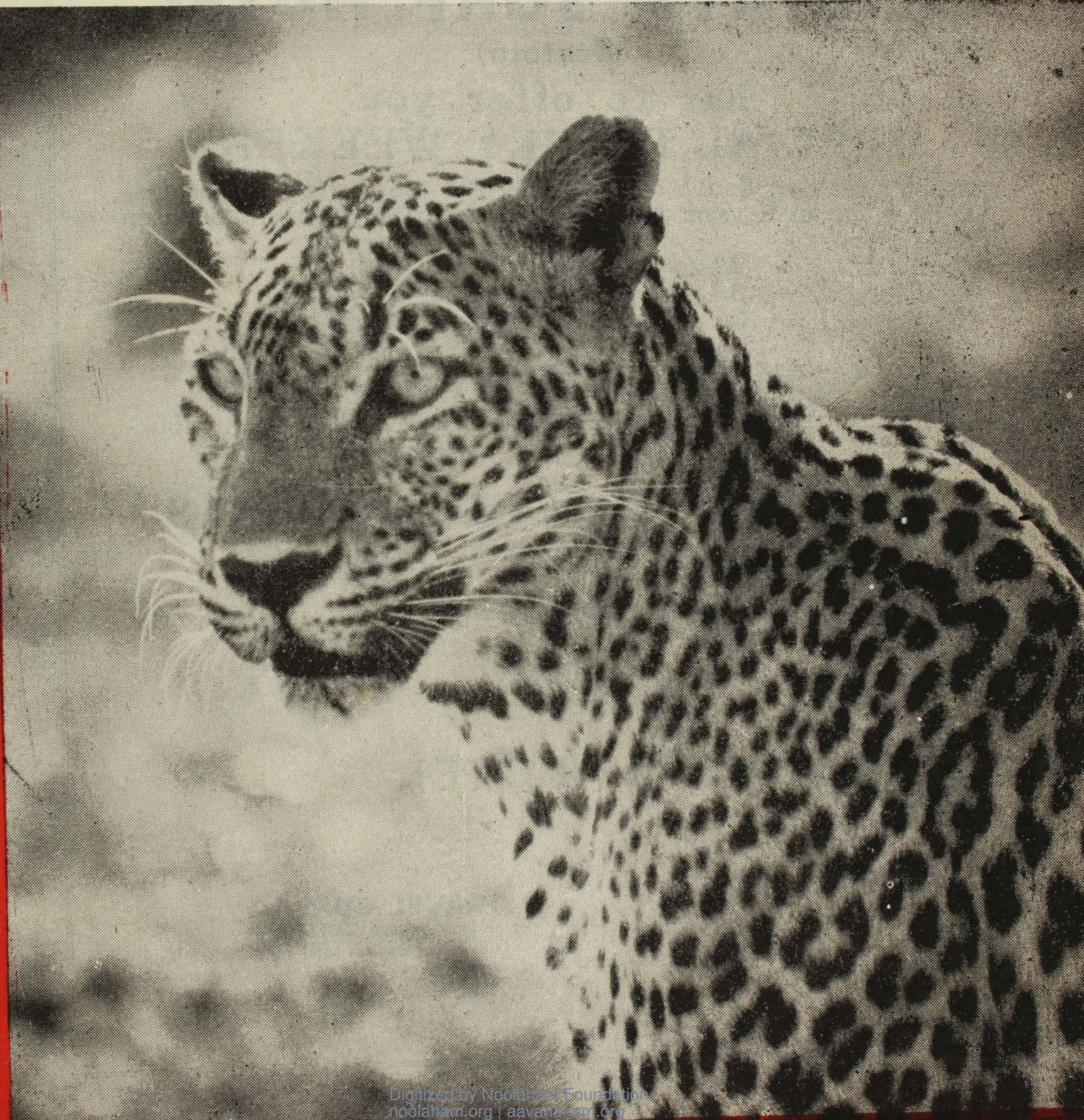


# TRIBUNE



26TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION







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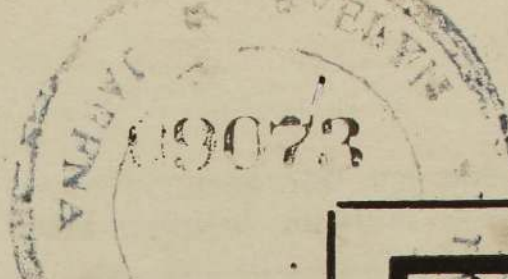
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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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Founded in 1954

Editor: S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

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No. 2

September 12, 1981

43, Dawson Street,

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## The U.N.P.

