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# TRIBUNE



26TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION





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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

TEA still continues to be the main lifeline of Sri Lanka's economy. **Tribune** has spent much time and space to spotlight the evils that have overtaken the tea industry. We had hoped however, that the Jayewardene government would put matters right. Unfortunately this has not happened. Indeed matters have gone from bad to worse. We are not alone in thinking this way. At the Annual General Meeting of The Colombo Tea Traders Association (CTTA) held on June 26, 1981, the President, Mr. Hema Wijeratne expressed sentiments which fully confirm what we have repeatedly stressed: "... It is now 12 months since my last address to you as Chairman of the CTTA and although this is a long passage of time, never ever to be regained, very little progress has been made in this country's No. 1 industry—the tea industry. The problems described in my last review continue and, in instances, have become worse. New problems have cropped up much to the dismay of those truly concerned with the tea trade here and overseas; and have adversely affected our country's economic 'front line' industry..... Why is this once powerful and highly revenue-contributing industry in the doldrums? The reasons are not difficult to find. And, have we not the men and women in this country with the courage of their convictions to admit the serious errors in previous judgement and action, for whatever reasons they were committed, and take positive and urgent remedial measures to retrieve our country's economic 'Life Stream' industry from disaster? I am very confident that we have amongst us, both in government and in the private sector, men and women who would only be too glad to assist the industry to once more regain its position as one of the first in this region. This being the case, why are we not doing what is right, regardless of who is right, at this very critical hour?..." **Tribune** has always pointed out, as Mr. Hema Wijeratne has stressed, that there is enough expertise in the country to pull the tea industry out of the doldrums. In the rest of his speech, extracts of which we have published elsewhere in this issue, he turns the spotlight on certain aspects of the tea industry to which **Tribune** has repeatedly drawn attention. In the concluding part of his speech, Mr. Hema Wijeratne stated that there was hope for the industry because the industry was now under the purview of the President: "Although the picture I have painted to you of the tea industry is somewhat depressing, I am happy to state that there is a silver lining in this cloud of gloom. Indeed it is more than a silver lining. It is a silver cloud. The plantation sector has been brought under His Excellency the President himself. That gives us courage and hope because over the years His Excellency has shown that he is a rare visionary with an infinite capacity to wrest victory from the depths of defeat and despair. I am sure that under his direction this once great industry will be restored to its rightful place in the economy of Sri Lanka...." **Tribune** hopes that the President will take the necessary steps soon to restore the tea industry to its pristine glory. Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and the like are not enough. This country has witnessed a plethora of these talkshops. As far as we can see there is need for head-chopping in the higher rungs of the plantation hierarchy and blood-letting at all levels of the managerial structure. Action must be taken on the basis of actual achievements or failures. There is one matter that is crying aloud for remedial action and deterrent punishment. **Tribune** understands that about Rs. 40 million worth of tea chests are rotting away in some store in Colombo. No buyer wants tea packed in these tea chests. The panels are so flimsy that they break every time the chest is turned around. The fittings crumble each time they are nailed down. From all reports these tea chests do not conform to the specifications laid down by the Bureau of Standards. The "tenders" on which they were bought must necessarily have stipulated the minimum specifications. Why then were these tea-chests accepted? Who was responsible for the purchase?

# TRIBUNE

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# Tea

We have on the cover a scene from a tea plantation. Tea is very much on everybody's mind at the moment. With the growing economic crisis in this country reflected in the unprecedented inflationary spiral manifesting itself primarily in the sharp rise in house rents, the problems of currency liquidity and the attendant credit squeeze, and the high cost of living that has become a burden to all but a handful of the richest, Sri Lanka faces a grim prospect of hardship. Admittedly one way to ease the situation is to increase production all round. And in the case of tea it is today a question of restoring production to what it was just a few years ago. The problem of pushing it up to new Olympian heights is a matter for the future. Mr. Hema Wijeratne, Chairman of The Colombo Tea Traders Association (CTTA), in his presidential address at the Annual General meeting on June 26 referred to a number of matters of importance to the tea industry. We cite below thought-provoking excerpts which call for immediate attention: "First there is the most important production side of the industry which has sadly been allowed to lag. Admittedly it is a "Herculean" task to set this in order. The volume of tea produced in Sri Lanka has progressively declined over the years with also in some instances a notable fall in quality of the tea produced. Our competitors, on the other hand, have shown both increase in production and the manufacture of teas of quality. Whilst part of this decline seen in recent years can be attributed to the vagaries of the weather, the bulk of the blame, I feel, lies in the lack of proper management techniques and adequate controls as exercised in the past. I believe the Government is giving serious consideration to the reorganisation of the administration governing the plantation industries in order to improve efficiency and output. This, we hail as a positive step in the right direction. Just the re-organisation of the plantation management alone will not suffice. These new private or public section management institutions must be given the 'green light' to do what is necessary within their powers and within the framework of the law, without any interference, in order to achieve the common goal of efficiency and productivity, as was evidenced before the plantations were nationalised. Hand in glove with this move come, the enforcement of discipline among members of the Trade. It is not unusual today for some unscrupulous person to deal in unlawfully procured tea, price undercutting and shipments of tea which do not match with agreed upon standards. Members may be aware of instances where stolen tea was found in buyers' warehouses for which action is yet awaited. **For our part, we traders and the relevant government and semi-government bodies must do all we can both here and abroad, to ensure that Sri Lanka teas obtain**

**a reasonably profitable return by way of prices paid to the producer at the auction level, at all times throughout the year."**

From this he goes on to the all-important question of marketing: "THE MARKETING SYSTEM of Ceylon Tea over the years as we have known it, has shown us that our dependence on the international general tea merchants, packers and distributors has not and will not bring about the desired effect because of their vested interest in other tea producing countries. The reason for this is the basic credo of these institutions to maximise their profits irrespective of what befalls the producer. Unquestionably, this is the reason why the consumer abroad is provided tea in a tea bag, that is of such distasteful drinking quality that would make the general consuming public, to turn off tea as a refreshing and likeable beverage much to the detriment of all the producing countries. It is, therefore, necessary that we traders and the relevant government bodies connected with the trade, endeavour to ensure that the consumers abroad receive what they have always expected of Ceylon Tea as the finest all-round beverage. This new concept in marketing part of our production can only be achieved by a well planned and market defined advertising and promotion campaign directed entirely towards the consumer and with the availability of a 'Brand Name' Pure Ceylon Tea product on the shelves of as many chain and independent retail outlets. I believe, the Sri Lanka Tea Board and the Sri Lanka Export Promotion Board, have agreed on his course as the best and only way that Sri Lanka can benefit. I feel very confident, that with this new direction in our marketing strategy, persistently and properly effected, good price results will accrue and also an increase in consumption of Pure Ceylon Tea".

Next he dealt with the urgent need to manufacture C.T.C. teas without delay: "IN MY LAST REVIEW referred to the growing demand for C.T.C. manufactured teas. At least 1,000 to 2,000 chests should be on offer at the weekly auctions, to interest foreign buyers. Kenyan C.T.C. teas are scoring over Sri Lanka's medium orthodox teas. The Pakistan market has turned in recent years to C.T.C. teas and Pakistan buyers have indicated their preference for this type of tea. Failure to produce this has resulted in Pakistan buying their requirements elsewhere. In 1977 Pakistan's purchase of Sri Lanka teas dropped from 70% to 45% and in 1980—July/October to 21%. U.K. purchases of Sri Lanka teas have also dropped from 31% in 1966 to less than 10% in 1980. On the other hand, East Africa mainly Kenya increased their exports to these two countries. U.K. imports from Kenya rose from 11.7 million kilos in 1965 to 44 million kilos in 1980, and these were mainly those of C.T.C. manufacture. Before the situation gets out of hand, we should immediately address our minds to increased C.T.C. manufacture. At least 25 to 30 medium, low



medium estates and a few in Uva during the off season should switch over to C.T.C. manufacture. I trust that the State Organisations which handle the management of our tea plantations will take notice of this and take positive steps in the direction of C.T.C. manufacture".

In regard to C.T.C. teas, an extract from the speech by Mr. Wijeratne made at the Annual General Meeting of the CTTA on June 26, 1980 will show that due warnings have been given about the failure to embark on C.T.C. manufacture: "During the last three years the main buyers of Ceylon Teas have been the United Kingdom, Pakistan and Iran. The purchases of the first two countries have, in fact, declined over the years and the primary contributory factor has been our inability to supply C.T.C. teas, which they are obtaining from other producing countries. The question of the manufacture of C.T.C. Teas has been examined on a number of occasions and has also been recommended by the Tea Master Plan people who were in Colombo a year or two ago. The areas specifically recommended for C.T.C. manufacture were the low-yielding mid country which is fighting desperately to remain viable. However, nothing tangible has been done in this regard and we continue to hear of problems described as lack of machinery and maintenance machinery which were the same difficulties mentioned ten to fifteen years ago. We have seen traditional products less acceptable over the years, we have seen traditional markets of yester-year being lost, but we continue to remain detached and seemingly uninterested in taking steps to meet the changes, Let us however hope that we will soon see a useful proportion of C.T.C. teas from Sri Lanka which can also serve the nascent tea bagging industry".

Finally, Mr. Wijeratne makes a valuable suggestion about the urgent need for liaison and dialogue between those who produce and those who market tea: "The tea industry has been and continues to be the country's foremost foreign exchange earner. It is, therefore, important that there should be a continuing dialogue between those who produce and those who market the teas, to the end that production would be geared to meet consumer demand. It would be in the best interests of all concerned if production and marketing of tea in Sri Lanka came under one Ministry because then marketing needs could more easily be met by the producers. Despite what critics might say the tea industry has continued to be our major foreign exchange earner accounting for 36% of our total exports and earning Rs. 6,170 million in foreign exchange or Rs. 287 million SDR".

**The C-T-T-A is a professional body of persons and firms that handle tea—and they have handled tea for years. What its Chairman has to say at a general meeting should be given the highest consideration by the Government And there is not the slightest doubt that some**

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**thing must indeed be done about our tea industry and that pretty soon-**

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## Next Week

- Narahenpitiya Folk
  - More About Nestle
  - Kampuchea Conference
- 

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

# Anatomy Of An Election

To understand the DDC election results it is necessary to know something of the new district-list proportionate representation system. It is first necessary to note that the nine provinces are now divided into 24 electoral districts. The Report of the latest Delimitation Commission published in February 1981 (Sessional Paper I - 1981) set down the 24 administrative districts—each of which has a DDC. There are however only 22 electoral districts because three administrative districts in the Northern Province, viz., Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya make one electorate called Wannu whilst each of the other parliamentary electorates bear the same number as the administrative except Ampara which has been named Digamadulla.

The 22 Administrative Districts are: WESTERN PROVINCE: (1) Colombo, (2) Gampaha, (3) Kalutara; CENTRAL PROVINCE: (4) **Kandy** (5) Matale; (6) **Nuwara Eliya** SOUTHERN PROVINCE: (7) Galle; (8) **Matara**, (9) Hambantota; NORTHERN PROVINCE: (10) Jaffna, (11) Mannar, (12) Vavuniya, (13) Mullaitivu; EASTERN PROVINCE: (14) Batticaloa, (15) Ampara; (16) Trincomalee; NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE: (17) **Kurunegala** (18) Puttalam; NORTH-CENTRAL PROVINCE: (19) Anuradhapura; (20) Polonnaruwa; ; UVA PROVINCE: (21) Badulla, (22) **Moneragala** and SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE: (23) **Ratnapura** and (24) **Kegalla**.

The seven districts in which the UNP was returned uncontested at the recent elections are underlined. It is also necessary to note that the required cut-off point of 12.5% is worked out on a district basis and not on a provincial or national basis.

The **Tribune** analysis is based on the figures set out in the official communique of the Commissioner of Elections (vide, **Sun**, 19.6.81). In regard to the voting in the Jaffna election, the Commissioner had, when he released the results, pointed out that six ballot boxes were missing or could not be traced. This is the first time that anything like this has happened in this country. There are allegations that many ballot boxes were removed to the hotel There was an unashamed and blatant attempt to rig



the Jaffna election, not only by capturing ballot boxes but also by disrupting the polling mainly through thuggery and violence. There are reports of similar attempts in some of the other districts in the Northern and Eastern provinces, but they were mainly of the customary "invisible" and "under the table" kind (except in one or two places). In Jaffna, the six missing ballot boxes and evidence of other breaches of election law and procedure tell a different story. If the six ballot boxes had been counted with the genuine votes cast, the total number that polled would have been higher and also the number of votes cast for the winning party.

