or weaken its offensive sting against the SLFP (which is split vertically and horizontally) or the Left parties. Political strategy must be based on realities and observers feel that any attempt by the CPSL or the SLFP to score debating points for propagandistic effect by harping on differences within the UNP cannot take them. It is felt that there is much in the UNP to be criticised without wasting powder and shot on differences that so far have little political impact or consequence.

The *Forward* also published three statistical tables to prove its points that the UNP was fast falling from grace—that, in fact, it had really was a "lost cause" so far as the elections were concerned. The first table was under the heading HOW THE UNP VOTE FELL: "Although the UNP government and its mass media have claimed a "massive victory" in the DDC polls, the actual results reveal a significant drop in the vote that the UNP received in the 10 districts outside the North and East as compared with what it received in the general elections of 1977. In general, the results show that whereas the UNP polled 51 per cent of the registered voters in 1977, it was only able to poll 33.34 percent of them on 4 June 1981. The breakdown for the respective districts is as follows:

"Criticism is especially sharp of Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, the main spokesman for the UNP's 'open economy' which has sky-rocketed inflation. 'Lalith is a political novice', one critic said. 'He is so flattered over his own newspapers calling him the chief ideologist of the party that he spends most of his time issuing lofty statements to these same newspapers without doing anything to help Ratmalana's voters, who are plagued with special problems about the lack of lights and water in addition to high prices and inadequate salaries'. Demands have also started once again that Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel should be replaced by transnational tycoon Upali Wijewardene. "In order to head off mounting criticism of the President, his loyalists have urged early corrective action. Among the proposals made are (1) a more fundamental Cabinet reshuffle and (2) holding the next Presidential elections in 1982 so that he can be back in office even before the Parliamentary elections are held in 1983. JR loyalists argue that it is best for him to seek a new Presidential mandate while Mrs. B is still disqualified, while the Opposition parties are still divided and lack a suitable and agreed Presidential candidate, and while the UNP's five-sixth majority in the present Parliament is still intact. Premadasa supporters have used the electoral reverse to revive their talk that JR is 'too old', 'out of touch' and 'losing

<i>District</i>	<i>Percentage in 1977</i>	<i>Percentage in 1981</i>
Colombo	50	29.23
Galle	46.8	30.29
Gampaha	46.9	29.23
Kalutara	47.7	29.69
Puttalam	48.6	38.00
Anuradhapura	47.0	30.94
Hambantota	48.0	30.37
Badulla	52.0	48.00
Matale	55.0	40.00
Polonnaruwa	46.0	34.03

The figures given above do not always tally with the figures given by the SLFP to underscore the same point. The second table was entitled THE EXTENT OF THE BOYCOTT. "The following figures show the response to the call for the boycott of the DDC elections in 10 districts outside the North and East, where special conditions prevailed. On average,

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while 90 percent of the voters polled in the general elections of 1977, less than half did so in what the government and its mass media called the 'mini general election' of 4th June 1981.

<i>District</i>	<i>Total Regd. Voters</i>	<i>Total Poll</i>
Colombo	911,257	357,722
Galle	483,605	190,459
Polonnaruwa	112,411	49,970
Anuradhapura	245,960	144,969
Hambantota	222,040	120,357
Kalutara	469,501	219,100
Gampaha	778,344	327,912
Puttalam	243,581	139,356
Badulla	255,749	153,704
Matale	176,225	99,295

"In addition, some voters expressed their opposition by deliberately spoiling their ballot papers." And the third table was on the POST-MORTEM ON UNP'S COLOMBO SETBACK. "President Jayewardene it is learnt, has called a special postmortem meeting of the UNP's MPs in the Colombo district to consider the serious setback that the party received in the DDC polls in this district, which was one of its main supporting areas in 1977. All but one of 16 MPs elected in this district in 1977 were from the UNP the solitary exception being from the 3-member constituency of Colombo Central. In 1977, the Colombo district provided 8 Ministers and 3 Deputy Ministers. The President and Prime Minister were among them. The 1981 polls, however, record a marked drop in the votes polled by the UNP in the constituencies represented by Ministers. Particularly noticeable is the drop in the Ratmalana constituency of Lalith Athulathumudali (over 7000), the Kotte constituency of Anandatissa de Alwis (over 10,000) the Colombo West constituency where President Jayewardene was elected (over 10,000), the Homagama constituency of Gamini Jayasuriya (over 7000), the Borella constituency of M. H. Mohamed (over 6000) and Colombo North and Colombo central constituencies of Vincent Perera and R. Permadasa (over 5000 each). In Kaduwela, where the (now resigned) Minister M. D. H. Jayawardene was elected, the UNP vote dropped by nearly 6000. The exact figures are:

<i>Electorate</i>	<i>1977</i>	<i>1981</i>
Colombo North	26,759	21,315
Colombo Central (2 MPs)	51,035	46,225
Colombo West	21,707	11,204
Colombo East	19,721	10,387
Borella	19,824	13,559
Ratmalana	19,972	12,865
Dehiwela	22,364	13,659

Maharagama	24,950	14,873
Kotte	23,240	12,667
Moratuwa	28,488	21,244
Avissawella	23,812	19,525
Kaduwela	28,178	15,981
Kolonnawa	23,756	17,793
Kesbawa	24,850	12,129
Homagama	24,730	17,609

(N.B.—For purpose of convenience the 153,095 votes received by the UNP in the 3 member Colombo Central constituency have been divided by three).

WITH THESE STATISTICAL TABLES and comments, the CPSL not doubt feels that it's analytical exercise to show that the UNP was (a) on the verge of internal integration and (b) a loss of total loss of popularity with the voters would be accepted. But the one question that the CPSL has left unanswered is who or which party or which coalition of parties can defeat the UNP at the next elections. It repeats the formula that a "unity of progressive opposition parties" would inflict the total defeat on the UNP at the next elections.

But where is this "unity of opposition parties"? Which are the opposition parties that can be termed "progressive" to form a coalition or an electoral front? There is certainly much disillusionment and many disappointment about the way the UNP had performed but people want to know who will defeat even a weakened UNP, Neither LSSP nor the CPSL (even if united), can hope to defeat the UNP in 1983.

The *Forward*, 15/6/81 referred to one symptom of "unity". Under the title UNP'S RACISM CONDEMNED, it stated: "The efforts of the UNP to promote racism under the guise of "fighting Eelam" during the DDC polls has been roundly condemned by many major political parties, trade unions, and public organisations in the south of Sri Lanka. Four parties—the SLFP, LSSP, MEP and CCP—have done so in a joint statement signed by the respective general secretaries of these parties. The CPSL has also condemned the UNP's efforts to rouse racism as part of its electoral tactics. In Kandy, a statement against these efforts to arouse racist feelings was issued jointly by a number of local branches of political parties, trade unions and public organisations. Signatories to the statement include the local branches of the CPSL, LSSP and NSSP, together with University Teachers Association, the Lanka Jatika Guru Sangamaya, MERG, Podu Sevaka Sangamaya and the RLS."

Embryonically, at least, the CP envisaged some kind of unity between the SLFP, LSSP, MEP and CCP—they are the four which together with the TULF

made the five-party united front under SLFP leadership—and the CP stands alone on the by-line also condemning racism. Is this enough to make an anti-UNP electoral united front, especially now when the SLFP is in two splintered parts? A united SLFP could have offered the UNP a major challenge but it is not. It is now on the verge of a major split.



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

Reference No. 11/7/5/32

The government intends to acquire the land described in the Schedule below, for a public purpose, for particulars, please see part III of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 156 of 28-08-1981.

SCHEDULE

District Anuradhapura
D.R.O.'s Division : Kekirawa
G.S.'s Division Tulana. No. 47A
Name of Village Nekettegama
Name of Land Damunuyayewatte, Kongahawela, Palugahawatta, Nekettegama Watta
Plan No. F.V.P. 1130 (Sup: No. 1)
Lot No. : Nos. 28, 30 - 34, 36 - 52, 58

C. H. J. Fernando,
District Land Officer/Land Acquiring Officer.

The Kachcheri,
 Anuradhapura,
 Date: -08-10-1981.

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

Reference No. 3/2/3/9/830.

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 156 (Part III) of 28-08-1981.

SCHEDULE

A. G. A's, Division Mirigama
Village : Makkanigoda
Name of Land : Bubule Kumbura, Bubulewatta
Lot Nos. : 1, 2 and 3
Plan No.. P.P. Gam. 252.

A. L. S. Malwenna,
District Land Officer of Gampaha District.

The Kachcheri,
 Gampaha.
 Date: 07-08-81

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

Reference No. /3141.

It is intended to acquire the lands/land described in the Schedule below/the lands described in the Schedule below have been acquired. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 156 of 28-08-1981 (Part III).