IT IS NECESSARY to place on record a statement made by the President on Friday, September 4, at the All-Ceylon Executive Committee of the UNP: "... I speak more in sorrow than in anger. Recent events throughout the Island, North, Centre and South show that the religions we profess do not seem to influence for the good of some of our people. I regret that some members of my party have spoken in Parliament and outside words that encourage violence and the murders, rapes and arson that have been committed. How many of our party leaders throughout the country have spoken against the recent acts of violence? What is the example we as leaders of the governing party are setting to our followers and to the rest of our countrymen? I must have reasons to be proud of the party of which I am leader. If I cannot, it is better for me to retire from leadership of this party and let those who believe that the harming of innocent people and property that has happened recently is the way to solve the problems that face this multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-caste society, take over the leadership of the party. Please consider what I have said seriously because it is not only our individual selves, not only our party but the whole nation and the welfare of its future citizens that are involved in the way we act and speak today'...."

In reporting this speech, the *Daily News* (5-9-1981) had also reported that: "Ratnapura M.P. G. V. Punchi Nilame who was on Thursday relieved of his position of Deputy Minister for Regional Development sought to make a personal explanation at yesterday's meeting. The President ruled that he could only speak on the resolutions before the House. Mr. Punchi Nilame, who had already spoken on the resolutions before seeking permission for his personal explanation thereupon left the platform and resumed his seat. The Ramakrishna Mission Hall at Wellawatte where the meeting was held was packed to capacity. Among those present was Prime Minister Premadasa, several other ministers, deputy ministers and MPs. The President spoke after speeches had been made by Messers Lalith Athulathmudali, Gamini Dissanayake and Deputy Health Minister, Premaratne Gunasekera had spoken."

At the same meeting, according to a report in the *Ceylon Daily Mirror*, 5.9.81. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development had said: "So long as the Government headed by our President J. R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa,

is in power the Eelam cry will never succeed". But he said, everybody should understand that it was no solution to the Eelam problem, to declare 'Jihad' or holy war against Tamils and kill them. Mr. Dissanayake further said 'our responsibilities as a political party have increased manifold during recent times. Some said that whatever the Tamils have been asking for were granted and more they are granted, more they are demanding. This statement is untrue. When the late Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam asked for fifty-fifty it was not granted. Later when the late Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam asked for a federal system, it was not granted. Now they ask for a separate state. This too will never be granted so long as our party is in power, our President is in power and Prime Minister is in power. But we have been fair in granting the just demands of the Tamils. We made Tamil a National language, made individual rights justiciable before a Court of Law and we hope to find solutions to many of their problems through the District Councils. Today under my Ministry nearly 60 per cent of the Engineers are Tamils. They are working with enthusiasm. Recently I went to Matara and the District Minister was full of praise for the Tamil Engineers who are doing their best. There are Tamils who have rejected the Eelam demand. More than two thirds of the police officers killed in the north are Tamils. It is the work of the terrorists. We had terrorists in the South in 1971. Killing is, therefore no solution. Hitler started killing with 90 families but ended up with thousands of families. It is like that, if we start that way, one would not know where it will end up. There is tremendous development work undertaken by this government but the future will be difficult due to international issues in the economic sphere. Therefore our nation must gear towards greater discipline, hard work and should move away from the subsidy existence. There is no room for racialism. Genocide is no answer towards development. It is necessary for a united Sri Lanka under the President Jayewardene, UNP means unity between all communities and races in Sri Lanka.

"Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade and Shipping said: 'this government is founded on an open economic policy. We don't solve problems by slogans but by an open policy. One such example is the present bus service. Everybody thought, that since the bus service is nationalised it should not be touched. But the government, while maintaining the CTB allowed the private sector also to provide a service. We can't carry on politics with slogans. We have a practical approach. Some say not to give a place to Tamils. Some say that Eelam is bad. These are all slogans. Have any one of us tried to find a practical solution for these problems. Here Mr. Pulendram a Tamil gentleman, spoke in Sinhala. Another Tamil gentleman spoke in all three languages. How many of us can do that-

TRIBUNE, September 12, 1981



Communal slogans are which that make people run into madness."