It is to be hoped that there will be a separate inquiry into the conduct of the elections in Jaffna on June

4. If the procedures and conduct of the polling in Jaffna on June 4, do not come within the purview of the Special Presidential Commission, another independent inquiry is called for. Some of the facts and happenings are likely to come up for scrutiny at the Judicial inquiry that will be held when the writ challenging the validity of the elections is taken up for hearing.

**Tribune** has sought to analyse the results not only on an overall 17-district basis (7 districts having returned the UNP uncontested) but also on a district-by-district basis. The figures will speak for themselves, but **Tribune** will also offer interpretative comments on the outcome.

Next week we will examine the results district by district and province-wise. Then we shall embark on a scrutiny of the way in which the different parties have viewed the results, and they will help our readers to understand the current political scene. Finally we will offer our own interpretative analysis of the results.

**Table 1**

**OVERALL RESULTS- 17 DDCs.**

<b>Total</b>		<b>Percentage of Votes polled.</b>	<b>Percentage of total registered.</b>
Registered	4,931,887		
Polled	2,710,102		54.9*
Rejected	164,322	6.1	3.3
Not Cast	2,221,785		45.1
<b>Breakdown Party-wise</b>			
U. N. P	1,515,106	55.9	30.7
T. U. L. F.	468,560	17.3	9.5
J. V. P.	327,149	12.7	6.6
T. C.	36,497	1.3	.07
Independents	210,243 **	7.3	4.0

\* Including spoilt votes

\*\* Including 9,951 votes for SLFP group in Matale which filed nomination before SLFP boycott was announced.



## In Parliament: Jaffna

**Mr. V. Yogeswaran (TULF - Jaffna)** : said both the Tamil and Sinhala nations should learn a lesson from these incidents. It appeared to him that while the Tamil nation had learnt its lesson the Sinhala nation had neither learnt nor forgotten anything. Today the incidents had left him with nothing. He was today convinced more than ever before the need to free Tamil people from this tyranny of violence. On 31st night, it was God who saved him from death. The incident was unique for an MP who was living with his people to have gone into hiding from house to house to save his life, from the custodians of the law. Relating the 31st incident, Mr. Yogeswaran said he had returned home after a TULF meeting at Tellipalai when he saw flickers of flames in the direction of the bazaar. On reaching home, his wife told him that the Jaffna market was burning and the attackers might come to his house. He tried to contact the District Minister but he was out. Then he booked a call to the IGP. Mr. Yogeswaran said that a group of police officers who were under the influence of liquor came to his house and set fire to it. He and his wife ran away. He went to his father's house some distance away. The police officers had later come there more than once, and inquired for him and also harassed his father. It was a miracle that he escaped with his life. He discovered later that his jeep had been burnt to ashes. The talk of taking them into protective custody was mere eyewash. He described the incidents in Jaffna as the work of one arm of the government wreaking violence on innocent people. If the police was a force, then it must be a disciplined force. He had his own reasons why the police had been sent to Jaffna and stated that the only possession he had after the incident was the sarong he was wearing and his wife, the dress she had on her body.

**Mr. Cyril Mathew** (Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs) said that he was sorry about what the Member for Jaffna had stated. But it was good that the Member had a father who had given him property in Colombo worth about Rs. 5 million. He said he wished to give some information to the House to show the link up between the TULF and the "Tiger" terrorist movement. The TULF members who did not know the Gandhism principles were pretending to follow Gandhism principles. He quoted from Mahatma Gandhi to show that the Satyagraha leader did not believe that violence could bring about Swaraj. He said that the TULF had its tentacles in government departments all over the island to obtain secret information for its own purposes, warn about police raids and to block and destroy government's development work. The TULF had its

lawyers who paid lip service to jurisprudence and held "Kangaroo courts" for carrying out executions. On May 24, 1977, the **Suthanthiran** ad carried a news item about the threat to kill the six MPs from the North who had voted for the constitution. The former MP for Pottuvil was killed when he crossed over to the UNP. The killer had left a telltale card on the spot. He said that the TULF was making use of criminals for its own purposes. He had information that the MP for Jaffna had gone to Madras and associated himself with a smuggler who was there. The smuggler was a financier of the "Tigers". The Member had gone there as a lawyer to defend a smuggler in a court of law. **Mr. M. Sivasithamparam** (TULF-Nallur) said that the Minister should know that a Sri Lankan lawyer could not appear in an Indian Court.

**Mr. Mathew** : He had gone there to advise a lawyer. Mr. Mathew said that gelignite had been smuggled into the island by certain persons of the Tiger Movement to blow up the Central Bank, the airport and FTZ factories, but the discovery of the material had helped to baulk that plan. He was telling all that to show the connection between the TULF and the Tiger Movement. When he was referring to the killing of the four policemen in the North, Mr. R. Sampanthan (TULF-Trincomalee) said that the matters were now subject to judicial inquiry and as such the Minister could not refer to them. The Deputy Speaker drew the attention of the Minister to it. Mr. Mathew resumed his speech, and there was a cross-talk between him and Mr. Sampanthan and there were more interruptions from both sides of the House.

**Mr. V. Dharmalingam** (TULF-Manipay) said that if the Minister had information about terrorists, he should give it to the police. He was not doing it because he was afraid of its consequences. When Mr. Mathew was continuing, Mr. Dharmalingam wished to know from where the Minister had got the information and Mr. Mathew said that he was not prepared to give his sources to the Member. Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this stage asked the Minister when he would finish his speech.

**Mr. Mathew** : I need about an hour more.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker** said that as they were on an adjournment motion he could not restrict the time of speeches. But they must finish the debate at 8 p.m. when he would have to adjourn sittings.

**Mr. Mathew** continued to give more details of activities by terrorists which he said showed the connection between them and the TULF. **Mr. Amirthalingam** : Sir, if the Hon. Minister is reading from a document he must take full responsibility for it.

**Speaker** : Is it a document or are they your notes.

**Mr. Mathew** : These are my notes. I can also tell the house my source of information, but the informant will not live than for more than 24 hours. The terrorists



might wipe him out, as they did to so many others. Mr. Mathew said a person named Kirubakaran brought a power-loom and according to his information the Jaffna MP stood as the guarantor for the purchase. He was mentioning these things for the benefit of the House, and the country so that the people would understand what the TULF was up to. Kirubakaran was one of the accused in the Duraiappa murder case. Mr. Amirthalingam had visited Kirubakaran's farm after his arrest and made a complaint to the IGP that some policemen who had gone there had stolen some of the grapes from the farm. At this stage there was an uproar from the TULF ranks and Mr. Mathew said: "Friends don't get agitated. I am not making any imputation on any Member of the TULF. I am only stating facts." Mr. Mathew said Kirubakaran was later appointed TULF organiser for Nallur. Mr. Cyril Mathew at this stage said there was no difference between the TULF and the Tiger Movement. He said a Secretary of the TULF, Kumar Maheswaram, was wanted for the killing of Inspector Bastianpillai and others. He referred to the Sansoni Commission report stating that other than what he had already stated, he had further evidence to prove the connection the TULF has with the terrorist movement. When Mr. Mathew was reading passages of the report referring to certain newspaper reports, Mr. Amirthalingam interrupting said the Minister was trying to say that he had garlanded people like Kasi Anandan who had been released from custody. Mr. Amirthalingam said he wished to categorically state that none of those persons who were received by him was ever charged for terrorist activities nor had they been involved in any acts of violence. They had not received any of those involved in terrorist activities at any time. **Mr. Mathew** said the TULF had organised all the murders and they were well aware of it. At this stage Mr. V. N. Navaratnam (TULF-Chavakachcheri) asked the Deputy Speaker who was presiding, whether the Government would allow them to reply tomorrow. **Mr. Sampanthan** said the Minister was filibustering and they wished to reply. **Mr. M. Sivasithamparam** (TULF-Nallur) amidst shouts from the back benches said they were prepared to meet all allegations made against them by the Minister. It was quite clear to them what the Minister was trying to do. **The Deputy Speaker** said there was no motion before the House and it was an adjournment debate.

## FILM FOCUS

# Tragedies

Although that great English poet Francis Bacon did not have films in mind when he uttered that "all tragedies are finished by death and all comedies are ended by a marriage", it is all so true in movies. While **Tribune** readers would not miss the double sting in that deadly quotation, I would like to take

them further on the macabre mood on tragedies by Santayana an American poet this time, who has lightened the subject by having said that "There is no cure for birth or death save to enjoy the interval". Caught in one of its morbid moods, in this context, this column feels, that if a film story ever proved a sentimental tear jerker at curtains, it has always whipped up a roaring appetite at the Box Office. If one has any doubts about this let him be enlightened by what a famous Director J. M. Om Prakash has to say on the subject. He is emphatic that "many people go to see a movie, not only for a song and dance show or for mere entertainment, but to participate for a few hours in a moving emotional experience". Picking at random, I would say without any hesitation that films like **Love Story** (English), **Ganga Addara** (Sinhalese) and **Kalyana Parisu** (Tamil), when taken in cross section owe their success to the tragic ends that overtook them, to send picturegoers in a rare frame of mind, only to draw them back to see that film all over again and pass their feelings around, to contribute to its popularity. And so has it been that some of the biggest hits in novels, stage plays and films have had tragic etchings and endings to bring the hankerchiefs out at appropriate moments! Om Prakash further sums up this nostalgic phenomena and a natural craving in the words: "I wish to state in unmistakable terms and an unshakable conviction that a story, whether it be a novel, stageplay or motion picture, should involve the audience emotionally, and touch their hearts providing adequate food for discussion (and digestion). Such a poignant and touching story can never go waste and quite often a screen tragedy can be the happiest achievement for a film maker". How convincing these observations are and how paradoxically so that there is so much of life in death where films are concerned.

**TWO MINUTE WARNING (ENGLISH):** A top notcher in tension, this excellent film has not been advertised adequately to unwrap the tout package it holds from start to a spine-tingling finish. The story is spun around a Ball game at the Los Angeles Memorial Grounds where 90,000 fans have packed in, with just one lone sniper with a telescopic rifle up an almost inaccessible tower, picking out victims at random and without purpose to the whims of his sick mind, aberrated further by the height of his lonesome perch. There is novelty too in the approach as the story unfolds when the killer stalks in to the stadium, hand in hand with an audience view, of the events but carefully cut off by the camera to subsidise the gathering tension from moment to moment. His anonymity when unmasked eventually, is also of no consequence to the films, which nevertheless spits and sparks the suppressed excitement in spurts as the game is whistled on. The cops headed by Inspector Holly (Charlton Heston) and an emergency team (S.W.A.T.) place their heads together at the sudden danger that is spotted accidentally by a roving TV camera, and flashed on the screen. Between

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touch downs, conversions and penalties in the game. the cops manoeuvre behind the scenes to close in on their quarry, but their countdown to a two minute warning comes a trifle late to prevent the carnage and the colossal stampede that is let loose, and brilliantly taken in by the camera. Twining the story are tender life styles of a cross section of those who have made it a day at the ball game and a date with the hidden gunman. This film may not be one of Charlton (Moses) Hestons best efforts but all this is lived down by the dynamism of the story which may slip you off your seat. Terrorism being a malady of our times, this film flashes a foul facet of it, which fits well into the contemporary scene. Do not miss this film at any cost.

**ALIYATHA KOLANGAL (TAMIL):** The Photography, Script and Direction of this film is by Balu Mahendra, a Sri Lankan and his acquired prowess in these fields have shot the film sky high qualitatively, in cinematic entertainment. It is no exaggeration that every still in camera was a brilliant "Oviyam", rarely encountered in South Indian films. The main role in the film is taken by the late actress Shoba whose infatuation for Balu Mahendra and a suicide that followed, which made capital news in cinematic circles. **Tribune** readers were given all the details of this tragedy in an earlier issue and let us get down to the simple story which projects very realistically in flashback, three schoolgoing teenaged youngsters whose youthful meanderings converge curiously on the life styles of adults around them, and are initiated out of their cocooned innocence. Shoba is the lithe and lissom school mistress who catches their fancy and a crush that pales with their puberty. The powerful dialogue, even when delivered by "babes" in their adolescent woods, blended perfectly with the brilliant backdrops of Balu's camera excellence. Having missed this film at a cinema close-by (Kalpana), I commuted a longer distance to the Sellamahala theatre to view it for I was guided by a cinematic sixth sense that I was after something good on the advance literature that had reached me about the production and the information that was given of it by the late Punitham Thiruchelvam before her demise. Another film, not to be missed which paradoxically is graded for adults only, while its scene stealers were mainly children growing out of their difficult years!