SCHEDULE

Situation of Land : In the Village Peekwella in Ward No. 3 Medawatta within the Urban Council Limits of Matara, DRO's Divisions of Wellaboda Pattu West and Four Gravets, Matara District.
Name of Land Araliyagahawatta Asst. No. 31 (part) Udapeekwella Road
Lot & Plan No. : Lot Nos. 1 to 5 in Preliminary Plan No. Mara/986

C. D. Vidanapathirana
Acquiring Officer Matara District.

The Kachcheri,
 Matara.
 Date: 03-08-1981

A STATEMENT

Price Support Scheme

—Tea Small Holdings and Factories

By **I. O. K. G. Fernando**

Secretary, Ministry of Plantation Industries
Chairman, Sri Lanka Tea Board

The manufacturing charge deductible by factories processing bought leaf is determined by the Ministry of Plantation Industries in consultation with the Tea Board. This has to be approved by the Treasury before implementation by the Tea Commissioner.

As costs change, the manufacturing charge has to be revised. The revisions made in recent years as costs increased significantly were as follows:—

Date of implementation	Amount deductible as manufacturing charge
	Rs.
1st Oct. 1978	3.05
1st April 1979	3.60
1st July 1979	4.10
1st Nov. 1979	4.40
1st Aug. 1980	4.70
1st Oct. 1980	5.40
1st March 1981	6.12

A standard cost structure was prepared in the Ministry of Plantation Industries in respect of manufacturing costs in 'bought leaf' tea factories. This was determined on the basis of a factory with an average annual through-put of 400,000 kg. of made tea. The annual level of production in bought leaf factories has been as follows:—

Annual level of production	No. of factories			Total
	Low grown	Mid grown	High grown	
over 500,000 kg.	19	—	—	19
400,000—500,000 kg.	12	1	—	13
300,000—400,000 kg.	19	18	—	37
200,000—300,000 kg.	37	18	—	55
100,000—200,000 kg.	—	5	—	5
below 100,000 kg.	27	27	—	54

The standard cost structure determined in Sept. 1980 and March, 1981, after careful examination of the various cost items are given below:—

Sept. 1980	Low grown (oil fired)	Low grown (fire-wood)	Medium & high grown (oil fired) (fire-wood)	
1. Packing material	1.72	1.72	1.38	1.38
2. (A)i. Drier oil fired	1.36	—	1.36	—
ii. Extra withering	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.10
(B) Firewood costs	—	0.55	—	0.55
3. Factory labour	0.64	0.64	0.43	0.43
4. Supervising staff	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
5. Electricity	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49
6. Maintenance of machinery & building	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
7. Transport to Colombo (Ave. 100 miles)	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21
8. Insurance	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
9. Depreciation	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
10. Storage in Colombo	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
11. Brokerage	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17
12. Other expenses	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
13. Finance charges (only 1 mth. working capital)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
14. Profit (national)	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Total	5.70	4.84	5.14	4.33

March 1981 : (consequent to increases in costs of liquid fuel firewood electricity & packing materials)

	Low grown (oil fired)	Low grown (fire-wood)	Medium & High grown (oil fired) (fire-wood)	
1. Packing material	1.77	1.77	1.42	1.42
2. (A)i. drier oil fired	1.67	—	1.67	—
ii. extra withering	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
(B) firewood costs	—	0.66	—	0.66
3. Factory labour	0.64	0.64	0.43	0.43
4. Supervising staff	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
5. Electricity	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62
6. Maintenance of machinery and building	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
7. Transport to Colombo (Ave. 100 miles)	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26
8. Insurance	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
9. Depreciation	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38
10. Storage in Colombo	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
11. Brokerage	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17
12. Other expenses	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
13. Finance charges (only 1 mth. working capital)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
14. Profit (National)	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Total	6.47	5.46	5.90	4.89

The cost of production of 1 kg. of made tea in 1980 by the J.E.D.B. and S.P.C. is reported to be as follows:—

J.E.D.B.		S.P.C.	
Avissawella	15.36	Hatton & Matale	17.88
Badulla	15.74	Nuwareliya, Haputale &	
Hatton	16.13	Balangoda	16.43
Kandy	15.90	Kalutara & Ratnapura	16.61
Kegalle	16.85	Galle & Matara	16.84
Kurunegala	13.91		
Nawalapitiya	15.04		
Nuwara Eliya	16.15		
<i>Average</i>	15.65	<i>Average</i>	16.93

Source: Ministry of Plan Implementation 'Performance 1980'.

The S.P.C. & J.E.D.B. have also informed this Ministry that their costs of production of 1kg. of green leaf in 1980 was, on average, as follows:—

J.E.D.B. Rs. 1.7256 S.P.C. Rs. 1.8361

Since on average 4.5 kg. of green leaf are required to produce 1 kg. of made tea, the *average* factory manufacturing costs of J.E.D.B. & S.P.C. in 1980 will be as follows:—

J.E.D.B. 15.65-1.7256x4.5 S.P.C. 16.93-1.8361x4.5
= Rs. 7.88 per kg. = Rs. 8.66 per kg.

The standard cost structure for production of green leaf in an average smallholding run on estate lines on the basis of an average yield of approximately 454—545 kg of *made tea* per acre (1000—1200 lb. per acre) was as follows:—

Item	Cost of per kg. of green leaf		(Consequent to increase of fertilizer prices in Feb. 1981)
	Sept. 1980	March 1981	
1. Conductor's salary	13.58	13.58	
2. stationary, V.A. fees etc.	2.27	2.27	
3. building & water supply	0.49	0.49	
4. zinc spraying	0.32	0.32	
5. fences & boundaries	2.22	2.22	
6. Provident fund etc.	8.12	8.12	
7. medical aid & maternity benefits	3.89	3.89	
8. holiday pay	2.19	2.19	
9. bonus & gifts	0.09	0.09	
10. plucking & tipping	87.95	87.95	
11. plucking equipment	0.72	0.72	
12. weeding	8.82	8.82	
13. pruning, gathering of prunings	4.40	4.40	

14. Manure application	0.67	0.67
15. cost of manure	10.00	22.00
16. shade	0.70	0.70
17. roads and drains	1.93	1.93
18. posts & disease control	1.21	1.21
19. mossaing and fencing	1.49	1.49
20. mulching and thatching	0.34	0.34
21. leaf transport	8.40	8.40
22. food production	0.83	0.83
23. feeding	8.40	8.40
24. supplies (infilling)	0.88	0.88
25. nursery	0.39	0.39
26. watcher	2.77	2.77

total 173.06 185.06 cts.

Average smallholder will not have the cost item Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 22, 23, 25 and 26. Therefore, the total cost should be reduced by cts. 43. However, a smallholder, often has to pay more than the Wage Board rates as he has to employ labourers on a casual basis. Further, their productivity is lower and management is less efficient.

It has also to be borne in mind that there are many 'low efficiency' smallholdings where the yield is as low as 275 kgs. per acre (approx. 600 lbs. per acre). In the circumstances, it is advisable to provide relief to smallholders by taking their C.O.P. per kg. at the same level as for an estate.

	1980 per kg. Rs.	1981 per kg. Rs.
(a) Estimated C.O.P. of well managed smallholdings less than 10 acres	1.3006	1,4206
(b) Estimated C.O.P. of well managed smallholdings run on estate basis on the basis of (b) being taken as average C.O.P. of all smallholdings C.O.P. for 4.5 kgs. of green leaf required to produce 1 kg. of made tea	1.7306	1.8506
	7.785	8.32

Minimum price paid to smallholder for bought leaf under Price Support Scheme:
upto Feb. 1981 — 2.20 per kg. or 9.90 per 4.5kg.
From March 1981 — 2.53 per kg. or 11.38 per 4.5 kg.

The Smallholder receives these prices for leaf when the factory sale prices are within the limits of the Price Support Scheme. The maximum of the Price Support Scheme was 15.30 from Oct. 1980 to Feb. 1981 and is 17.50 from March 1981.

When the monthly sale price of the factory exceeds the limit of the Price Support Scheme, the Government

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support is withdrawn completely from the factory which is however still required by Law to pay to the smallholder the minimum price plus further amounts determined as follows:—

Price upto elevation average: 85% of difference between nett price and the upper limit of the Price Support Scheme (Now Rs. 17.50) to smallholder.

Price exceeding elevation average:

(a) 85% of the difference between elevation average and upper limit of Price Support Scheme.

plus

(b) 60% of the difference between nett price and the elevation average.



SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

August 9 - 15

DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE WORLD COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS-PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9: A two-member team from the Mahaveli Development Ministry leaves for Peking on August 15 to negotiate with the Chinese Government for obtaining the services of heavy machinery operators from the People's Republic of China to keep the wheels of the Mahaveli project rolling—*SO*. The Australian and Sri Lankan Police have bared one of the biggest narcotics syndicates operating between Colombo and Melbourne/Sydney with connections in the United Kingdom, Canada and Bolivia. Government's financial experts are burning the midnight oil trying hard to find an additional Rs. 3,000 million to give the country's 450,000 public servants a salary hike—*ST*. Attacks on several houses and shops in the Batticaloa area were yesterday classified by the Defence Ministry as terrorist attacks. Government is to raise the monetary incentive for sterilisation to 500 rupees for a certain category of persons once more under a two tiered incentive scheme which will become effective from the beginning of next year—*WK*. Refugees camped at Kalmunai resulting from the recent violence are refusing to

return to their residences; Mr. K. W. Devanayagam, Minister of Home Affairs requested them to return to their homes—*CM*. It is reported that violence that was to have raised its ugly head throughout the country has been brought under control—*VK*.

MONDAY AUGUST 10: Berlin's Director of the Foreigners Authority (the immigration arm of the Berlin Police) said in Berlin on Thursday that he suspected that some of the 2,000 or so asylum seekers from Sri Lanka could be fugitives from justice in their own land; he had heard and read reports of bank robberies, hold-ups, looting and killing of policemen and civilians in Jaffna and from information gathered discreetly from youths from there, Berlin investigators were able to arrive at the conclusion that some of the refugees were, or could have been involved in these crimes—*CDN*. Sri Lanka's Free Trade Zone internationally regarded as the fastest employment generating zone in the world, last week had 15,000 workers on the payroll of its industries; a few months ago exports passed the Rs. 1 billion mark; this was revealed by Trade and Shipping Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali when he spoke at a seminar organised by the Lions Club of Wellawatte West held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on Saturday—*CDM*. A terror group has been identified as being responsible for attempts to unleash violence and thus create chaos in the country; their modus operandi was to attack a series of carefully selected targets that were expected to set off a violent backlash, and then attack Police stations on the east coast; earlier action by the security forces to clamp down in the area and moves by civil authorities to reduce tension, thwarted a possible serious situation arising from the terrorists attacks—*SU*. Two Tamil youths suspected to be members of the terrorist "Liberation Tiger" movement based in the north were arrested early on Sunday morning by an armed Panadura Police party in a shrub jungle on the banks of the Bolgoda Lake; following the arrest Police recovered a diary which detectives described as containing vital information about the movement which has struck terror into northern hearts during the past few years—*CO*.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11: The Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd., has reported an unprecedented Rs. 92.8 million profits to shareholders indicating that the banking boom of recent years is continuing unabated; the bank's Chairman, Mr. V. Manicavasagar, has said that the nett pre-tax profit was up 80 percent from the previous year's Rs. 51.4 million. President J. R. Jayewardene and Mrs. Jayewardene returned home yesterday to a warm welcome by Prime Minister R. Premadasa, fellow Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and other well-wishers. Security patrolling in several areas was intensified on Sunday following the appearance of a rash of posters over the weekend; a police spokesman said yesterday that the situation was gradually returning to normal particularly in the sensitive areas of Jaffna and Batticaloa.

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loa. The military and the police acted swiftly yesterday when looters attacked several shops in Negombo setting a few of them on fire; by 10 p.m. the situation was well under control, with an unofficial curfew enforced and people kept off the streets—*CDN*. The government has banned the export of unshelled cashew (cadju); the ban is the sequel to the discovery that unshelled cashew in large quantities had been exported to India; authoritative sources said yesterday that the export of unshelled cashew nuts had deprived the country of valuable foreign exchange. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has launched a programme sponsored by Technonet Asia to promote joint ventures between industrialists in Sri Lanka and Canada—*CDM*. Sri Lanka's elder statesman Sir Senarath Gunawardene passed away shortly after midnight last night; he was 81. Government will examine what immediate measures are needed to deal with recent acts of terrorism and other secessionist activity; this is expected to figure at tomorrow's weekly Cabinet meeting. Detectives from the CID last morning began interrogating two suspects in connection with a series of violent incidents in the North. The death toll of Police officers killed by Northern terrorists rose to 20 last morning, as Constable Nazir, died of gunshot injuries received in the attack on the Annaikottai Police station—*SU*.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12: An agreement is expected to be signed shortly between Japan and Sri Lanka under which Japan will provide Sri Lanka a grant of Yen 8.2 billion approximately Rs. 672.4 million or 34.8 million US dollars to be used for the construction of a general hospital at Sri Jayawardapura. The IGP, Mr. Ana Seneviratne yesterday sent out a countrywide police alert asking the forces to be specially vigilant against thugs, hoodlums and other lawless elements who might try to foment trouble; the police chief asked for stern action against terrorists, inciters, rumour-mongers and what one senior police spokesman described as "trouble-makers of any kind". Negombo where rioting mobs had attacked shops and tried to indulge in an orgy of looting on Monday night had returned to normal yesterday—*CDN*. The Security Council which met yesterday decided to open a special Command Post at Slave Island with immediate effect, to co-ordinate anti-terrorist measures and issue orders to meet any situation in maintaining law and order; if any violence erupts in any area an unofficial curfew will be enforced in such area by the police. Police suspect that the large-scale looting that took place in the Negombo town on Monday evening is politically motivated and aimed at creating disorder within the Free Trade Zone. The CWE has now stepped up the production of Vitamilk infant milk powder and reached the target of 800,000 pounds per month, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade and Shipping said yesterday—*CDM*. Due to delays in admission procedures, this year's 5,000 university entrants will begin their

courses in intensive English after the term begins in October and not in August-September as scheduled, it was announced yesterday. A multi-million rupee Liquid Nitrogen Factory is to be set up at the Ceylon Oxygen Company site in Mattakuliya by the first quarter of next year—*SU*. A carefully drawn up plan to hurt SLFP leader Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, allegedly masterminded by an extremist left group, has been uncovered by a top police team, which worked round-the-clock last night investigating the explosions which rocked the SLFP's Gampaha meeting yesterday; "it was a very carefully mapped out commando-type attack," a top policeman said this morning—*CO*.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13: The Cabinet yesterday accepted a recommendation of President Jayewardene that police and armed services salaries be revised immediately. President J. R. Jayawardene yesterday called out the Army, Navy and the Air Force for the maintenance of public order throughout the country with immediate effect; the Presidential order was issued after Mr. Jayewardene had consulted the service commanders the IGP and senior Defence Ministry officials about the security situation country wide. Yesterday's SLFP meeting attended by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike at the Gampaha Urban Council grounds had to be abandoned following an explosion which took place near the meeting place; about 15 persons were injured following the incident and were warded at the Gampaha hospital. Police yesterday reported several incidents of arson and looting in the Northern suburbs of Colombo; at Peliyagoda, a group of hoodlums had attacked a row of shops belonging to gunny bag, bottle and waste paper dealers, setting them on fire by flinging petrol bombs. All ranks of the volunteer units of the Sri Lanka Army volunteer force have been asked to report to their headquarters immediately. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday told his Cabinet colleagues that lawlessness anywhere in the country would be firmly and promptly dealt with—*CDN*.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14: The Finance Ministry yesterday removed the export duty levied on coconut oil with immediate effect. President Jayewardene yesterday declared a 6-hour curfew in three northern suburbs of Colombo to help the security authorities to curb pockets of lawlessness in these areas; the curfew which became effective from 11 p.m. last night till 5 a.m. today was enforced within the divisions of the Superintendent of Police, Negombo, the SP Kelaniya and the Ragama Police—*CDN*. Dr. Colvin R. de Silva complained to the Court of Appeal yesterday that he received two telephone calls—one on the previous evening and the other that morning, threatening that harm would be caused to his life with a bomb if he did not disassociate himself with the application now being heard in that Court—*CDM*. The Government yesterday moved in to take a series of security precautions in a bid to prevent acts of

sabotage; this came as intelligence reports pointed to the involvement of the members of extremist groups in acts of violence and looting aimed at causing communal and political unrest in the country. Untimely torrential showers coupled with conflicting views among engineers and workmen led to the breakdown last month of a major portion of the dam built across the Ulhitiya Oya; the five kilometer long earth dam which was built across the main Ulhitiya Oya to divert water to the parched fields of the surrounding region collapsed at the point where the pressure was greatest—*SU*. Government continued to keep a sharp eye on the security situation countrywide as sporadic outbursts of violence continued spreading to Ratnapura last night; army reinforcements will this morning be rushed to Ratnapura where a raging fire broke out last night as mischief-makers engaged in arson—*CO*. On a search made at Negombo yesterday morning by the Police and the Armed forces 25 petrol bombs and 25 bottles filled with sand were found.—About 50 shops were set on fire last night at Ratnapura.—*DP*.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15: The Government yesterday announced sporadic incidents of arson and looting from the Sabaragamuwa towns of Ratnapura, Kahawatte and Nivitigala in a two-paragraph communique on the security situation in the country; other reports indicated some incidents in Pelmadulla too; "it's all arson looting; offences against persons have not been widespread", authoritative sources said. Part One of the updated Mahavamsa covering the period 1935—1956 was yesterday handed over to President J. R. Jayewardene by the Mahavamsa Compilation Board—*CDN*. The Maha Perahera which is the grand finale in Kandy's 11—day Esala Festival will take the longest possible route tonight; President J. R. Jayewardene and Mrs. Jayewardene together with Ministers and VIPs will view the pageant from the Maha Maluwa seating stand. The Government announced yesterday that the six-hour curfew imposed on Thursday in Negombo, Kelaniya and Ragama had been lifted and that law and order prevails throughout the country—*CDM*. Security forces and the Police throughout the country were yesterday directed by the Government to maintain a high state of vigilance as the six hour curfew imposed in three sensitive areas lapsed last morning; this came after the National Security Council reviewed the security situation particularly in the provinces, at a prolonged session. The Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) yesterday condemned the acts of racial violence in the country and disclaimed association with such acts of violence—*SU*.