All people of goodwill in this country and outside, must welcome the stand taken by the President and many leaders of the UNP. The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa, has been one of those who has always stood foremost in the fight against racialism. It is unfortunate that the UNP did not take this stand right from the beginning—if this had been done, much of the destruction of property, the loss of human lives and the spread of a sense of fear and insecurity among the Tamil minority could have been avoided. It is easy to blame the TULF—and the TULF is guilty of many acts of commission and omission—but nobody is entitled to wield a sledge hammer to kill a gnat. The no-confidence motion against Mr. Amirthalingam in Parliament opened a Pandora's box of chauvinist racialism—and the President has certainly frowned on some of the arguments and statements made in the course of the debate.

To come back to the President's statement on September 4, the *Ceylon Daily News* in an editorial on September 8 entitled, STRAIGHT TALK stated: "With devastating frankness and sincerity, President Jayewardene spoke directly to the core of the government party as its executive committee meeting on Friday. His was not a quick spontaneous reaction to the violence he had seen for himself in his visits to afflicted areas earlier, but a closely reasoned and very deeply felt analysis of what went so tragically wrong in the nation's life. President Jayewardene had clearly let what his eyes saw and his ears heard on his tour, work on his statesmanlike heart and mind. To drive his concern home, as it were, his four-paragraph speech was read from a prepared text which was released to the media so that all his party men—and indeed, all concerned citizens—could take to heart his innermost feelings on a national tragedy.

"What exactly did he say? He made no excuse, nor did he let the bonds which tied him to his party colour in any way his overwhelming grief over what has happened in some parts of Sri Lanka's North, Centre and South in August. The grief of a strong man, a man who so leads his party which would surely diminish without him, can sometimes be restrained to the point of glossing over and making excuses. What President Jayewardene did was exactly the opposite. He spoke as a leader of his stature is wont to speak. Now, it is for all those who matter to heed his words and change the whole approach to violence. In the present situation or rather in the recent past before the forces of law and order took hold of the situation and brought it under control, it is not enough for lesser leaders to keep silent and trust that the

armed services and the police will maintain peace. Every political situation brings forth the leadership in men, and the leadership which President Jayewardene gave in his speech will stand among the finest analyses of a situation as well as the stature of the man. "Simply and clearly, with none of the flourishes of oratory which are ephemeral, he said that he must be proud of the Party he leads, or it were better for him to retire from the leadership of the party and 'let those who believe that harming innocent people and property is the way to solve the problems that face this multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-caste society take over the leadership of the party..."

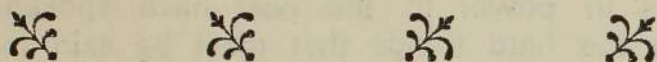
The editorial after analysing the implications of the President's statement, went on to examine the possible impact of this speech on the members of his Party: "The shock waves which must have gone through the government party ought to jolt every single UNP man, from those in the higher rungs of the hierarchy down to the smallest ordinary member. The tragedy of their failure to act with far greater effect is more negative than anything else; standing by idly where there is violence, and when you can do something active to prevent it, can be as bad as being an active inciter. President Jayewardene did something rare in Sri Lankan politics when he spoke as he did. Few party leaders in power in the past have spoken thus, saying the hard things that must be said to party loyalists who worked with dedication under his leadership to sweep the UNP into power just four years ago. Now, their loyalty and devotion to their loved and respected leader faces a test and they must not fail. It is up to them to shake off lethargy—and perhaps, the touch of complacency which was born of a sweeping victory at the last polls—and work feverishly to heal wounds, to bridge gaps in communication between the various races, religions and castes and weld the people of Sri Lanka into a unified community working for the common good. If none of the nobler sentiments expressed by President Jayewardene have the therapeutic effect they ought to have, the UNP will find itself left without a leader of supreme experience, political wisdom and gifted leadership. The UNP of old had experience in running about like headless chicken. Simple recollections of those days should be enough to stimulate the change sought by J. R. Jayewardene." **It is to be hoped that the President's words will have the desired effect, and we will be happy if the hopes of the CDN do not turn out to be mere wishful thinking.**