**EK DAWASAK RA (SINHALESE):** The Sinhala picturegoers have been taken for a regretful ride in this film, which clung tenaciously to the formula line which had seen better years. It cashed in on its star value for among the cast were Malini Fonseka, Ravindra Randeniya, Robin Fernando, Farina Lye and Vijay Nandasiri who were all uncomfortable in their roles in a slipshod story—a clear case of big names being used to fleece the picturegoer. In the interests of the blossoming Sinhala cinema, the National Film Corporation should step in and call

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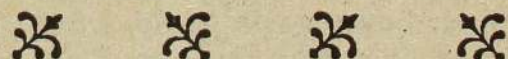
a halt to such money baiting productions that are a bolt in the industry. I sat this one out under will shattering sufference—will you?

**THE GOODBYE GIRL (ENGLISH):** When Warner Brothers studios combine stars of the calibre of Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason in an adult comedy, they are always on the ball and one can sit back and enjoy the out of the ordinary fare. As a sort of free lancing divorce with a highly precocious daughter, Marsha takes on the role of Paula in the story, whose privacy is intruded upon, on a wet night by Dreyfuss as a Shakespearean actor, Elliott, who establishes claims to the compact apartment. The embarrassing gate crash leads to a shifty cure that has to be endured willy nilly under a common roof, and after many moments that are iced and spiced with a classy dialogue, a deal is struck to maintain the co-status-co. The nearness of the twosome—Paula and Elliott—turns into dearness, but only after many hilarious sequences when the conflicting hinges fall into place in spite of the sharp teenager who sees through it all. It's classy with up and coming stars and certainly not to be missed when down your way.

**MR. BILLION (ENGLISH):** Terence Hill in the title role is the sole beneficiary of a legacy, but has schemers and a time factor to beat to lay his hands on the lucre, which he does with seconds to spare. In the absence of his partner in films, Bud Spencer, Terence is faced with a portly vacuum to fill, and he races on to accomplish only part of it. Average fare with a worn out finish.

**I ESCAPED FROM DEVILS ISLAND (ENGLISH)**  
A United Artists release directed at Jim Brown fans, and there are many such in Sri Lanka. The story begins promisingly with a bang, as Jim, an ex-convict among many others in the Island from which no man escapes, attempts the impossible, but whimpers on when tropical trumpets and sirens start exerting their charms on Mr. Muscles—and that is when the story burns itself out abruptly and literally in a fireworks encounter. It was an average film, but many full houses have been recorded from Colombo North (Galle) to Colombo South (Roxy).

**JAMES N. BENEDICT.**





## How I was killed

**Kabul, June 21 :** Doctor Abdul Majid Sarboland, member of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Minister of Information and Culture of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, recently visited Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Peace Committee. Our correspondent V. Sosnov talked to him while he was here.

**Q.** How can you define the character of most of the information about Afghanistan appearing in the West? Is it objective?

**A.** Let me tell you using my own person as an example. I have been "killed" at least four times. This "flash" has been broadcast by the Voice of America, BBC and Radio Liberty. As you see, the reports of my death are exaggerated. I continued to head the Ministry of Information and Culture. This is typical. Western propaganda deliberately distorts everything occurring in our country.

**Q.** In what light are the counter-revolutionaries presented in the West?

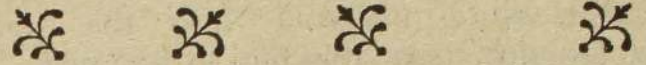
**A.** The Western mass media has engulfed in an aura of "freedom fighters". People in Afghanistan were indignant when US President Reagan said that Afghan bandits had to receive more aid. He called these bandits "freedom fighters". The facts indicate something other than that. The counter-revolutionaries are terrorists. One of their recent crimes was the bomb explosion at the University of Kabul, in which innocent people were killed and injured. What attitude can we have to the current stand of the US Administration which in fact encourages the murderers? More and more people are joining the units battling against the terrorists. Many terrorist bands have been wiped out.

**Q.** What is the role of the mass media in Afghanistan?

**A.** To tell the truth about the April revolution. The revolution was carried out in the interests of the people of Afghanistan, it had no other aim. The people of Afghanistan are not a threat to anyone. The only thing they want is to do what they set out to do in peace, in a calm situation. This can be seen from the Afghan government's constructive programme for a political settlement of the situation around our country. It envisages peaceful talks with our neighbours, primarily Pakistan and the complete cessation of aggression against Afghanistan guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union. This will end the need for the presence in our country of the Soviet limited troop contingent.

**Q.** What can you say about the present situation in Afghanistan?

**A.** Ours is a difficult heritage. The agrarian reform, the distribution of free land among peasants, the abolition of feudal taxes, housing construction, reconstruction and building of new enterprises, wiping out illiteracy.... This is how we began. I wish that the truth about these difficulties and about our initial victories will become known beyond our land.



## TRIBUNE ONCE AGAIN APOLOGISES

To its readers for the delay in the issue of the paper in recent weeks. It has taken us much time and effort to overcome the dislocation in the technicalities of printing and production that stemmed from the power cut. In order to bring our schedules up to date, this issue of **Tribune** is dated July 11, 1981. Though we skip two calendar Saturdays, June 27 and July 4, the sequence of the volume number is maintained with no loss to the subscribers.

**TRIBUNE**  
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June 3 - 21

**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.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3:** The Government yesterday declared a state of emergency in the Jaffna District, following renewed acts of lawlessness in the area; censorship of all news emanating from the area was also imposed; although a state of emergency has been declared in the Jaffna district, elections to the Development Councils there will take place as scheduled. A curfew has been imposed under the Emergency in the Jaffna district from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. The Central Bank yesterday changed the nature of credit squeeze it had imposed on May 12 by removing its quantitative restrictions and introducing new measures in the hope of achieving the same results of controlling the money supply. Government will tomorrow enforce a tight security clampdown throughout the country for the Development Council elections—**CDN**. There will be full police honours at the funeral of Sgt. Punci Banda who was shot dead on Sunday night while on security duty at a political meeting in Jaffna—**CDM**.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4:** Government yesterday decided that the first meeting of all Development Councils in the island will be held on Monday July 20 at 10.45 a.m. this was on the recommendation of Prime Minister R. Premadasa, Minister of Local Government, the Cabinet spokesman State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis said yesterday—**CDN**. The Asian Development Bank has promised an additional sum of Rs. 300 million for the completion of the Lunugamvehera project the work of which has now been accelerated—**CDM**. The Government yesterday ordered a general mobilisation of volunteer units of the Armed Forces. The power situation deteriorated further yesterday as dry weather continued over the catchment areas reducing the inflow into the reservoirs—**SU**.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5:** Government yesterday declared a State of Emergency throughout the island from 5 p.m. onwards, soon after polling in the Develop-

ment Council elections had concluded; there will be no curfew, except in Jaffna, a government communique said. The United National Party maintained its standing as the leading political party in Sri Lanka with a sweeping victory in the Development Council elections concluded yesterday; the UNP gained control of eleven Development Councils as against five by the Tamil United Liberation Front; the results of the Jaffna Development Council had not been announced at the time of going to Press—**CDN**. Mr. A. Amirthalingam, MP and Leader of the Opposition was taken into protective custody at 3 a.m. yesterday by the security forces: on hearing of this the President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene directed that he be released immediately—**CDM**. Polling in the first National Development Council elections began at seven a.m. in most of the 4,291 polling stations in the country, while polling in the Jaffna District was reported to have begun about one and a half hours later due to some logistic problems, yesterday—**SU**. The United National Party gained control over a large number of districts in the Development Council elections held yesterday; the TULF has fared very well in the North and the East; the UNP won in eleven districts and the TULF in five districts—**DP**.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6:** Elections to the National Development Council of Jaffna were in the balance yesterday; according to the Government Agent of Jaffna, Yogendra Duraiswamy, who was functioning as the Returning Officer, a substantial number of counting officers have "not conformed to the requirements which stipulate the delivery of certain documents like the written statement of the number of votes given to each political party or independent group". Government yesterday decided to keep the 12 major state sector manufacturing industries closed, as the power storage in the reservoirs fell to 3.8 million units, further deepening the crisis—**SU**.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7:** The Central Bank is to monitor the expansion of credit in the country every week following the relaxation of the credit squeezes last Tuesday; last week the Central Bank decided to do away with what Governor Dr. Warnasena Rasaputram called a "short, sharp shock" and go back to more conventional methods of restricting credit expansion—**SO**. The power situation of the country has now reached a critical level; this may now compel the Government to call upon more state sector industries and even the private sector to shut down for the duration of this crisis. An analysis of the election results in the Amparai, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts clearly indicates that majority of the Tamil-speaking population in the area have rejected the Ealem cry, Minister of Trade Lalith Atulathmudali said. The UNP attracted



a massive 66.90 per cent of the votes cast in Thursday's National Development Councils elections in sixteen districts—**WK**. The activities of the newly formed Development Councils will be free from any political fervour and they will be prevented from coming under the control of political parties; to ensure this the President and the Prime Minister will scrutinize the work of the councils every month—**DP**.

**MONDAY, JUNE 8 :** The law and order situation, both in Jaffna and throughout the island is normal, according to a top ranking police official; the official said that there had not been any incidence of violence in Jaffna during the past two days; the dusk-to-dawn curfew that was imposed in the Jaffna municipal area from last Tuesday night, is being gradually phased out and on Saturday it was from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m.—**CDM**. The Government is to go ahead with phase two of the Katunayake Investment Promotion Zone infrastructure development work; this is because all areas developed under phase one have now been leased out; phase two consists of 125 acres of land for leasing out. A new constitution is to be framed and a series of other changes are to be effected in the Sri Lanka Freedom Party—the country's single biggest opposition political party—**SU**.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 9 :** The emergency meeting of the Electricity Board held yesterday decided not to increase the power cut hours since it began to rain in the catchment area on Sunday; the 8-hour power cut now in force will continue. Government may go ahead with a 1½ billion rupee project to install a diesel power plant to overcome the acute power crisis predicted within the next two years; a report to this effect has been prepared by Chairman Ceylon Electricity Board and Secretary Power and Energy Ministry James Lanerolle; the idea is to avert recurring power crises in the future. The eight-hour curfew in Jaffna was cut to six hours yesterday and the hours being at 10 p.m. and ended at 4 a.m. today—**SU**. The death toll in a train disaster in the north Indian state of Bihar of Saturday could be more than 1000 a Bihar State magistrate told reporters today; the death figure might even touch 3,000 according to the Deputy Speaker of the Bihar State Assembly, Gajendra Prasad the Press Trust of India reported—**CO**.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 :** President J. R. Jayewardene told the Government Parliamentary Group meeting yesterday that he accepted the recommendation of the Commissioner of Elections that the votes cast at the Jaffna Development Council elections should be counted and the results released; he said the Opposition Leader, Mr. A. Amirthalingam, who along with other TULF members of Parliament met him in the morning yesterday were agreeable to counting the votes but Tamil Congress and an