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

August 8 - 15

United States : Visiting President of Egypt Sadat urged US to help liberation movements everywhere and arm Third World friends to deter Soviet intervention abroad. Reagan has given the greenlight for the production of the Neutron Bomb. This is necessary to deal with Soviet Union from a position of strength. The dismissal of 12,000 striking air controllers and the support they received from air controllers of Canada, New Zealand, Israel, for a time paralysed Air flights to US. Towards the end of the week it is reported to be returning to near normal. Egyptian President Sadat wanted Saudi Arabia to be more active in search of Middle East peace. He urged US Congress to support the sale of AWACs aircrafts to Saudi Arabia. Former President Carter said that "it is time for the Israeli military occupation to end and for freedom and full autonomy granted to Palestinians. President Reagan has written to President Brezhnev suggesting the need for a discussion to preserve world peace.

India : President Reddy sacked the Rajasthan Governor and appointed two new governors in two other states. Indian civilians have besieged Dahagram, a Bangladesh enclave on the Indo-Bangladesh border. They want these Bangladeshis to change their allegiance to India. The Raman Mogsay-say award for journalism, literature and creative communications arts for 1981 will go to Gour Kishore Ghosh a Bengali journalist and author. India is negotiating for a 5,656 SDR dollar loan, biggest ever, with IMF to meet her balance of payment deficit. A French firm CPF will exploit the off-shore oil fields off Bombay for India.

Philippines : Premier Zhao Ziyang of China assured President Marcos that China will cease supporting Communist underground movement in South East Asia.

Thailand : Former Premier General Kriangasak returned to the Lower House of Parliament by winning a by-election. Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang admitted that Peking continued to give moral and political support to the clandestine communist parties in the region and it would take time to stop that connection.

Northern Ireland : Ninth IRA hunger striker died in Belfast: Police fought running battles with rioters.

Irish Republic : As the number of hunger strike deaths rose to nine and other violent deaths to 52 in Belfast, Ireland's deputy Prime Minister Michael O' Leary hinted that they will press for-greater US involvement in the issue.

Iran : Non Aligned peacemakers visited Teheran and had now gone to Baghdad in search of settlement

for the eleven month old war between Iran and Iraq. 38 Opposition Members, including left wing guerilla organisations Mujahedin were executed for attacks on government (Aug. 9). Mr. Bohonar, the clergyman Prime Minister, presented a 22 member Cabinet list for the approval to the Majlis. Iranian Embassy in Rome warned Italy not to grant asylum to former President Bani Sadr. Iranian urban guerillas attacked the headquarters of Revolutionary Guards in Teheran. They also killed a prominent clergyman.

Saudi Arabia : Saudi Crown Prince Fahd may call off his visit to US if US fails to change its Middle East policy and recognizes the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians.

Singapore : Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew told the visiting Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang that China should give up its support for insurgent communist movements in South East Asia; ASEAN nations need no communism or communist parties for their economic and political advancement and not to force Khemer Rouge down Kampuchean throats.

Berlin : Both sides of Berlin remembered the 20th Anniversary of the erection of Berlin Wall. According to a *Reuter* report West Germany has rejected the claims of 72 Sri Lankan Tamils for political asylum in that country. Sri Lankan media men visited Berlin to make an on the spot study of the asylum seekers and had reported back their angry mood.

United Kingdom : Prince and Princess of Wales ended their honeymoon with a dinner to President Sadat on board the Britannia and returned home.

Lebanon : Libya has offered to provide air cover system to Lebanese. Prime Minister Shafiz Al-Wazzam said that Lebanon has agreed in principle to accept the offer.

Liberia : Major General Thomas Vel Syen, former vice head of state, and four others will face a firing squad as a punishment for plotting to kill the head of state Samuel Doe.

Soviet Union : Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko attacked US for destroying the military balance of Southern Asia her arm supplies to Pakistan. Government newspaper *izvestia* said by producing neutron bomb US is playing with fire and Soviet Union would respond to it. *Tass* said that it showed the "cannibalistic instincts" that prevails in White House. But according to French Defence Minister Charles Hernu USSR has already tested neutron bombs. According to Soviet Red Star (Army newspaper) the Afghan government forces were facing tough battle against guerilla insurgents. Two Soviet diplomats were called from Dacca as they flouted diplomatic courtesy over the smuggling of high powered transmit-

ters into Bangladesh. Soviet Union has proposed an international treaty to ban deployment of all weapons in space.

United Nations : African states, joined by members of the non-aligned countries, will mount new onslaught to press South Africa to grant independence to Namibia. The chief US representative to the UN, Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick will visit six South Asian countries possibly to discuss about the issues on the agenda of the UN General Assembly during the coming sessions. Col. Gaddafi of Libya has appealed to the UN to intervene to end hunger-strike deaths in Northern Ireland and condemned the inhuman attitude of the British and the feeble stand of the world. Arab League is opposed to the Sinai Peace Keeping force.

Kenya : UN's conference on new and renewable sources of energy commenced in Nairobi (Aug. 10). Miss Driscoll, a journalist of the US international Communications Agency was shot dead in Nairobi.

France : There was a sigh of relief when 7 French nationals from Iraq returned on August 10 and later another 74 on August 12.

Bahrain : The OPEC countries may call for an emergency meeting to devise ways and means to stabilise the present oil glut and prices. The oil ministers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had an unscheduled meeting this week.



FILM FOCUS

Films For Children

"The Radio, inflexible and bureaucratic, Television, a series of disjointed programmes, Cinema, where courage on the screen is equated with violence, and story books that have run out of stories—are these going to shape the minds of the future generation?" The above is a poser in a well read magazine and to a considerable degree applicable to our local children's media scene, but for TV which has shown appreciable improvement of late. Focussing our attention on the film scene in particular, where movies made exclusively for children's consumption are very few and far between, what the growing generation has to contend with today is a salacious salad of sex violence which progressively stunts their values and veers them away in unfortunate and questionable directions. But for the solitary exception of Titus Totawatte's "Handaya" which won popular acclaim and the hearts of the children too, there were very few such dedicated films produced in our country in recent years. The reasons for this are not hard to visualise, for as box office prospects such films had not made any significant impact,

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mainly because most parents have not had the patience to sit through such ventures with their off-spring—the tendency being to drop them for such shows and pick them up later. While Russia has shown more interest in productions for children, there has been a paucity even in Hollywood where adult themes spell big money. The sacrificial zeal of Walt Disney has however been an exception and his cartoons have proved very popular with the innocents down the years, and with profit too. These short and full length films in a riot of colour have had the eyes of kids popping, as their fairy story book characters come to life on the screen and transport them mentally into realms of fantasy that stretch their imagination purposefully. We will come back to one such film *The Jungle Book* later, but let us delve further into how we could enlighten our little ones and make their lot happier by making the cine media more enjoyable, when they are relaxing from their text books. While the idea of children's cinemas have been mooted time and again, there are hardly any of them in existence today. The National Film Corporation has had one such in view, in a blue print stage, yet to get off the launching pad. In neighbouring India for example, there are many who have had the interests of children at heart, where many children's Film Societies are in existence, and the profit motive is not considered an impediment, for the Government subsidises such bodies with the tax payers' money. The local Catholic Film Office—the OCIC for example could activate such a society, besides sitting in annual judgment over films that carry an adult flavour only. In the world in which our children are maturing today, with so many permissive and pornographic factors influencing their thinking, the cinema could prove a neutralising force if handled well. Although film makers may argue that the cinema is only a part of a child's total environment, it cannot be denied that it's peculiar and visual qualities feed the budding minds adequately to make it a very potent influence in their impressionable years.