Independent Group were against it. The World Health Organisation has chosen Sri Lanka as the South East Asian base for a study of resource requirements for the implementation of the WHO goal of Health for All by the year 2,000. The 16 public sector manufacturing corporations that were shut down on May 29 to help avert the power crisis will resume production from today—**CDN**. The Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake told Parliament yesterday that the Government was aware of the incidents of violence in Jaffna caused by certain disgruntled policemen and all steps would be taken to bring the miscreants to book; he made these observations following various allegations by TULF members who narrated numerous incidents that took place in the Jaffna District from May 31 to June 4. Government yesterday withdrew the state of emergency consequently, the press censorship has been withdrawn according to an announcement by the Department of Information. The Tamil United Liberation Front will boycott proceedings of Parliament from today; this is in keeping with a decision taken by the Front's Parliamentary Group yesterday afternoon—**SU**. The Secretary to the District Minister of Jaffna Mr. Yogendra Duraiswamy has requested the public to submit to him details of losses suffered by people whose properties were damaged during the recent events in Jaffna to enable him to make arrangements for the grant of relief—**EN**.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 11 :** The Cabinet yesterday approved a memorandum covering an Act of Parliament known as the Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority of Sri Lanka Act of 1981 on a recommendation made by President J. R. Jayewardene. The Government has decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to go into the recent incidents of violence in the Jaffna district, including the murder of Mr. A. Thiagarajah, chief UNP candidate for Jaffna, and policemen, from the nomination period between April 20 and April 27 up to June 2 (excluding the period of the emergency). The police will immediately establish investigation units to go into all cases of arson and other violations of the law in the Jaffna district alleged to have been committed by policemen last week—**CDN**. A young Sri Lankan hotel employee in Kuwait was beheaded early this week for allegedly raping a young Arabian girl; this is the first time that a Sri Lankan employed in the Middle East has been made to pay the supreme penalty in this fashion; this Sri Lankan youth, a Muslim from Kandy was under contract to a hotel in Kuwait when arrested for this offence and found guilty—**CDM**. Cabinet yesterday approved the setting up of village at regional level organisations, adjuncts to the National Development Councils, as a basic plan to permit peoples participation in Government at grassroot level. Jaffna government Agent Yogendra Duraiswamy, who acted as Returning Officer in the



Jaffna Development Council elections has informed the parties and the Independent groups which contested the elections that the votes cast in this poll would be counted and the result announced on Tuesday June 16. Government will reorganize the security network in the Northern Province; the Defence Ministry which is working out the changes, has already sounded out high ranking Army, Police Navy and Air force officers on how best these changes could be brought about—**SU**. It is understood that 12 Police constables who have been taken into custody suspected of having taking part in the recent incidents in Jaffna will be interdicted shortly and will be subjected to an inquiry subsequently—**VK**.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12 :** The country will return to the five hour power cut from tomorrow; the Ceylon Electricity Board has still not decided on the hours Chairman, James Lanerolle, said last night—**CDN**. The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa said in Parliament yesterday that under the accelerated Mahaveli project the government had proposed to provide electricity to 1,200 villages, The National Television Centre at the Independence Square donated by the Government of Japan will be named "Rupavahini Mandiraya"; the construction of the TV centre has been almost completed and it is expected to be opened on January 1, 1982—**CDM**. A special police team, handpicked by IGP Ana Seneviratne, will fly to Jaffna this evening to investigate the recent incidents in the North which led to a countrywide State of Emergency and a curfew in Jaffna; informed sources said that the top-level team of investigators will be led by DIG (Crimes and Operations) R. Sundaralingam—**CO**. The armed forces deployed in the Jaffna and Batticaloa districts in view of the Emergency have returned to Colombo—**DP**.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13 :** There will only be a four-hour power cut daily from today, throughout the island. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardena yesterday called on those Members of Parliament who could not carry on their work properly to resign their seats; the President made this statement when he addressed the Executive Committee of the All Ceylon UNP Women's Unions at the Ramakrishna Hall, Wellawatte. Excellent marksmanship has been displayed by the terrorists operating in the North whenever they have opened fire as they have a number of shooting ranges where practices are held regularly; this has been discovered by police probing shooting in the North—**CDM**. Inspector General Ana Seneviratne yesterday ordered the interdiction of five policemen who were responsible for acts of indiscipline in Jaffna early last week; the charges against these men are insubordination and responsibility for a serious breakdown of discipline. A high powered Sri Lanka delegation will leave for Australia, Japan and Singapore on June 20 for talks intended to shore up the country's tea markets in the wake of fierce competition.

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President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday accused the leadership of the SLFP of supporting the demand for Eelam, in Trincomalee and the rest of the Eastern Provinces particularly—**SU**. Mr. M. Sivasithamparam, President of the TULF said that notice has been given to the effect that a joint proposal by the Tamil United Liberation Front and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party will be submitted to move a vote of no confidence against the Government. The MP for Panadura Dr. Neville Fernando, Deputy Minister G. V. Punchi Nilame and Mr. G. M. Premachandra informed press reporters that a no confidence motion against the Leader of the Opposition Mr. A. Amirthalingam signed by 34 Members of Parliament will be placed before Parliament shortly and that advance notice has been given to this effect—**VK**.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14 :** The Australian Government has offered to assist Sri Lanka with the Mahaveli multi-purpose project; negotiations between the two countries began in Colombo last week centering on the grant of approximately 75 million US dollars for the Maduru Oya project, which encompasses one of the five major reservoirs of the accelerated scheme—**SO**. The Sri Lankan authorities are investigating reports received from abroad that individuals in certain world capitals were operating in organisations to collect funds for the Eelam movement.—**ST**. The World Bank has recommended to the Aid Civil Sri Lanka Consortium that Sri Lanka be provided with aid commitments to the tune of 960 million US dollars (nearly Rs. 1,800 billion) for 1981 and 550 million US dollars (Rs. 10,312.5 million) for 1982; in its report to member countries of the Consortium, copies of which have already been made available to the Sri Lanka Government; the bank says these will imply new non-Mahaveli commitments of 475 million US dollars in 1981 and 550 million US dollars in 1982—**WK**. Speculation exists among government sources whether the seven Members of Parliament of the SLFP and the single Member of the Communist Party will be absorbed as Members to the District Development Councils—**VK**.

**MONDAY, JUNE 15 :** The International Monetary Fund has now resumed the Extended Fund Facility to Sri Lanka which it suspended last year, This follows negotiations between Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning and Mr. Jacques de Larosiere Managing Director of the IMF in Washington last month. The World Tuna Secretariat will be sited in Sri Lanka, early next year; Fisheries Ministry Secretary, Anura Weeraratne said yesterday; he said the Food and Agricultural Organisation confirmed early this month its earlier decision to site the secretariat in Sri Lanka—**CDN**. The first oil well under the Government's oil exploration programme will be drilled in November this year in Mannar; this ambitious project costing Rs. 150 million is being undertaken by an American firm CITCO (City Services Corporation)—**SU**.



**TUESDAY, JUNE 16 :** No disciplinary action has been taken by the Police against any Police personnel over any alleged incidents during the DDC elections—**CDM**. The Kerosene subsidy makes little sense and should be eliminated, a World Bank report to the Air Sri Lanka Consortium has recommended the World Bank report also makes several other recommendations to member countries of the Consortium who will meet in Tokyo on June 30 and July 1 to discuss Sri Lanka's aid for this year. President J. R. Jayewardene, addressing members of the newly elected Development Councils yesterday, described the DCs system as a bold experiment in democratic government where the people could effectively participate in the administration of the country; he was delivering the keynote address at a seminar for members of DCs at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. Sri Lanka's worst ever power crisis has cost the Ceylon Electricity Board nearly 40 million rupees in revenue—**SU**. President J. R. Jayewardene told the members of the DDCs yesterday that power has been given to them to implement the working of the DDCs and that the necessary funds will be granted; he advised them to start on development work without differences between race and religion—**VK**.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 :** The Tamil United Liberation Front won all ten seats in the Jaffna District Development Council at the election held on Thursday, June 4th, the results of which were announced yesterday by Mr. Yogendra Duraiswamy, Government Agent, Jaffna who is also the Returning Officer for the Jaffna district—**CDM**. The Presidential Commission to probe Jaffna incidents is to comprise three members representing the Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim (or Burgher) communities; it expects the commission to commence sittings later next month—**SU**.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 18 :** The June 28 meeting of the SLFP's all-island executive which will consider a new constitution for the party promises to be a test of strength between radicals and moderates with Mrs. Bandaranaike and her son, Anura, on opposite sides of the battle lines; "The conflict is very sharp", said a party insider yesterday, "but we hope that once this business is over there will be no more confrontation". President J. R. Jayewardene announced on Tuesday that the Government had commenced a massive agricultural development project to develop over 2,000 dry zone villages—**CDN**. The worst ever power crisis to hit Sri Lanka has compelled the Ceylon Electricity Board to instal generating units in areas where consumption is heavy; the objective is to make these areas self-sufficient in power, should the country be plunged into another crisis—**SU**. As a result of the violence in Jaffna recently several high-ranking police officials and army officers will be transferred out shortly;

important information about them is being scrutinized by the Defence Ministry at the moment and transfers are expected any moment—**DP**.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19 :** The Sri Lanka flag will be offered to foreign ships willing to engage Lankans for filling no less than half their crew berths, Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday; according to figures compiled by the Trade and Shipping Ministry, the 3,000 Lankans already working on foreign ships are earning a massive US dollars 7.2 millions annually and remitting much of this money to their families back home—**CDN**. Carnations will be grown in Sri Lanka for export with Japanese help; the Government has given the green light for the project on a recommendation by the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research—**CDM**. The government is to impose a ban on all new buildings in the city. This is in addition to the curb that has already been placed on construction of high rise buildings—**SU**.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20 :** The State yesterday led evidence before the Special Presidential Commission is regard to two complaints against Dr. M. A. M. Jalaldeen, the UNP first MP for Pottuvil. The Ceylon Electricity Board had good news yesterday for those consumers having a heavy fuel adjustment charge on their bills; this month's levy will be half that of the previous month; in May the surcharge was 160 per cent and in June it will be only 80 per cent. The Bank has decided to capitalise Rs. 200 million from its substantial reserves, its Chairman Mr. Nissanka Wijewardene said yesterday—**CDN**. Six Sub Inspectors of police along with thirty other police officers from the police stations in the Jaffna area were transferred out to other places yesterday—**DP**.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21 :** A Rs. 89 billion Public Investment Programme covering the years 1981-85 will be placed before the Sri Lanka Aid Group meeting to be held in Tokyo, Japan on June 30 and July 1; this is the first time Sri Lanka's donors are meeting in an Asian country; the country's delegation to the Tokyo meeting, which will be chaired by the World Bank Vice-President David Hopper will be led by Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel—**SO**. Chairmen and members of the 24 District Development Councils will be required to declare their assets and liabilities immediately after they take over the functions of the councils. The Army on Friday withdrew the additional personnel sent on security duty in the Jaffna district—**ST**. Masterminds behind a proscribed terrorist movement in the north are reported to have been involved in gun-running from a trouble-torn South Asian country to the north. Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hun, who is arriving here on June 26, has curtailed his visit to India by a day an official spokesman said today. Sri Lankans seeking employment in West European countries are now using Yugoslavia

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as a convenient transit point as this is the only roadway available for them to get across to their destinations; Yugoslavia which is situated in the heart of Europe allows 30-day visas to the Lankan hopefuls and the latter take full advantage of this opportunity to make a beeline to Belgrade—**WK**. It has been demanded that under no circumstances will the thirty and more police officers transferred out from there be permitted to return to Jaffna—**VK**. Frequent changes will be made in the security services in the Tamil speaking areas including Jaffna and this will be scrutinized by the President every month; this arrangement has been made to see that law and order is not violated and the general public put into inconvenience and clashes between the public and the security forces; this has been revealed by government sources—**CM**.

THE REAL CAUSES

## Today's High Cost Of Living

By Satchi Ponnambalam

In a little over three decades of the independent history of Sri Lanka, many economic problems and crisis situations have been witnessed and endured, but none has been as daunting and acute, inescapable from its grip and immediate in its effects in the day-to-day life of the people as the high cost of living today. In the sixties, it was the foreign exchange crisis and the resulting shortage of goods and food queues. In the seventies, these were compounded by unemployment and youth problems. Today, it is the rise in the cost of living to astronomical levels and the nightmarish battle of the people to keep body and soul together. The effects of the present cost of living crisis are the most widespread affecting virtually the entire spectrum of the population of the country except the rich few and of course the high and powerful. **Today's high cost of living** is no less than a crisis of the nation. As such one would expect the entire energies of the government to be mobilised towards confronting the crisis in order to alleviate the plight of the people. But instead, one finds the usual scapegoat of "world inflation" being held out and that alibi is believed sufficient to absolve the government from responsibility not only for the causes but in the task of finding the cures as well. And so we have the statement of the President: "If any body could fight world inflation that was responsible for the present high cost of living, the government was prepared to resign and permit him to run the country; this was said by the President J. R. Jayewardene when he addressed a mass rally at the Nuwara Eliya town yesterday" . . . (**Tribune**, 2nd May, 1981). Such a purely rhetorical formulation of the problem is in no way helpful in tracing the causes and confronting the problem, which can be overcome only by the efforts of the government. It is more so when the realities of the situation are that it is not the

"world inflation" but the policies of the government that have in fact been responsible for the high cost of living today.