The Jungle Book (ENGLISH): A Walt Disney Cartoon presentation, tailor made to delight children, and illuminated in colour with maximum animation effects, to amuse adults as well—this film has been inspired by Rudyard Kipling's MOWGLI adventures. The story too is tuned to the tastes of the kids, as Mowgli, the Indian jungle boy, nurtured from infancy by a proud panther reaches a tender age in alien surroundings, sets out to seek his roots through animal infested territory to the man village. This journey compresses the long and short of the story, but within this measured interval, and on the trek are neatly packed, the wily and the friendly characters from the animal world, who make the tangled escape route a pilgrimage of fun and frolics with that exclusive and rare Disney touch. There is Shere Khan, the man eating, or rather the man hating tiger who takes to the scene of the little boy, while Kaa, a slippery python poised piously with like intentions, hisses his come

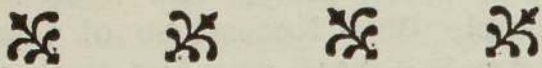
hither calls to line his hungry stomach. Even more martialled to hilarity are the trumpeting platoon under the command of a Colonel (Elephant) Hathi, who drills his own with a spit and polish perfection, till he spots Mowgli at the tail end, only at inspection time. In a similar stepping mood are Baboo the bear and King Lovie an eccentric ape ruler who are engrossed in their tripping toes to set off gyrations that tumble a temple roof under which they made mayhem. As Shere Khan closes on his prey, the Vultures in a nearby hangout forget their preying hunger and spread out their protective wings, to give adequate cover to lead Mowgli on unscathed. At journey's end, a doe eyed belle by the riverside takes over. The Music, orchestration and songs of the film hold the spotlight to bowl it merrily along—two numbers in particular "The Simple Bare Necessities of Life" and "What Friends Are For" keep your feet at an even tap. This is a brilliant Disney film which only selfish parents would deny their young—so steer the family bandwagon towards the Regal Cinema which has very considerately clocked the show opening times for the convenience of children.

Pallaandu Valha (TAMIL): A. M. G. Ramachandran starring film after quite a spell which portrays a youthful Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, taking an off the beaten track role, under director K. Shanker. As a prisons officer, M. G. R. undertakes to reform half a dirty dozen of condemned criminals under capital sentence, out into the open and away from the Prison bars. His experiment succeeds but only after many frustrating moments that form the hard core of the story. This gruelling moral exercise is spiced with the sayings of Arignar Anna in whose shadow M. G. R. attained his present political stature. In this unshackled story filled with lessons of righteousness to the brim, actress Lata swings about seductively to keep the prison's officer and his convicted charges in a wiggly world, while K. R. Ramasamy, Nambiar and Thengai Seenivasan among the condemned excel. Three popular musical hits add luster to the film which even holds the edge over recent Shivaji films—which would be saying a mouthful where South Indian releases are concerned. Have no doubts—you will take to this family entertainer without any regrets.

Amme Mata Samawenna (SINHALESE): A film title, quoted with gusto in a gathering political controversy, together with a fleeting nude scene that has taken the film to court—both have added to the popularity of this film from a Box Office point of view. In this unforeseen glare of publicity, the colour camera climbs and combs the scenic splendour of our hill country, as it settles down to a setimental story. It concerns a rich and pretty girl (Anusha Mediwaka) who is in love, with the handsome gardener (Sanath Gunatilaka), of her estate household. The affair runs into tests and trials, as the heroine's brother (Marwin Jayatunga) frowns on the

attachment, but only to toss the alliance from the frying pan into the fire. Actress Sonia Disa is the Amma who has precious little to do, but does it well, while Freddie Silva amuses in the salubrious climes, where he feels parched without a hot guzzle. A rather run of the mill story which wins more sympathisers in celluloid than in actual life, it is enhanced by colour, which contributes mainly to its success, pleasing the eye and consequently captivating the audience. Keep a date for this film—it is Directed by W. Wilfred Silva, with the camera work in the hands of Merceline Perera.

James N. Benedict



BOOK REVIEW

SARVODAYA

SARVODAYA : THE OTHER DEVELOPMENT

by Detlef Kantowsky (Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi, Rs. 75). The author is now the Professor of Sociology at the University of Konstanz, West Germany. His special field is the study of South Asian countries. A scholarship from the Indian Government had enabled him to pursue postgraduate studies at Banares Hindu University from 1964 to 1967. During this period he was attached to the Gandhian Institute of Studies and spent almost a year in a village in Varanasi district to study the impact of Community Development and Panchayath Raj. Since then he has made various field trips particularly to evaluate German development projects in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia. He has sought to acquire a "Gandhian understanding of the development crises caused by the Western modernisation paradigm". In this book, the author attempts to study "indigenous development thinking". In the first part he describes what he calls the Sarvodaya concept: from Ruskin's *Unto This Last* to Gandhi's village development theory—all the way through Vinoba Bhave's *Bhoodan* and *Gramdan*, Jayaprakash Narayan's *Total Revolution* to their adaptation in buddhist Sri Lanka in the *Sarvodaya Shramadana* Movement. In the second part he examines the practical achievements of Sarvodaya in India and Sri Lanka in the wider context of rural development in both countries. The third part is an attempt to see whether Sarvodaya could be another concept for global development.

IN THE PART about *The Concept* there are two chapters about Sri Lanka: (a) Sarvodaya Shramadana in Sri Lanka—with sub-sections: Buddhist Revivalism, Hundred Villages Development Scheme, Education Through Shramadana, Development Through Gramodaya, Participation Through Haulas, Expansion,

Ten Basic Needs, Integration ?; and (b) Sarvodaya in India and Sri Lanka—Basic Differences in concept. He traces the beginnings of the Sarvodaya Movement in Sri Lanka and how it was tied up with the term Shramadana—meaning "sharing one's time, thought and energy for awakening of all". He traces the history from early Buddhist revivalism to A. T. Ariyaratne's Sarvodaya and its connections with the Village Reawakening Council (Gramodaya Mandalaya). The author makes a clinical study of the Movement around Ten Basic Needs and the new Sarvodaya Social Order: 1. A clean and beautiful environment; 2. A clean and adequate supply of water; 3. Minimum clothing requirements; 4. A balanced diet; 5. A simple house to live in; 6. Basic health care; 7. Simple communication facilities; 8. Minimum energy requirements; 9. Total education and 10. Cultural and spiritual needs. He also examines the co-operation and co-ordination of the activities of the Sarvodaya Movement and the Dharmista programme of the Jayewardene Government. Kantowsky has some interesting comments to make on the problems that arise because of the financial assistance from foreign national and multinational organisations. The Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB) is the main funding organisation that gives the Sarvodaya three million guilders a year. The author wonders how long the Dutch public can be kept satisfied that this investment was worthwhile just "to share certain worthwhile experiences". The author goes on: "...These concluding remarks are not meant to weaken the concept of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement in Sri Lanka. They are only meant to indicate the doubts that many concerned observers sometimes have when they witness electorate programmes and international bargains. So far A. T. Ariyaratne has been able to manoeuvre his movement skilfully on an international wave of requests for indigenous and more appropriate solutions to the modernization problem of post-colonial societies. He is sure to have built up by now enough motivational support and practical skills in some two thousand villages of the island to keep Sarvodaya afloat, should the flow of outside assistance and internal approval ever slacken off. In the next chapter we shall try to validate these assumptions on the basis of the reports filed by Sarvodaya's own research unit. But first we shall now compare briefly the present forms of the Sarvodaya concept in India and Sri Lanka and try to relate them to the original Gandhian model.' This the reader must read for himself.

KANTOWSKY then attempts to compare Sarvodaya in India and Sri Lanka—two basic differences in concept. And he concludes his analysis with: "A. T. Ariyaratne himself does not like the Movement always being compared with Sarvodaya in India. 'If I would start again,' he told me in September 1978. 'I would rather try to avoid the name Sarvodaya. Not that it does not give the exact meaning of what we are doing. But we are thereby identified with

Sarvodaya in India and measured by a yardstick that is not our own' . . ."