**The principal cause** for the present high cost of living goes to the so-called "package of reforms" announced by the Finance Minister, Ronnie de Mel in his Budget of 15th November 1977. These involved the nearly 100% devaluation of the official exchange rate of the rupee, allowing the rupee to "float" against the major foreign currencies, the cancellation of the subsidized consumer food system, abolition of the ration system and the abolition of the price controls. From Rs. 8.52 to one U.S. \$, the rupee was devalued to Rs. 16.00 to one U.S. \$. In the same ratio, the rupee was devalued against nearly all other major currencies. This nearly a 100% devaluation of the official exchange rate of the Rupee at one stroke involved a corresponding increase in the import price of all essential consumer food items which were earlier paid for at the pre-devalued rate. Thus, this order of increase in the prices of imported food items had nothing to do with "world inflation". The effect of the order of increases in the import prices since 1977 as a result of "world inflation" have never been of the magnitude of the increases from 1973 to 1974, when the import prices for all items more than doubled. Yet, the price level as indicated by the Colombo Consumers Price Index increased by only 12.3% in 1974 compared to 15% in 1978, 20% in 1979 and 30% in 1980. This is sufficient evidence of the fact that it is not world inflation" that is pushing the price level in Sri Lanka at the present time but the policies of the government in giving free play to market forces and the general unwillingness to adopt anti-inflationary policies to restore price stability. The entire gamut of the policies adopted by the government—budgetary, monetary and fiscal—has been escalating the prices further and further and in no way to contain the inflationary pressures. Even the Central Bank of Ceylon, in the 1979 Annual Report agreed as follows (p. 6): "The official cost of living index—the Colombo Consumers Price Index—registered an increase of 11% in 1979 . . . two-thirds of the increase this year was on account of changes induced by the government in a move to reduce the consumer subsidisation in the country".

**Herein** lies the heart of the matter of the high cost of living at the present time. It is the withdrawal or cancellation of the subsidized consumer food system and the regular and systematic increases in the price of flour, bread, sugar and other foodstuffs by the government that is the cause of the prevailing high cost of living in the country. These price increases are in turn directly related to and are necessitated only on account of the devaluation and the rupee being allowed to "float". The government's policies have been aimed at attempting to revamp the economy by cancelling the subsidized food, resort to indirect taxation including those on essentials while leaving



those who could bear these costs untouched. This has been in order to allow accumulation to take place in the hands of the rich few for investment to take effect. But those who are benefitting as a result of these policies have shown no wish to invest in productive ventures but have been buying up land and properties and pushing up their prices to unbelievable levels. The cancellation of the subsidized consumer food system has also not left any surplus in the government's current account for capital expenditure out of government income. Thus the whole of the government policies have failed to generate any beneficial returns either to the people in their day to day living or strengthened the productive resources of the economy.

Another disastrous aspect of the 1977 Budget responsible for the continued escalation of the price level is allowing the new exchange rate to "float". The result of this is that in addition to the 100% devaluation of the rupee, there has been further continued year-to-year devaluations of the rupee from November 1977. Consequently, although the 1977 devaluation set the value of the rupee at Rs. 16 to 1 US dollar and Rs. 29.80 to 1 Sterling pound, because of allowing the rupee to "float" there has been further devaluations and the exchange rate today is Rs. 18.70 to one US dollar and Rs. 40.52 to one Sterling pound. The effect of allowing the rupee to "float" could be seen from the following figures as between October 1979 and May 1981: **October 1979, Exchange Rates** : 1 US dollar—Rs. 15.65; 1 Sterling—Rs. 34.00; 1 Japanese Yen =Rs. 6.96; 1 Indian rupee=Rs. 1.80. **May 1981 Exchange Rates** : 1 US dollar=Rs. 18.05; 1 Sterling=Rs. 40.52; 1 Japanese Yen=Rs. 8.53 and 1 Indian rupee=Rs. 2.19. Thus, it is the increased payment in consequence of the continuous fall in the rupee value for imports that is basically at the bottom of the ever-increasing rise in the price of the imported goods and not "world inflation" as has been made to appear. The control of all these above stated matters are within the powers of the Sri Lanka government and not beyond it. Thus on a proper formulation of the country's policies, these are capable of correction at the stroke of the pen and the price level can be brought down substantially to the levels that prevailed before July 1977. What is needed is political will, commitment to alleviate the sufferings and hardships of the ordinary people and above all the courage to order the affairs of the country according to priorities as it matters to the people.



## Police & Public

Sir,

I think the only way of preventing Police officers being murdered in Jaffna is to improve Police-Public relations. When I was appointed Superintendent of Police in charge of the Northern Province there was political trouble and tension in Jaffna and as a result of this there was a Coordinating Officer in charge of Jaffna namely Colonel Richard Udugama. This was in the early sixties. In the early stage of my stay there, I was charged in Court by the Federal Party over a certain incident. I overcame all my problems by improving police-public relations and subsequently the Co-ordinating Officer was withdrawn and the police maintained law and order on their own without the assistance of the armed services. They only assisted us in illicit immigration duties. The action taken by me to improve police-public relations was as follows: I treated everybody equal, irrespective of caste, creed, race or religion. With the assistance of the late Mr. A. S. Mariyanayagam who was an Assistant Superintendent of Police under me and Mr. P. A. Pragasam who was the manager of the local branch of Lake House and a few others I organised the (a) Thinakaran Festival, (b) Cart Races, (c) Old Crocks Rally, (d) Sports Meets (e) Concerts, plays and variety entertainments, (f) All Ceylon Hockey Federation Championships, (g) Sports Meets and other sports events. This brought the police closer to the public and there was perfect harmony between the two. With the gate money etc. realised from the activities I was able with the assistance of the two persons mentioned by me and a few others to build the only sports stadium in Jaffna and this too by the Police sacrificing their grounds to build the stadium on it. The building of this stadium gave an opening to the youth of Jaffna to improve in their sports activities. I am only sad that the late Mr. Alfred Duriyappa should have named the stadium after his name when he was Mayor as he was only a Committee Member of the Stadium Committee that assisted me in the building of it. I made it a point to give police assistance and be personally present at all functions organised by the high caste and the low caste to which I was wanted. The politicians, public servants and the public extended their fullest cooperation in all these activities and in short, I won the hearts of all the Tamils. In my opinion the Tamils cannot be subdued by the sword alone. If you give them a straight deal they will give you the same. Even in the past when King Dutugemunu slew Elara in battle he had such admiration for him (Elara) that he is said to have built a Dagoba on the spot where he was burnt. The Government and the Police must go all out to improve police-public

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relations and when this is done, I am certain that terrorist gangs, incidents of robberies or violence will disappear and the police will be in a position to tackle all their problems on their own.

18 Ridgewood St.,  
Underwood,  
QLD, 4119,  
Australia.

18.6.81

**JACK VAN SANDEN**

## Foreign Service

Sir,

Serendib has reflected uncannily the image of the Foreign Service as the average man sees it but he appears to be sliding in favour of the career men. If we want the best value for the Rs. 144,838,300 voted for expenditure by the Foreign Ministry in the current year, we must get the correct mix of career men and political appointees in the best interest of the nation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs unlike other Ministries cannot show tangible results. It is a difficult task because it is invisible. **Serendib** bemoans the fact that Tissa Wijeratne selectees are a flot overlooking the cardinal error of Sir Kanthiah Vaithianathan in choosing second class material to form the nucleus of the Foreign Service. Perhaps Sir Kanthiah did not imagine in his wildest dreams that his men will end up as heads of missions. But in course of time the so-called civil service "rejects" muddled along enjoying their version of the good life—Chivas Regal, three piece suits from Austin Reeds, Samsonite Attache case, Fablo shirts, sleeping on four-poster satinquilted Marie Antoinette headsteads. They have all blossomed out beyond recognition and doubtless all Tissa's men will follow suit. They know which side of the bread is buttered—they too will improve their coat of arms by marrying into the right families.

But as a taxpayer, my main concern is—are our embassies overstaffed? Perhaps in the sense they are too large for our true needs. My son who is a computer analyst in USA on a brief holiday in Sri Lanka recently commented he has rarely found signs of underwork in our Missions abroad and for ever the staff are running round in circles. The old world style is still there—Radhika should remember to tell the butler to tell the house-keeper to tell the cleaner not to polish the floor too zealously to ensure that the visiting Minister from Sri Lanka does not slip on the parquét and crack his head. When my son asked an embassy official what nearly twenty people can possibly find to do all day long on Sri Lanka's behalf, the official understandably tended to be a bit defensive and muttered under his breath

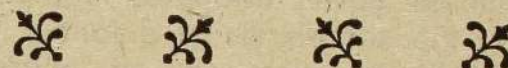
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that the embassy's size is commensurate with its importance. That is that. Finally I must conclude this note with the observations made by the Minister of Finance on 26th February 1979 when quizzing Mr. Badrapala Wickrematunga, our envoy to Sweden at the Parliamentary Select Committee hearings; "Our last Ambassador in Sweden is now in active business in Sweden and Norway. You can draw your own conclusions. This is not the first time it has happened. This is about the third or fourth time. Our Ambassadors are not looking after the interests of the country at all. They are only pushing their own interests. I am sorry the Foreign Office must look into this."

Adikaram Mawatte,  
Kotte.

12 June 1981

**J. K. SENARATNE**



THE GULF

## Russian Menace, Or...?

**London, June 20** : We cite a summaries translated extract of the statement made by President of United Arab Emirates Zaid Ben Sultan Al-Nahayan in an interview to the weekly **Al-Mustakbahl** in its issue of June 7, 1981 :

"I am not convinced the Soviet Union creates a danger to us or to any other state of Persian Gulf at the present time. As to Soviet presence in Afghanistan, Soviet troops are being deployed there in accordance with the official request of the legal government of this country. The Soviet Union is not an invader to Afghanistan. USSR renders an assistance to this country just as it does this in its relation with the legal authorities in Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen, Ethiopia and in the number of other countries. The furore about Soviet presence in Afghanistan and the threat it supposedly creates to us, was no doubt prompted to intimidate the Gulf States. We do not consider the Soviet Union an enemy of ours, we think that veritable enemy and an aggressor to Arabs is Israel, which in the space of a quarter century has occupied Arab territories, drives out Arab Palestinians from their native lands and turns them into refugees, wantonly bombards and shells vast territories of Lebanon, sows death and destruction in the South of that country. Israel is a real enemy of Arabs i"

This statement knocks the bottom of the propaganda carried on by the US and other Western countries about the Soviet threat to the Gulf States that especially



arose after the Soviet "invasion" in Afghanistan. It is significant that this statement was made by a governmental head who cannot be held guilty of any sympathy for the Soviet Union. The UAE it must be recalled, to this day has no diplomatic relations with the USSR. More and more people and nations have now begun to understand the sensational and alarmist nature of the stories spread about the "Soviet invasion in Afghanistan" and about the "threat to the Gulf States" that had supposedly stemmed from the "invasion". Such canards are really intended to divert the attention of the world away from the dangers of the American military presence in the region presently haunted not only by a "Rapid Deployment Force" in addition to the increased aggressive actions on the part of Israel which the world identifies as the 49th state of the USA. The imaginary "threat" which allegedly comes from presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan was debunked by the admissions of a former US Under Secretary David Newsom in an article in the magazine **Foreign Policy** in its June issue. Newsom says that "there are no indications about Russian intentions to invade the Gulf Region (from the territory of Afghanistan) at any visible future". Newsom also notes that the Carter Doctrine, formulated in the State of the Nation message in January 1980 and which had decreed that the Persian Gulf was reckoned to be in the sphere of vital interests of the USA, was the result of a hasty preparation of his speech at short notice. He points out that neither Carter's nor Reagan's Administration has carried out a detailed analysis of the possible repercussions of this new and extended Monroe Doctrine.

It will be useful to recall that there have been a whole host of such stories from the time the young Soviet Republic was set up. All of them were ultimately proved to be false, but this has not deterred the manufacturers of Anti-Soviet canards from spreading them at frequent intervals. They continue to flood the world with such propaganda gimmicks. One of the recent ones said that the Soviet Union would soon be very short of oil and that it would have no alternative but to grab Gulf oil.