IN PART TWO, after a brief examination of the Sarvodaya Movement in India, he devotes many pages to the work of the Movement in Sri Lanka. This is something every person interested in Sarvodaya should read for himself (or herself) and he concludes that: "Sarvodaya's village activities have only a limited appeal . . ." Finally he seeks to place Sarvodaya in a general global setting. He sums up on a pessimistic note: "But can Sarvodaya be of any help? Have we not seen how it failed in India and that the concept and its realization are worlds apart even in Buddhist Sri Lanka? To begin with I believe that we must not replace one utopia, modernization, by another. Sarvodaya should not be taken as a dogma, but as an attempt to redefine ends and means according to a given context" and he goes on: "Neither a Mahatma Gandhi nor one of his disciples such as Jayaprakash Narayan or A. T. Ariyaratne can solve our own problems, It is an example they have given us, nothing more. Ultimately we are thrown back upon our own capacities if we went to go in a similar direction. 'You should do your work, for the Tathagatas only teach the way', said the Buddha, and strongly advised the Bhikkus not to become dependent on any concept or ideology". Kantowsky then points out: "Having thus realized that Sarvodaya is a strategy for individual emancipation in the service of all, we begin to see that the bureaucratic routinisation of the message's charisma would be a self-defeating instrument of the concept as such." And he concludes: "The Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement in Sri Lanka, however, relies on righteous relationships with the rulers and thereby tries to establish a modern form of cooperation between world conquerors and world renouncers. It remains to be seen whether such a reformed Ashokan model can be used under the deformed conditions of postcolonial society. There is already writing on the wall which seems to predict that the Movement will suffer. Some of the really devoted workers and some of the younger Bhikkus, too, have begun to question the Movement's cooperation with the government. But again, this is not our problem. Neither a break-up of the Movement nor its gradual corruption would invalidate the message but only reconfirm the cross-cltural validity of some basic assumptions of the social sciences . . ."—T.D.S.

OCCULT?

The Asses' English

By Dr. H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz.

FAR WORSE than contempt for simplicity and conciseness of expression is sheer incompetence on the part of writers. We have a number of amusing examples of this. In an interesting article—published some years back in a popular Sunday newspaper—on the practice of exorcism of evil spirits by means of devil-dancing in Sri Lanka, and the widespread use of charms and magic spells, we came across the

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following expressions which at least had the merit of entertainment value, even if their literary quality was not the best.

No. 1: "These occult practices have no grounds for any scientific explanation or argument, through the media of research and experiments." What the writer meant to say was this: "There is no experimental or other scientific evidence to support the belief that these occult practices have any validity or efficacy".

No. 2: *From the ancient past the Sinhala people are still well accustomed to devil-dancing as they believe the presence of malevolent spirits.* Our paraphrase is as follows: "From ancient times the Sinhala people have been quite accustomed to devil-dancing. To this day the practice persists among them, because of the widely-prevalent belief—rightly or wrongly—in the presence of evil spirits".

No. 3: "Generally something charmed is given to eat in secret (without the knowledge). That was understandable phrasing, but a better substitute would be this: "Generally something secretly 'charmed' is given to be eaten by the unsuspecting recipient".

No. 4: "Generally an egg is charmed and buried secretly in a place expecting the person, against whom it is done, to walk over it unnoticed". Now is it the secretly charmed spot that is expecting the intended victim to walk over it unwittingly, or is it the charmer? If it was the latter, the phrasing should have been as follows: "Generally an egg is 'charmed' and buried secretly in a selected spot with the charmer's expectation that the intended victim will unsuspectingly walk over the secretly charmed spot." The real devil that needs to be exorcised is the one that took possession of an earnest writer and perverted his literary style. The writer so possessed ended up with this:

No. 5: "To the rationalist mind all these appear to be mere fiasco." Of course what he meant to say was this: "To the rationalist all this is just mumbo-jumbo".

Now listen to the concluding sentence of a Christmas Day message as reported prominently in the front page of a leading morning newspaper. The sentence reads as follows:

"We wish all beings in love a Happy Christmas!"

Now if we are to interpret that message as it stands, it would appear that only those beings—without exception—who happen to be in love are the fortunate ones to be wished a Happy Christmas. All those beings who are unfortunately not in love are excluded from receiving those Christmas wishes.

But of course what the benevolent clergyman intended to say was this: "With love we wish all beings a Happy Christmas".

And Irrigation

By R. Kahawita

The *Sun* of 4.4.81 in announcing the "no budget cut on Mahaweli" decision of the Cabinet reported that Kotmale Reservoir once completed would regulate water to systems H, A, B and C. This is not quite the position in managing the water at Kotmale Reservoir. Kotmale Reservoir is on a tributary by that name and joins Mahaweli at Attabage. The water-shed of Kotmale is very small compared to the water sheds of other reservoirs in the Mahaweli system. The advantageous features of Kotmale Reservoir siting are its elevation and "reliable" rainfall patterns during the two monsoons. This latter has to be discounted now because of a "dry cycle" which may last another 20 years or so with unpredictable floods once in a while.

ACCORDING to the sequence of construction of other reservoirs in the system, Kotmale has to take over the function of supplementing irrigation requirements of systems H 1/H and M/H. It can help very little to assist systems A, B and C for irrigation. The key-role of Kotmale in the original plans was power generation; Irrigation was incidental to the extent that it regulated the flow in Polgolla diversion. By a recast of priorities under the accelerated programme use of water for irrigation at Kotmale has gained priority now. Therefore power generation at Kotmale is secondary to irrigation. The operation of Kotmale has become critical due to its reduced capacity, which has been tailored to suit the finances available from the donor country, as explained by the Ministry in a subsequent note. It means the dam will be constructed in two stages.

Hydro-power also is critical, because of the present low rainfall cycle. It is very likely that for several years to come, there will have to be stand by power for about 150 days a year, even if annual power consumption is frozen to what it is today. In a situation like this domestic use of power can be curtailed but not commercial and industrial uses. On the basis that 50% of the daily power requirement can be met from Hydro-power during the 150 days of lean rain fall, the other 50% will have to be met by thermal or other forms of power generation. This quantum will increase with the growth of power demand. Alternatively a part of this demand can be met by developing hydro-power in the Wet Zone river systems, like Maha Oya, Kaluganga, Bentota, Gin Ganga, Nilwala Ganga. At present the concentration of power generation is confined to the Kelani Ganga system, but there is still room to expand this system.

THE DEVELOPMENT of the above river systems should be principally for power, irrigation may be

developed to that extent what could be irrigated by the normal release of water for power. Even this may not be possible in a cascade system, that is to say, the same water is used over and over again as water flows down the rivers. There is currently a programme of rural electrification under way to cover the whole island. This seems ludicrous in the face of power shortages. However, it may be rectified by the generation of power at various points on the above mentioned river systems for local distribution, and any surplus to be pumped into the National grid. While concentrating on the construction of current projects, there must be undertaken parallel investigations and studies to harness the other Wet Zone rivers for Hydro-generation and for local distribution. This will help to off-load the requirements of rural electrification than from the central Hydro and thermal generation as it is now.

The current mood for the Government is to engage foreign experts to make such studies and investigations and prepare reports. These are taken up as Technical Aid Schemes; of which there were several in operation in other fields of activity. The Government, if not already done, should seek Technical aid to study the hydro-potential in the wet zone rivers. This can be a follow up as supplementary to the present hydro power and thermal generation development plans.



NGUVU

All In The Day's Work

By Bawana Rafiki

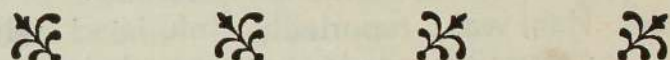
MY LOT was to check a number of articles of *Nguvu* for type-written errors, a job which took me perhaps two hours, but it gave me a perspective of how I have been writing them. Too much juggling with time and lack of concentration was what I saw. My postponed visit to Inland Revenue at an office out of the metropolis over a letter crammed with figures, the letters of the alphabet all in Sinhalese, had me worried until time precluded the visit once again. I stayed in the evening and talked to my father, and my failure to go along to the Club for an outing on the water was no help in catching the bus that left at 7.30 p.m. I missed it by about half an hour. I sat in a bus next which I was misinformed would get me to the estate after a small detour by the airport. We went through Katunayake all right but not as far as the estates. I waited hours for a lorry. After midnight I got a lift a part of the way on the back of a motor cycle, and then after a little walking a lift in a lorry. I was back at about 1.30 a.m. and found our buffalo *Nuwaragalla* loose. He made no effort to get away from me but confronted me, and I dared not cover the few yards between us to catch

him by his nose-string. If he had been my other buffaloes *Benedic* or *Mullegama's* bull who have not even been nosed, I should have had no such hesitation. So I hollered for the watcher. After a few attempts at throwing a robe around his horns the watcher, a young wiry fellow, nearly walked out on me and I had to raise my voice at him to keep him there. At one stage we had to trail around a part of the estate looking for the animal. At 3.15 a.m. with the aid of three more people whom I summoned we caught him. All I had was about two hours' sleep that night. We have a heifer with a deep sore on her shoulder. When I get near this heifer there is a smell which I am told is not of margosa oil but of the wound, and yet I have been assured that there are no maggots in that wound. It is a little hard to believe. I had had an idea formed that morning of visiting some one beyond Kurunegala, and late though it was when I left, my visit was still worthwhile. I was invited to stay the night but set off homewards. Six miles from home I had perforce to stay at a friend's and though I slept well, I was as tired as I could be the following day. The day before I had sold some tall coconut trees not worth keeping and took an advance for them. Now a boy had come round for some arecanut that he heard I had still with me. As it was very old he offered me Rs. 15/- for the lot unsorted. I refused and he decided to stay and sort them himself. My decision gained me another Rs. 40/-, money which was most welcome. I returned to Colombo via the town which has our local Inland Revenue Office and called there. I got to Colombo in time for an outing on water.