We reproduce below relevant extracts from an article in the **New York Times** and which appeared in the **International Herald Tribune** of May 20, 1981 by Bernard Gwertzman: "In a move with potential ramifications for US foreign policy, the CIA has revised upward its estimate of Soviet oil production and now believes that by 1985 Moscow will still be able to meet its energy needs without having to import petroleum. Contrary to previous agency estimates, administration officials said Monday, a new CIA study states that the Russians will not be competing for Middle Eastern or other foreign oil sources by 1985. The officials said the study

had been discussed with Western allies. Beginning in 1977, and CIA had predicted that Soviet oil production would start declining by 1980, and that by 1985 the Russians would have to import as much as 3.5 million barrels a day for their needs. The CIA now says that estimate will not be borne out, officials said. Soviet oil production, in fact, has gradually risen. Last year, the Soviet Union produced about 12.1 million barrels a day, making it the largest producer of petroleum in the world. Saudi Arabia is second and the United States third. The Russians remain not exporters of oil. Until the

latest estimate, the CIA had predicted a decline by 1985 that would leave the Russians producing no more than between 8 million and 10 million barrels a day. Now, a CIA spokesman confirmed Monday, the agency estimates that by 1985 the Soviet Union will produce between 10 million and 11 million barrels a day. In addition, with Soviet natural gas production rising, there seems to be no need for Soviet energy imports by then, officials said...Some State Department officials said that the CIA estimate for 1985 of between 10 million and 11 million barrels might prove to be an under-estimate. The CIA projection is important, because following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979, officials from the Carter administration and later the Reagan Administration cited the Soviet need to import oil as a rationale for the Soviet moves to bring troops closer to the Gulf. Two months ago, for instance, Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, in justifying the administration's case for increasing the American military presence in the Gulf area, said that the region "is and will be the fulcrum of contention for the foreseeable future...The Soviet Union will almost certainly become a net energy importer. This coupled with their economic necessity for eventual access to the Gulf oil basin, is their long-range objective of denying access to oil by the West".

Marshall I Goldman, associate director of the Russian Research Center at Harvard, said Monday that James Noren, a CIA analyst, had discussed the latest Soviet oil projections at a seminar at the center last week. Mr. Goldman, who had been sharply critical of the earlier CIA estimates, said that the new projection 'means first of all that we should at least allow for the fact that the Soviet are not desperate for petroleum..... So far, we have been conducting our foreign policy on a worst case scenario..... the estimates that have been governing policy have been proven wrong so far. It doesn't mean that the Soviets are now benevolent in the Middle East, but those who think the Russians must go into the Middle East for oil are wrong'. Mr. Noren, in his discussion at Harvard, attributed the new higher projection to forecasts based on increased Soviet investment in oil production. He also said that the

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Russians were putting increased stress on conservation and that they planned to raise their wholesale prices next year for the first time since 1967".

This is not the first time that the CIA has been proved wrong. But, in this instance these "wrong estimates" of the CIA were used by the US administration to stampede the American public into accepting a multi-billion armament programme to defend the oil in the Gulf.

**Tribune Correspondent**

SOUTH ASIA

## Indo-Pak Talks

By Vijaya Chari

**Indo-Pakistan relations**, bloodied by three border wars since the independence of the two countries in 1948, seem to be looking up for the first time after the recent visit of Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, Indian Foreign Minister to Pakistan. But there is no cause of euphoria. Hard and patient ground work are yet to follow to consolidate the new turn for the better which the course of bilateral relations has now taken, paradoxically in the context of Reagan administration's decision to supply massive military hardware to Pakistan as the "frontline state" to Afghanistan now under Russian control. The US decision to rearm Pakistan had been the latest point of friction and source of discord, to put it mildly, between the two countries, with India maintaining that the US move would import cold war into the Indian sub-continent and further destabilise the region. Pakistan maintains that the US military aid is imperative for Pakistan to maintain its integrity and to stand up to any possible Russian expansion from across the border state of Afghanistan to get a warm port outlet to the Arabian Sea. In this context the joint communique issued at the end of Mr. Rao's visit significantly and explicitly recognizes both the countries' individual right to acquire weapons for self-defence. This is coupled with the explanation that the two sides have given their respective defence parameters and a promise by both sides "to keep in touch" with each other on a continuing basis. This is a break-through which paves the way for an eventual understanding on the defence needs of each other on a long term basis while it is considered by both sides as premature at present to discuss a balanced reduction of forces, it could be a desirable end result of a gradual process of building up mutual trust and confidence which could eliminate the question of arms build-up in the sub-continent as a source of mutual distrust.

**But it is clear**, as the **Hindu** points out editorially, that India, for a refreshing change has this time chosen not to cry hoarse over and react rather mutedly

to US arms aid to Pakistan. The **Hindu** rightly warns in this connection that both US and Pakistan will be making a serious error if they believe that this constitutes Indian acquiescence in their plans to turn one corner of the sub-continent into an arsenal and import along with it all the instabilities that will inevitably follow. "They must realise", the **Hindu** adds, "that the legitimate defence needs of India are vastly different from Pakistan's in (in view of its sensitive borders with China and Bangladesh) and any effort to 'match' them is unrealistic". As if to dispel apprehension of India and that of several non-aligned nations that Pakistan may enter into a firm military arrangement with the US including base facilities, it is recorded in the joint communique: "The two sides reaffirmed their adherence to the principles of non-alignment which rule out participation in military pacts". Thus it is clear that Pakistan has made up its mind not to be lured by the hawks in the Reagan administration back to SEATO and CENTO days whatever be the compulsions of the Russian military presence in Afghanistan. The Pakistan signals have already been registered in the White House. There was reassurance on both sides, for whatever it is worth, that neither will go nuclear. The joint communique says in this connection "both sides reiterated their policy of using nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes". This is significant as Mrs. Gandhi is under pressure on the domestic front to go in for manufacture of nuclear weapons in view of worldwide reports that Pakistan is well on its way to acquire nuclear capability. Pakistan has also now come very close to the Indian proposal for a no-war pact between the two countries by affirming in the joint communique that "the Simla Agreement rules out the use of force or the threat of use of force between the two countries and provides for peaceful settlement of all issues". By reaffirming in the joint communique its and India's commitment to the Simla Agreement, and noting that the agreement "constituted a firm foundation for the preservation of peace and improvement of relations between the two countries" Pakistan has implicitly agreed to seek a solution to the vexed Kashmir dispute bilaterally in terms of the agreement and not to attempt to raise it in international forums or to internationalise it as it has been doing all along. On behalf of India, Mr. Narasimha Rao, through his erudite discourse to the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs, sought to dispel the wide-spread apprehension among Pakistanis—intellectuals and laymen alike—that India had not reconciled to the vivisection of Bharat and harbour sinister designs to annex Pakistan. He declared "India should at least be credited with the perspicacity to know that there is not a single problem of hers which will come anywhere nearer solution by the undoing of Pakistan. And as far as the fantastic fear that India wants to gobble up Pakistan, I can say that those who are plugging the line are doing injustice to both Pakistan and India".

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Mr. Agha Shahi, Pakistani Foreign Minister, will visit India sooner than originally planned to pick up the thread and give momentum to the normalisation process by strengthening bilateral ties on economic, social and cultural spheres. Despite best of intentions on both sides there could be a slip between the cup and lip.

**China**, with its new foreign policy perspective of weaning away India from the "Soviet Orbit", has worked hard behind the scenes to soften Pakistani antagonism towards India. It is all praise for the break-through in the Indo-Pak relations. Echoing this sentiment of Beijing the **Peoples Daily** stressed that "the Government of India and Pakistan have more in common as Third World and Non-aligned nations than they had differences" and cautioned that "some external forces had been trying to exploit divisions" between the two countries and drive a wedge between them". The Communist Party of India (pro-Moscow) mirroring the Russian thinking, had cautioned India in a press statement against attaching too much significance to Pakistani expressions of good intentions and saw in Pakistani policies the hand of the Washington-Beijing-Islamabad combine. "In our efforts to normalise relations with China, Pakistan and the US, we should always be alert about the trap set by them for our country so that we do not detract from our country's policies of anti-imperialist non-alignment, world peace and friendship with the Soviet Union, other socialist countries and peace-loving developing nations". Reagan administration's attitude to the thaw in Indo-Pak relations and also to the forthcoming Sino-Indian dialogue aimed at normalisation are yet to crystallise itself. The US will welcome steps only to the extent that Russian influence in the sub-continent gets eroded and not possibly beyond where India will get recognition as a major Regional Power in Asia. Since these multi-polar forces will condition the pace of Indo-Pak normalisation process, one cannot expect dramatic positive developments in the Indian sub-continent in the immediate future. The progress will necessarily be agonisingly slow.

## AFGHANISTAN

# Fatherland Front

**Kabul, June 19** : The National Fatherland Front (NFF) of Afghanistan, founded here at a Congress of its constituents on June 15 is a big enough achievement for the embattled Government to be proud of. But, it is not yet a breakthrough. The strength and success of any united political front depends primarily upon the number of non-antagonistic political formations and forces brought together on a common political platform. Judging by this criterion, the NFF in its present form must be considered as more than a promise. The NFF is an achievement because it

has been formed at all as early as this. Only on the eve of its formation, reports had appeared in the foreign press that the idea of the front had been "given up". The reports have been belied, but the expeditiousness has had to be at the cost of the fullest possible expansion of the front. It has been founded now by a total of 11 mass and social organisations, all of them formed themselves at the initiative of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in the recent period, and all of them now in the NFF under the acknowledged leadership of the PDPA. These include the trade union organisation, the union of agricultural co-operatives, the council of clergy and scholars, the Economic Consultative Council with representation for the "national capital and trade", and associations of intelligentsia in various fields. It is not, however, as if the NFF represents no advance towards political unity of different forces for the April Revolution. It does symbolize greater unity within the PDPA. It has actually been sought to be symbolized in the election as the front's Chairman of PDPA Politburo member Dr. Salh Mohammed Zeary, associated with the party's Khalq faction. The election came as a reassurance on this count after the preceding appointment of Sultan Ali Keshtmand (of the rival Parchami group) Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shows increased in-party unity also because the very idea of the front was known to be opposed for some time by a section of the Khalqis, as the leaders of the group admit. The latter had at one point to remind the cadres that the front figured in the programme of the party even before the new phase of the revolution that began on December 27 last, with the overthrow of Hafizullah Amin and the takeover of leadership by Babrak Karmal.

**It was only** about two months ago that Karmal, addressing party cadres administered the sharp warning: "If you do not adopt a humane attitude towards the other partners of the front, I will consider this an anti-people party." It has been no less difficult to unite the party behind the front perhaps than it will be to unite the people—of different nationalities and tribes—behind it. Though there are no other political parties or groups in the front, political unity of a larger than the in-party kind is indicated by the impressive number of prominent political personalities of the past, particularly the time of King Zahir Shah, who have come forward to join the NFF. In the opening session of the founding congress was announced the name of Hadi Abdul Davi, president of the Senate in the King's Parliament, Now 95, he had spent 20 years in the King's jail as a leader of "constitutionalist movement". Among other leading figures of the monarchical period to lend prestige to the NFF are Maj. Gen. Ghulam Farouq (former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces), Maj. Gen. Khan Mohammed (former Defence Minister), Abdur Rahman Pajwak (former Permanent Representative of Afghanistan in the UN), Niyamatullah Pajwak (former Interior and Education Minister), Dr.

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Mohammed Anas (former Education Minister), Dr. Ismail Alam (former Vice-President of Parliament), Maj. Gen. Fateh Jan, Wahid Sorabi (former Planning Minister and Adviser to Cabinet), Ali Mohammed Zahma (former President of the Academy of Sciences and a "constitutionalist" leader), and Wolesmal (former editor-in-chief of periodical "Afghan"). Members of the King's Parliament who have joined the NFF include, Mira Jan from Paktia, Mohammed Sarwar Akbari from Balkh, Shujauddin Sharifi from Samangan, and Abdullah Lal Agha, Hidayatullah, and Ruhullah Habi from Nangarhar.