THE NEXT MORNING it was Katunayake again but in daylight to meet a sister of mine and her husband. All but two of the members of the family were there to greet them and for the first time for years all five branches of our family were together again in the persons of their representatives. There was a feast laid out for us back at the house, the setting like a fairy tale, kiribath, cayons, plantains, mangosteens, love cake, home-made toffee, jugs of passion fruit, beer for those who wanted it, ice cream, all served with our best crockery. Cousins joined us for lunch. It seem the family has still a lot of go in it inspite of the decimation that has taken place in recent years. The estate is on their list and I, a lonely batchelor, will have to arise to the occasion somehow. These days the *Vel* cart is out on an evening and three young members of the family went out to see it, but they were unlucky. Talking to our family, we all seem to be very different but so much one. With my sister's permission I was able to borrow from my father's bank account to help me meet my estate requisition for this week. I had ten days' notification of the despatch of my milk cheque but it had not yet been received at the bank, or rather it had but would take eight days to be realized or thirteen days if you counted holidays, two week-ends and a *pooya* holiday, this being a local cheque and not a Colombo one. So

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I was merely borrowing on this occasion on money which I technically had, at least to my name, With the credit squeeze on I do not think banks are able any longer to buy cheques at a discount. I could get to the bus stand no earlier than my wont on these occasions and learnt from observation that my particular bus, the buses passing the estate, buses coming from Colombo, do not ply from the Pettah until the mad rush or jam of traffic has quietened down, thinned out, after 3.30 p.m. Somehow I got to the estate in time. When my superintendent and my agent had gone off to the pola or market but ten minutes, two tractors with their trailers turned up to resume removing the nuts which had been husked. One of the tractors was despatched to the village a mile away to tell them to hurry back. The brother of the buyer had turned up, too. He told me he had spent a year and a half in Sweden doing agriculture and had returned a part of the way overland through Germany and France. In spite of this he spoke what I would call English in a halting sort of way, but spoke that well. Perhaps it was his accent. He was going back with one of the trailers a long way to collect some manure. As I was leaving the estate I was delayed in one way and another, an inquiry into a report by the watcher on the man who occupies the house with no doors and then my being told when I had asked after them that the milk cows were still on a part of the estate when the fencing could not have prevented them straying.



UNITED STATES

Behind the CIA Casey Controversy

By Jim Khatami

New York, August 6 : The scandal involving allegations of financial wrong-doing by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey has faded almost as quickly as it burst on to the Washington scene. The controversy seems to involve not only financial wrong-doing, but a dispute over tactics between the "good old boys" at CIA headquarters in Langley Virginia and the new comers installed by the Reagan administration. Reagan's appointment of Casey, a Wall Street lawyer with experience in the office of strategic services (a predecessor to the CIA) and an overt enthusiasm for covert operations, pleased the Intelligence Bureaucracy. High ranking CIA officials were outraged with Casey's appointment of Max Hugel, a colleague of Casey's on Reagan's presidential campaign team and a president of a sewing machine manufacturing firm with no experience in intelligence.

Conservative columnist Rowland Evans and Robert Novick have charged that the CIA "old boys" immediately began plotting Hugel's downfall and induced his former business associates who have since gone into hiding to go to the *Washington post* with allegations of financial improprieties against him. Hugel promptly resigned and was replaced by career CIA official John Stein. The controversy continued. *Newsweek* published a sketchy account of Hugel-devised plot to depose Libya's President Muammar Gathafi. The following day the White House maintained that the plot involved Mauritania and not Libya. Meanwhile, many newspapers began raising the issue of financial misdeeds by Casey in 1968, and Conservative Republic Senator Barry Goldwater, Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee called for Casey's resignation. Reagan stood firmly behind Casey, and the whole issue died after Government circles warned that to pursue the scandal would impair the CIA's ability to carry out the Reagan administration's directives. Although the controversy over both Casey and the reported plot against Libya has faded, observers here say serious tension lingers between the "good old boys" at the CIA and the Reagan administration. Most of the friction arises in disputes over intelligence analysis. The CIA's intelligence arm has been under increasing pressure from the Reagan administration to provide documentation for the administration's key foreign policy theme: that the bulk of the world's difficulties are caused by the Soviet Union. Secretary of State Alexander Haig was reportedly infuriated when a CIA study on terrorism failed to back the administration's charges against the Soviets.

In a recent speech at CIA headquarters, Casey scolded CIA officers for failing to unearth more evidence of Soviet involvement in Africa and Latin America. Many administration officials are particularly angered by the CIA's failure to document the alleged Soviet involvement with the antigovernment Guerilla forces in El Salvador, and holds the CIA at least partly responsible for the "White Paper" fiasco. The State Department's white paper on El Salvador, alleging heavy Cuban and Soviet interference there was thoroughly criticised by the US press for being based on non-existent and distorted documentation.

CIA officials argue that they must avoid a too extensive tailoring of its intelligence output to fit political considerations. They claim this would undermine the agency's credibility and usefulness to policy makers. Academics outside the Agency point to the damage done by pessimistic CIA forecasts of the Soviet Union's oil production. These forecasts which were used to justify Carter's Mideast policies have recently been found completely inaccurate. CIA watchers here say the agency believes that the best propaganda must be built around a kernel of truth and that too extreme a distortion of reality may be counter-productive. One former CIA official recently

warned that Regan's attempts to portray liberation movements in Namibia and elsewhere as Soviet-controlled "terrorist" organisations would only discredit US policy.

But CIA officials and the administration agree on the need to expand covert operations against governments viewed as hostile to US interests in the Third World. CIA officials have been disturbed, however, by a tendency of Reagan administration officials to leak information to the press about cloak and dagger activities in order to score political points in Congress or with the public. It was these disputes on intelligence and clandestine operations in foreign countries that were beginning to emerge as the Casey scandal progressed, with the concerted effort in Washington to put an end to the Hugel-Casey uproar, an appearance of harmony between the CIA and the administration has been restored.

There is little doubt, however, that in the likely event of some future American foreign policy or covert operations failure, the fundamental tensions between the United States' powerful espionage establishment and the Reagan administration will once again emerge.

/PS—Lankapuvath.



INDIA

In Space Club

By Vijaya Chari

Madras, August 15 : On November 21, 1963, a tiny U.S.-made Nike Apache rocket blasted off from the small launching pad at the Thumba Equatorial Launching Station (TERLS) near Trivandrum, ushering in the era of space research in India. Now, less than 13 years, later India has not only demonstrated its capability to build and launch its own satellites but also to control and manoeuvre them high in space. The fact has won for India the membership of the exclusive Space Club of the World. More heartening perhaps than the technological expertise demonstrated by India's space scientists is their resilience and confidence, particularly in the face of the setbacks inevitable in such a research programme. Space research is one area where technology transfer is next to impossible and the accent in India's programme has, therefore, been on "do it yourself". In the field of rocketry in particular India has had to start virtually from scratch, making the hard, sweated climb up the ladder of indigenisation. Things have been a little easier in regard to satellite technology, as India has been able to shop for designs in the international space market and opt for the ones most suitable. Once these have been chosen, India

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has been able to get down quickly to making the hardware. So India's first satellite, Aryabhata, was fabricated more than six years ago and launched on April 19, 1975 from the Soviet Union. Bhaskara I, an earth observation satellite, was also put into space in the same way. Both are still in orbit.

MEANWHILE, a dedicated band of scientist headed by Dr. Vasant Gowrikar, a propellant expert had through a process of constant innovation developed, a rocket system at the Trivandrum station, now known as the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). The gap between satellite technology and rockery was slowly being bridged. The first experimental flight of the full-fledged satellite launch vehicle, SIV-3t failed, with the rocket nosediving into the Bay of Bengal off the picturesque island of Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. This must have been quite depressing for the more than 10,000 space scientists in the four major research centres. Indian Space Research Organisation, however, did not lose time in identifying and rectifying the problem and within months their efforts were crowned with success. Only on July 18, 1980, the 35kg. Rohini satellite (RS-1) was shot into orbit on the second experimental flight of SLV-3. Rohini-I lived much longer than its projected life of 90 days in space. There was, however, another setback on the first development flight for the four-stage launch vehicle. SLV-3 D-1 launched the 38-kg Rohini II from Sriharikota on May 31. But the satellite failed to reach its projected orbit and burned up in the atmosphere within nine days. It was originally designed for a life-span of 300 days. This was revised to 90 days on launching, but the satellite fell far short due to faults that occurred during the separation of the burnt out third stage and the spin-up and ignition of the fourth stage. The apogee booster motor apparently failed to provide the necessary thrust at the fourth stage for Rohini-II to achieve the planned orbit. But, although the same motor was to boost the Apple (Arian Passenger Load Experiment) satellite into geo-stationary orbit, India's space scientists decided to go ahead with its launch on June—19 by the European Space Agency's (EASA's) Ariane rocket from Kourou in French Guyana.

AND THEIR CONFIDENCE appears to have paid some dividends as the apogee booster motor performed better, although not to full satisfaction, on board APPLE in the attempt to put the 670-kg experimental communications satellite into a geo-stationary orbit. The Apple is responding well to all its commands from the Space Application Centre (SAC) Ahmedabad, Delhi Earth Station and Madras Earth Station for a period of five to ten hours every day. The success of Apple's placement in the 24 hour geo-stationary orbit at 36,000 kms in its assigned parking slot of 102 degrees east longitude over Sumatra comes as a morale booster for the Indian scientific community particularly in the context of its jammed Solar panel and depleting hydrozine fuel.

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Apple's success is invaluable in the context of the ISRO's more ambitious programmes to launch the Intelsat One A and Intelsat One B full fledged satellite communication satellites for operational use in strengthening telecommunication network, such as telephone, telegraphy and teleprinter. Both intelsats, being purchased from Ford Aerospace Corporation (USA), are to be launched in a year or so from Cape Kennedy. Although these satellites have been bought from USA, the experience gained in putting the apple in the difficult geosynchronous orbit would be useful for intelsat too. On the success of Intelsat would depend India's prestigious project of making a prototype called the Proto Insat which would be much more sophisticated than Apple.

INDIA is drawing up plans to launch telecommunication satellites on its own, as it would cost almost a fortune for the same. Apple, because of its experimental nature, was given a free ride by the ESA. But subsequent launches by either the U.S. space shuttle or the ESA would cost as much as ten million US Dollars. A move has been made in this direction by starting the work on the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). While the ASLV will launch a satellite on a near earth orbit at less than 200 kms., the PSLV would be able to launch one in a sun synchronous orbit of 200 by 1,000 kms. The ASLV and PSLV programmes, which will involve an expenditure of around Rs. 300 crore, are expected to speed up further spread of the benefits of technology in the country, particularly in the field of communication. On the success of these programmes depends also India's ability to help other countries. The United Kingdom, which has abandoned its own space programme because of the heavy costs, has already approached India with a proposal to launch a Commonwealth satellite from Sriharikota. But India would like to wait and watch the progress of the ASLV and PSLV programmes before making any commitment. Malaysia and Singapore too have shown keen interest in whether India would be able to launch their satellites. In fact, well-known science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke has suggested that India take the lead in forming an Asian Space Agency on the lines of the European Space Agency. Whether or not this comes about, it speaks volumes for India's standing in the exclusive "Space Club".



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Hotel Charges

IS IT NOT A FACT that there is serious concern among those interested in the future of the tourist industry that the high rates now charged may turn counter productive? That Secretary, Sarath Amunugama has warned the hotel industry that they stood in dire peril of killing the goose that lays the proverbial golden eggs? That President Jayawardene too has expressed deep concern about the greed of hoteliers when he heard that some hotels charged Rs. 26 for a Thambili? That several visitors to this country have complained to *Tribune* that they were not getting their money's worth at many of our hotels? That there were exceptions no doubt but they do not make the rule? That recently the daily papers published a letter from a "regular visitor to the country" John Haigne? "Will somebody tell me whether this country is honestly trying to promote tourism—or kill it? I dropped in the other day to one of the biggest hotels in Colombo and had a bottle of beer—just one. And what do you think I was charged for it? Rs. 55/-. What makes this all the more reprehensible is that the label on the bottle is clearly stamped with the words: 'Retail price Rs. 18/-. I don't go very much for beer. But what about tourists from such places as Germany who ordinarily drink a lot of the stuff. Let's suppose that one of them is putting up at this hotel and drinks three bottles of beer per day which is nothing much to what he would consume at home. Am I to understand that this tourist will be billed Rs. 165 per day for the three bottles of beer in addition to the other—and equally enormous—charges he will be stuck with? If that is so, it is nothing but downright robbery. A while back, I read in the local papers that at the rate they are going, Sri Lankan hotels will soon be over-pricing themselves out of the tourist trade. Here's a classic example of that kind of killing of the golden goose. That this is only one of the many complaints from visitors that have appeared in our daily papers? That what is worse is when these complaints are made in the media of countries from where the bulk of our tourists are drawn? That no one can complain that the newspaper media in our country has not drawn attention to this problem? That seasoned Lake House journalist A. B. Mendis had an excellent piece in his column *Travel Diary* entitled **HOTELS THAT FLEECE TOURISTS?** That it read: "The hotel pricing controversy, which began recently with President J. R. Jayawardene's query about high prices charged by certain hotels, has gathered momentum. The Presidential query was triggered off by the unhappy price of Rs. 25 a visitor had been called upon to pay for his Thambili. The Tourist Hotels Association of Ceylon recently announced the explanation for the benefit of all and sundry: The price of Rs. 26 charged for a Thambili which contained ice-cream. Reading the explanation someone screamed the question whether the Thambili

was full of ice-cream or only half-full of it. Last week a Colombo Tour operator again looked hard at the bill he had received from an outstation hotel for "four extra portions of pine apple"—without ice-cream of course—which he had been called upon to pay on behalf of his client: Rs. 66, inclusive of the service charge. Quite different is another case: a waiter in a hotel in Anuradhapura, which sticks to its conservative price served the bill for a bottle of soda to a visitor. Without even reading it, the visitor placed Rs. 15 on the tray. The unspoilt waiter told him the price was only Rs. 5, 'Oh' he gasped, 'I was always billed Rs. 15 for a bottle of soda in my hotel in Colombo'. There are still good waiters and fair pricing hotels. But the other instance is about a wayside inn, on the Bandarawela road which charged Rs. 60 for a bottle of beer. Surely it is time this business of following my leader in the pricing process is stopped somewhere. The association was right in calling for information on certain items of revenue and expenditure for submission to the President, for the financial year 1978-79 and 1980-81. It indicated that during the period, the revenue items, namely average room rate had increased from 68% to 319% cover and beverage rates 54% to 87%, and from 43% to 159% respectively. Increases in expenditure on amenities such as water and fuel were steeper: electricity had gone up 22%—630%; water 797%—1011%; LPG 56—335%; operating expenses 86%—178%. The Tourist Board's suggestion to the Association is that hoteliers should concentrate on the pricing of certain sensitive items where prices seemed to be excessive. These are: a bottle of soda, a bottle of aerated water, a glass of fruit juice, a bottle of local beer, and a meal of rice and curry. I noticed a few days ago, the charge for a rice and curry meal at a tourist hotel Colombo was around Rs. 60. It consisted of Kesal-mal curry, potatoes, bean curry and two small pieces of chicken one of which was bony. There was ice-cream for dessert. The association has suggested to the Tourist Board that it should deal individually with hotels in matters of pricing."? That it is clear from A. B. Mendis' piece that the Tourist Hotel Association is not able to bring any relief and has passed the buck to the Tourist Board? That the Board has the power to control prices through gazette notifications but this may create a black market which may be even worse? That so far the Tourist Board appears to have only "advised" hoteliers to bring down high prices and it is reported that "hoteliers have agreed to do so"? That it will be good if the media is made aware of the list of hoteliers who have followed such advice? That *Tribune* will from time to time send its investigators to find out where this "fleecing" of tourists goes on? That we will also welcome reports and comments from our readers or anyone else either interested in the hotel industry or have been the victims of hoteliers greed? That it is not the prices that hotels charge (in the context of Sri Lankan tariffs) that matter but whether a tourist gets his money's worth (in the context of global price indices)?

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL HARMONY

The Citizens Committee for National Harmony, gravely perturbed at the increasing incidence of violence, looting and disorder of markedly communal nature in the past few days, considers it imperative that the leaders of the Government and of the Opposition and the heads of the various religious bodies make a public appeal through the media including the radio for calm and law and order. While we endorse the action of the Government deploying the armed services to reinforce the police in order to prevent the escalation of violence and maintain law and order, we urge them to act impartially and responsibly carrying out their duties. We also call upon community organizations and groups of concerned citizens to act jointly to preserve the peace and in the protection of the people's rights, their homes and property.

We appeal to the media to use their influence to preserve and promote national harmony. The present situation is the result of growing suspicion and distrust which has been aggravated by chauvinism on both sides. The solutions to the present problems must be reached through a process of discussion and negotiation, particularly in the forum of Parliament in an atmosphere of propriety and through democratic dialogue, which in our opinion has unfortunately been lacking. The urgency of the situation demands that the political leadership get together and seek a just and democratic solution to the problems.

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