The lengthy list illustrates the support the PDPA has been able to win from the liberals and constitutional reformers of yesterday in the new phase of the revolution, that has repudiated the excesses of the Amin era. Success has, ironically, been less easy in efforts to win back groups that split away in the more recent years from the PDPA. Only one of the "The Working Group", with some following in the northern provinces, has come back into the fold of the party, apparently without preconditions. Negotiations have been going on for months without results with the group under the former Khalqi but anti-Amin leader Zahir Afog from Kandahar. Progress has also been tardy in the talks with the Sitam-i-Milli group, whose ideology places the national question before the class question, and which has a base in the non-Pushto-speaking northern provinces. The official PDPA line towards all these groups is that, since they claim to be proletarian parties, they must merge with the ruling party. The PDPA is reluctant to accept the possibility of more than one party in the country to represent the working class. The only other party with a Marxist claim is the Maoist Shoe Jawed (Eternal Flame) which, like extreme-right parties, operate primarily from Pakistani bases. The formation of the NFF, even after any expansion that may take place, will only represent unity in form or organisation. The unity of the constituents in effective action will demand its own requirements. Of which, later.

**KANISHKA**

**Tribune Correspondent**

MEDITERRANEAN

## Brezhnev Calls For Talks

**Moscow, June 9 :** The following measures were recommended at the Kremlin dinner in honour of the visiting Algerian President Chadh Bendjedid by President Leonid Brezhnev to ensure Mediterranean being turned into a zone of stable peace and cooperation: (1) the spreading to the area of the Mediterranean of confidence-building measures in the military field, which have already proved to be effective in international practices; (2) a Coordinated reduction of armed forces in that area; (3) Withdrawal

from the Mediterranean of ships carrying nuclear weapons; (4) Renunciation of deployment of nuclear weapons on the territory of Mediterranean non-nuclear countries; and (5) the adoption of a commitment by the nuclear powers not to use nuclear weapons against any Mediterranean country, which does not permit the deployment of such weapons on its territory. **Leonid Brezhnev** referred to the US freezing the SALT II Treaty and not agreeing to resumption of talks with the Soviet Union on the problems of medium range weapons in Europe. "It is being alleged in Washington", he said "that the United States will shortly start or even has already started talks with the Soviet Union on questions, of arms control. Unfortunately, these are mere words. I can say quite definitely; not a single real step has been made on the part of the United States so far during all the time since the advent to power by the present U.S. administration either on that or other question in order to continue, at least in a preliminary order, the discussion of the essence of these questions. On the contrary, the Americans are delaying on various pretexts the beginning of such a discussion while we, for our part, are prepared for it at any time. Meanwhile the unrestrained build up by the West of military budgets and armaments, the cult of strength, diktat and threats in international relations, the whipping up of hatred for the socialist countries and liberation movements and persecution of all progressive parties is already leading today to grim consequences for the peoples", he said. One of them is the bloody wave of terrorism by right-wing extremists, which is nowadays literally sweeping many states in different parts of the world. The targets of terrorism are prominent, including the highest ranking, statesmen, political and religious figures. With all the difference of the specific circumstances their common aim can be seen quite clearly—it is to destabilize political life in the countries concerned, suppress democracy and create conditions for the coming to power of the most reactionary dictatorial regimes. "You, Algerian Comrades, know from the experience of your liberation struggle what imperialist terror is; fresh in your memory, are the atrocities perpetrated by the notorious OAS" he said, and added: "But the peoples of the world see other opportunities for mankind's development that the poisonous swamp of hatred, terrorism and military preparations. On its part the Soviet Union put forward at the recent Congress of the CPSU a wide programme of specific measures to create a healthier international climate and to build up confidence between states. We will pursue this policy persistently and with consistence. This also concerns, of course, our relations with the United States. We tell the US leaders in our contacts with them, and I am repeating it in public: we do not seek a confrontation with the USA, we do not encroach upon America's legitimate interests. We want peace, cooperation and normal relations between our countries based on mutual trust. It is precisely why we offer the United States and the other Western countries

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fair constructive talks, a quest for mutually acceptable solutions to practically all the major issues existing between us. We are for a joint quest for ways towards a lasting peace and mutually beneficial cooperation".

PORTUGAL

## Spectre of Rightwing Terrorism

By Leonardo Cacaeres

**Lisbon, May 28 :** Christian Democratic Deputy Ribeiro E Castro sent shockwaves through parliament here earlier this month when he questioned the official version of the cause of the plane crash that took the life of former Prime Minister Francisco Sa Carneiro. In a strongly worded attack on terrorism, especially from the left, and chiding his colleagues for condemning Britain for the "voluntary deaths" of Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes without also condemning the Irish Republican Army, the young deputy asked, much to everyone's surprise, "who has forgotten the tragic deaths of Sa Carneiro, Amaro da Costa and Patricio Gouveira and those who were with them in that dark, disputed accident?" So far, official investigations have turned up no evidence of foul play in the December 4, 1980 accident, which occurred just two days before the presidential elections, but the incident is still shrouded in a fog of speculation and unanswered questions. According to official reports, the tragedy was caused by the pilot's failure to check the fuel supply before taking off and Sa Carneiro's haste to fly to a campaign meeting. Until Ribeiro E Castro's speech however, no Christian Democrat had ever suggested in the assembly that Sa Carneiro had been the victim of terrorism. Lurking behind the deputy's words, is the fear of a resurgence of extreme right terrorism after a few years of peace. It is this fear that makes the leaders of political parties hire body guards. Even the head of the Christian Democrats, Freitas Do Amaral, is said to have required two of his body guards to stay with him as he made a broadcast from a television studio.

An extensive report on the threat of terrorism from armed gangs on the extreme right was published recently in **Expresso** a Lisbon magazine that was edited until a few months ago by the current Prime Minister, Francisco Pinto Balsemao. According to this report, which has not been denied in official circles, the highest ranking government officials, including the ministers of defence and of the interior, the head of the joint chiefs of staff and the commanders of the different police forces, have formed a committee for organizing the fight against the alleged terrorists. The magazine goes on to charge that the major terrorist threat comes from the Portuguese Liberation Army (ELP), the armed branch of the Democratic

Movement for the Liberation of Portugal (MDLP), both of which were voluntarily and officially disbanded in April 1976. This movement, which was supposed to protect Portugal from communism, was financed by the same rightists who today lead the Christian Democratic Government. The MDLP in turn financed the ELP mercenaries recruited from the former elite troops of the African wars who specialised in bombing communist party headquarters and the homes of leftist leaders as well as attacking radio transmitters and labour newspapers. The MDLP and the ELP were dissolved after the election of President Eanes, but the terrorists, used to action, just bided their time. Today, according to **Expresso**, these extreme rightists are teeming with resentment against the present leaders of Portugal's right wing. So it is that, in the wake of Sa Carneiro's death, the very people who, five years ago, arranged for the implacable "jackals" to be trained in Spain are now having to guard against their vengeance.

IPS—LANKAPUWATH.

MEXICO

## Lopez Portillo's Support For Nicaragua

By Manuel Buendia

**Mexico City, May 29 :** Just one month before his June 7 and 8 meeting with President Ronald Reagan, Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo chose to praise the Leftist revolution in Nicaragua in glowing terms that surpassed some of the milder statements of support coming from Moscow and Havana. Mexico will defend the Nicaraguan cause because it agrees with its principles, said Lopez Portillo May 6 during a banquet honouring the head of the Sandinista Government, Commander Daniel Ortega Soavedra. Every time a larger nation interferes in the affairs of a smaller one, it claims it is for reasons of national security, he observed. If such a criterion were legally acceptable, he added, "the corpse of international law would have been buried a long time ago". "Through false statements and sophistry, the extreme has been reached where they say the campaign against Nicaragua is being carried out in the name of democracy" the Mexican President told the gathering which included many ambassadors. Lopez Portillo went beyond that direct allusion to the power behind the anti-Nicaragua campaign, pointing out the paradox by which the destruction of a democratic regime was proposed in order to keep it from future risks". "An effort was made to keep democracies in check through the creation of a chain of dictatorships", he added. Ortega Saavedra, accompanied by eleven ministers including the Poet Ernesto Cardenal, was in Mexico on an Official visit. Lopez Portillo's government provided various

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sorts of assistance to the Sandanistas during the last stages of their bloody struggle, although it was never proven that it supplied them with arms.

It was a plane sent by Lopez Portillo that took the members of the Junta to Managua to take over the government. Later on, Mexican officials, including treasury minister David Ibarra, being collaborating directly in the reconstruction of Nicaragua's devastated economy. In his speech, Lopez Portillo also mentioned the danger of war breaking out in the area. Referring to the escalating conflict in El Salvador and the threat of an attack on Nicaragua from Honduras and of civil war in Guatemala, he said "no country in the area wants this war, but it can be provoked from abroad through open military intervention". The Mexican leader, who is scheduled to meet Reagan at Camp David June 7 and 8, then warned the assembled diplomats that "in the face of such a delicate situation, we have the duty to act firmly and prudently. We cannot stimulate the ambition of unscrupulous strategists and merchants who see in the fragmented geography of the region a chance to organise small wars". Diplomatic observers and those familiar with the Mexican political system agree that this was probably one of Lopez Portillo's most important speeches and that it surely caused some concern in Washington. — **IPS.** — **Lanka Puwath**

## THE KNIGHTED AND THE BE-NIGHTED

1505 — 1981

They came in waves tribe after tribe  
With gun in hand and greed upon their faces  
On pillage bent these strange white races  
Heroes glorified in Cathedrals and knighted  
For the many communities blighted  
Making non-men out of social groups  
Which could not match their stealth and troops  
Backed by chicanery and deceit.  
Came the moneymen on credit account  
Dealing in futures indeed with history itself  
On loans received on a stamped receipt.

Is the dream over now? Is it? Is it?  
After four centuries and a half?  
Come the money men on credit account  
Dealing in futures indeed with history itself.  
The IMF, the World Bank and GATT  
"Free Trade", competition and all that!  
Wot! No Cathedrals and heroes?  
That's old hat: God is dead,  
But the Devil lives on and is painted Red.  
**Carpe diem!** Hail Tourism and Eros.  
And, the H-bomb ticks on to have the last laugh.

"GIOM"

Govt.



Notices

### 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; ATH 1/295

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; 147 (Part 111) of 26-06-1981.

#### SCHEDULE

**D.R.O.'S Division** ; Colombo  
**Situation** ; Ward 44, Kirillapone, within the Municipal Council limits of Colombo.  
**Village** ; Kirillapone.  
**Name of Land** ; Delgahawatte, portion of Premises bearing Assmt. No. 6/1, of Allen Methiniyarama Road.  
**Lot No.** ; 759  
**Plan No. P.P. Co.** ; 5496

**H.C. Gunawardane**  
District Land Officer and  
Acquiring Officer of Colombo  
District.

The Kachcherl,  
Colombo.

Date;- 20th May 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; ATH 1/224

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; 147 (Part 111) of 26-06-1981.

#### SCHEDULE

**D.R.O.'s Division** ; Colombo  
**Situation** ; Ward No. 42, Havelock Town within Colombo M.C. Limits.  
**Village** ; Bambaladitiya.  
**Name of Land** ; Part of Assmt. No. 339, Galle Road.  
**Lot No.** ; 1  
**Plan No. P.P. Co.** ; 5066.

**H.C. Gunawardane.**  
District Land Officer,  
Colombo District.

The Kachcheri,  
Colombo.

Date;- 20th May 1981.



# Apocalypse Now!

By Jayantha Somasundaram

Wealth and plenty amidst poverty is not merely the abstraction of prophets of the apocalypse. It is the constant nightmare of market economies, where the scramble for profit gives rise to mass production, mass production to mechanisation, automation to redundancy of labour, and unemployment to accumulating inventories. The only way out of this dilemma is to destroy production units and capacity. This is why Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany registered marked growth in the post war years, because their industries were razed to the ground by 1945. Nazi Germany is a good example where a country revived economically from the depression of the thirties because the armament industry buoyed the economy. During the years of the Vietnam War, the United States economy also benefited from armament production and war. Since then however, the arming of megalomaniacs in the Gulf and dictators in Latin America does not provide adequate business for US industry. Across the Atlantic the situation is no different. Sharp cuts in production have already been registered in major industries like British steel and Japanese ship building. In the meantime governments are increasing taxes in order to subsidise flagging industry. This in turn cuts profit, throttles demand and strangles the market further. The governments in countries like Italy borrow so heavily, to provide subsidies, that the interested rate for credit is sent spiralling. Even in Japan, public expenditure is now a quarter of its GNP and its budget deficit equal to the combined deficits of the US, FRG, UK and France.

The era when there was recourse to Keynesian remedies has ended, the movement towards Economic Darwinism has begun. In both the metropolitan countries and the periphery of capitalism social democratic parties are being replaced in power by conservatives. But the extreme measures that are applicable in say Chile, through naked authoritarianism, could not be carried out even after strong governments and militant rhetoric had arrived. In the UK, even Margeret Thatcher could not permit British Steel and British Leyland to foldup. If the past could be described as crisis ridden, the future can earn the term disasterous. The economic crisis that hit the market economies in 1973 came at the end of a long period of prosperity and high levels of investment. These factors cushioned the worst effects of the 73/75 recession. Since then however, there has been little renewal of capital in North America and Western Europe. The traditional industrial powers are therefore in for a good economic drubbing by Japan. One of the sore issues in US Japanese relations today is the threat

to the US motor car industry by Japanese competitors. Quotas are being called for by US producers. Meanwhile Ronald Reagan, has been forced to resume grain sales to the Soviet Union to rescue US farmers. And garment manufacturers from Hong Kong have come to Katunayaké to beat their quotas. In anticipation of all of this, OECD countries, the industrialized market economies of the West, are cutting imports, boosting exports and cutting public expenditure. But the crisis is going to be world-wide, and the capacity of the less developed countries, to indulge in imports is going to be severely curtailed. What is more, even the Eastern European countries, alarmed at their growing debts to Western banks, are also going to apply the same kind of remedies as their Western competitors

The example or warning of Poland is certainly going to influence the policies of the planned economies. Poland is using 70 per cent of her export earnings to service her foreign debts. The consequent fall in living standards has created the conditions for a political revolution. The developing market economies are also likely to throttle imports and borrowing. Whereas in 1973 the LDC debt was \$73 billion today it is estimated at \$ 440 billion. Of this amount, a third is the burden of five countries, Brazil Mexico, South Korea, Argentina and the Philippines. The Thirty international banks who finance international credit are anxious to lend and will compete to do so. But their credit will in all probability be used for debt servicing and not to expand demand.

**The predicament of countries like Sri Lanka is mind boggling. The OECD are rigorously employing quotas and import controls against our exports- whilst preaching about the virtues of free trade. Our ability to save ourselves, or contribute to the salvation of the rest of the capitalist world is thus non existant.**

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## FRAGMENTS

Stifling in the black heat  
 Struggling to breathe  
 Polluted air—  
 I stretch hands  
 Grasping hands  
 Unknown to pray  
 Asking forgotten gods  
 For rain.  
 Life  
 To my betrayed land.

**Manel Abeyratne**

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WEST GERMANY

## And Cuba

By Oskar Knust

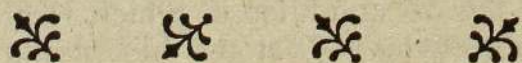
**Bonn, June 27 :** The recent announcement by West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher that his country "wants to intensify relations with Cuba" is the culmination of a process begun five years ago when the two countries re-established diplomatic ties. Now Bonn and Havana appear anxious to increase economic and political relations. Horst Ehmke, a senior leader of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD) and a member of the "Trilateral Commission" met with Cuban leader Fidel Castro for more than five hours late last year. And Hans Jurgen Wischnewski, SPD Vice-President and close advisor to West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, met with Castro as part of a campaign to mediate in the conflict raging in El Salvador. After the meeting, Wischnewski said Castro "supports my efforts to open a dialogue between the parties in conflict". Cuban politicians and officials have been visiting Bonn recently in increasing numbers. Early in May, the Vice-Premier in charge of the State Economic Collaboration Committee, Ernesto Melendez Bachs, spent six days in West Germany meeting with Government and private sector leaders. And earlier this month Carlos Martinez Salsamendi, a Chief Advisor to Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, followed in the footsteps of Melendez Bachs. The conflict in El Salvador, which worries both the SPD—Liberal government and the Christian Democratic (CDU) opposition, has led the West Germans to understand Cuba's importance. "There can be no solution to the El Salvador conflict without the participation of Cuba", Wischnewski said after returning from Cuba in May. The West Germans—especially the SPD and Liberals—believe that the conflict in El Salvador is rooted in "the social injustice which has reigned for decades in that Central American country. This, of course, is a point upon which the West Germans differ from their allies in Washington. Political observers here believe it will be interesting to and how the US reacts to closer ties between Bonn and Havana. As one analyst said, "The US Government is not pleased by Bonn's growing influence in Latin America".—**IPS Lankapuvath**

SEYCHELLES

## Abrogates Treaty with U. S. A.

**Victoria (Seychelles), June 26 :** The Seychelles government has "abrogated" an old agreement with the United States Government which had given it the lifelong right to operate its satellite tracking station at the Republic's largest Mahe island. The old agreement was being replaced by a new contract permitting the US to operate this station on year to year basis. Seychelles Defence Minister Ogilvy Berlouis disclosed in an interview with a visiting PTI correspondent here. He said that a senior American Ambassador was scheduled to arrive here towards the month end to sign the new contract. The Defence Minister said that the Americans insisted that it was merely a satellite tracking station located on this island situated almost in the middle of the Indian Ocean but "we know it is not". If we find a proof that it is military operations, we will give six months notice to (USA) to get out and close it" he said.

Asked as to how his government could detect military operations in the absence of necessary equipment, Mr. Berlouis, said "I assure you we can do that. We have means to do that". The Defence Minister described as "baseless" an impression currently gaining ground that the Seychelles Government was providing facilities to the Soviet Union to build military bases in the Indian Ocean to counter American presence there. "The Seychelles government is quiet friendly with the Russians but it has no intention or plans to give such facilities to the Soviet Union", he declared. Mr. Berlouis said that he had recently taken Ambassadors of France, UK and USA to one of the Islands, where the western press had reported that the Soviet Union had built military bases. Though the Ambassadors were taken there on the pretext of a picnic party they were given all facilities to go round the island. He said that at the end of the day, the Ambassadors and some of the western journalists who had accompanied them were satisfied that there were no Soviet military bases on the island—**PTI**





## Why Anti-Nestle ?

**IS IT NOT A FACT** that Nestles is one of the richest and most powerful of the breed known as multinationals? That there is no doubt that its efficiency is a by-word for perfection? That one unfortunate fact, however, has made Nestles the target of attack by consumer organisations in many countries? That it is pointed out that Nestles places profit (running annually into billions of dollars—in fact, more than the annual national budgets of most Third World countries) above public good and national interest? That apart from the question of excessive profit-grabbing in the countries in which Nestles operate—thereby pushing up the prices for the consumers for a vitally essential commodity—Nestles has gained international opprobrium, among other matters for stampeding mothers through advertising gimmicks (mostly unethical) to use synthetic infant milk foods that spell disaster for growing children? That at the recent WHO annual meeting, all the member nations, except one (the USA), voted in favour of breast-feeding and demanded restrictions on harmful synthetic formulae for infant foods? That, in many countries, popular organisations have launched mass anti-Nestle campaigns? That the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and in Britain the War on Want Organisation have all spoken about the dangers of bottle feeding? The **World Health**, the WHO magazine, said last year: "For populations which are not economically and culturally prepared . . . . bottle feeding of children . . . . is extremely dangerous, exposing them to severe malnutrition and deadly infections at a very early age" . . . .? That the present campaign against Nestle, which is being run by an organisation called the Baby Milk Action Coalition, reflects this concern and is aimed at persuading Nestle to stop promoting its bottle feed formulae in the way it is now doing in the developing world? That for some years, grassroots organisations in various parts of the world have been trying to spread the message that human breast milk is superior to the proprietary milk "formulae" now being vigorously promoted in the developing world? That, ironically, this is happening at a time when, in the developed world, there has been a swing back to breast-feeding and away from bottle feeding?

**THAT BOTTLE FEEDING** is seen as a threat to babies, especially in the developing world? That this is why there are the campaigns in the West, against companies which aggressively market bottle feeding products in the developing world? That Nestle is a major world supplier of baby feeding formulae and campaigns to boycott its products have already taken place in many countries including the USA, Canada and Japan? That this year the "Boycott—Nestle" campaign has gripped Britain?

That one may well ask why all the antipathy to bottle feeding? That, first, there is the simple, well-established fact that in normal circumstances breast-feeding is better because human milk is the natural food for human babies, and is therefore better than the bottle feeds which are based on cow's milk? That there are also more subtle reasons? That breast milk is not just a food? That it is also a protective substance, which shields the baby against some infectious diseases? That breast-feeding is also to some extent a contraceptive process? That a mother is likely to conceive another baby while she is breast-feeding, and this can be useful in enabling her to space out her pregnancies? That in the developing world, however, other considerations become important? That one is the cost of bottle feeds? That this may be so high in relation to the family income that a mother is tempted to water down the feed to make the milk powder last longer with disastrous effects on her child? That bottle feeds are also liable to be contaminated with germs from polluted water, or to be given at the wrong temperature? That in New Mexico, according to **AP** (19.6.81), the President of America's largest Hispanic Organisation has called for a boycott of Nestle products? That Mr. Ruben Bonilla, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, singled out Nestle and said in view of the multinationals' marketing practices among the poor in the US and Latin America, it should be the focus of a boycott? That UNICEF estimates that one million babies die each year because of improper use of infant formula? That in Sri Lanka, the government has now begun to take action against synthetic infant milk foods? That an anti-Nestles boycott campaign may soon be started if the multinational continues its present aggressive marketing policies to push the sales of infant milk foods under various guises? Though Nestle's hierarchy in Switzerland pretends that the boycott has had no substantial impact on them, a recent report published by "Business International," a research and consulting group concluded that "both public reaction to the boycott and its impact on Nestle are hard to assess".? "That we agree that the sales impact is difficult to assess; we do not see the boycott as an economic weapon, but as a means to influence Nestle's policy and image", said Arnelies Allain, who heads the International Baby Food Action Network, a Geneva-based coordinating group for 35 organisations, including the US group leading the boycott, the Infant Formula Action Coalition. That Nestle's main concern is the impact the boycott may be having on its corporate image, described by one executive as a "long-range public relations problem"? That Nestle's consolidated sales rose by just over 13 per cent last year, due primarily to high inflation rates prevailing in most of the 65 countries in which Nestle has production subsidiaries? That the net profits fell by 16 percent to 683 million francs, due mainly to losses of over 100 million francs Nestles operations in Argentina?



# Vacancies in the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka possessing requisite qualifications for the following post in the project at Nochchiyagama.

## **POST: MANAGERESS/HOME DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

### **Qualifications & Experience:**

1. a) Diploma in Home Science/Agriculture in a recognized institution and ten years experience in teaching of Home Science and managing a Home Science Institute  
OR  
b) B.Sc. Home Economics in a recognized institution and 5 years experience in teaching Home Science and managing a Home Science Institute.
2. Strong ability to communicate with rural Sri Lanka women.

### **Age :**

Should be over 30 years.

### **Salary Scale :**

Rs. 1750/- (6 x 50) -- Rs. 2050/- per month.

Suitable accommodation will be provided.

Applications indicating age, qualifications and other relevant particulars should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the undersigned on or before 17th July, 1981. The post applied for should be written on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Applications from persons in the state sector will be considered only if the head of the department/corporation/institute certifies that the candidate can be released if selected.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka,  
248, Galle Road,  
Colombo 4.**



## Vacancies in the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka

APPLICATIONS are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka possessing requisite qualifications for the following posts in the project offices at Nochchiyagama, Galnewa, Girandurukotte and Aralaganwila.

### POST OF ACCOUNTANT GRADE II

#### Qualifications & Experience:

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

#### Age:

Not less than 25 years.

#### Salary Scale :

Rs. 1350/- (8 x 50) — Rs. 1750/- per month together with Govt, approved allowances.

The selected candidates may be placed at a point on the scale depending on their experience and qualifications,

Applications indicating age, qualifications and other relevant particulars should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the undersigned on or before 15th July, 1981. The post applied for should be written on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Applications from persons in the state sector will be considered only if the head of the department / corporation / institute certifies that the candidate can be released if selected.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka,  
248, Galle Road,  
Colombo 4.**