There is yet another matter for which the UNP must be congratulated and praised. The Executive Committee passed an appropriate resolution on the death of Communist Leader Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe, But even more than this, the President and the Government afforded the Communist Party all



facilities to have a funeral befitting a national leader. The state-owned press not only provided suitable coverage, with news reports and feature articles. The Radio and TV also were not far behind. The President, the Prime Minister and other UNP ministers and MPs paid due respect to the remains of Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe whilst the body lay in state at the Communist Party head-quarters. It will be recalled that President Jayewardene afforded similar facilities for the funeral of the LSSP leader, Dr. N. M. Perera. This is a tradition that must be welcomed and encouraged. President Jayewardene has not let even a trace of Macarthyism befoul the funeral of a leader of a party totally and completely opposed to the UNP and all that it stands for.

Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe was the first radical (and Communist) to be elected on adult-franchise to the first State Council in 1931. He had lost two elections, but he has been in Parliament long enough to make his mark as a parliamentarian and a political leader of stature. He was among the first generation of left-wing political leaders in this country of whom only a few are still left. Any history of modern Sri Lanka will not be complete without an examination of the role and politics of Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe.



INDIA

## THE GRIFFIN EPISODE

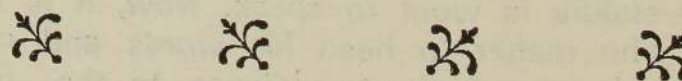
By K. Venugopala Rao

*New Delhi, September 2:* Indo-US relations, strained since Ronald Reagan took office, hit a new low today with New Delhi's rejection of a US Embassy nomination. The Indian government today publicly announced that it had rejected the appointment of George Griffin, suspected here to be a senior CIA official, as political counsellor at the US embassy. Griffin, currently second in command at the US embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan has been accused on several occasions of having connections with the Central Intelligence Agency. He often visits Delhi to brief "friends" in the International Press Corps on developments in Afghanistan as the United States sees them. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said here today that India has asked for Griffin's "reassignment" after a "careful evaluation of his activities" in the region. Griffin has been at the US Embassy here in the past, and served in Pakistan before moving to Afghanistan. The United States has retaliated by saying that it has reservations about a senior Indian diplomat India has named as Political

Counsellor in its Washington Embassy. Political circles have expressed concern here recently over growing US intelligence activity in India. The feeling here is that the Reagan administration does not intend to "mend its fences" with India as it professes. In fact they fear that Washington is seeking to establish, at least informally, a sub-regional grouping of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal "to contain India's influence" in the region. Last week's visit by Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, US representative at the United Nations, has done nothing to quell these fears. Mrs. Kirkpatrick claimed that the supply of sophisticated US arms to Pakistan, including the F-16 fighter planes, was designed to "introduce an element of stability in the region". She is believed to have assured Pakistani leaders later that Pakistan's security was of paramount importance to the western world. She is also said to have told President Zia ul-Haq that though the United States may not be able to officially supply all the arms itself now, "other friends" in the region would help.

Parliament today heard that the "governments is aware that Pakistan got some F-10 fighter planes from China, through the exact number is not known". Press reports have also suggested that Pakistan may receive some F-16s and possibly other sophisticated military systems from Saudi Arabia or through Saudi good offices. Kirkpatrick is also known to have offered the Reagan administration's support for moves by Pakistan and Bangladesh to strengthen military ties. Observers see this as an attempt to partially mitigate the effects of East Pakistan's secession in 1971 to form Independent Bangladesh. While in Nepal, Kirkpatrick is understood to have told King Birendra that he could count on US support for his claim to a passage to the sea through Bangladesh. Such a passage would also have to run through India. In rejecting Griffin's appointment, the Government spokesman said today, India only 'seeks to avoid unnecessary friction being introduced into our bilateral relations with the USA which we value and have always sought to strengthen". These frictions are expected to worsen, however at the next and final round of talks winding up the Indo-US nuclear cooperation agreement. The agreement is to be cancelled following Washington's refusal to sell India nuclear fuel for its Tarapore plant on the ground that India has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty.—

*IPS/Lankapuwath.*





# VILLAGE COMMITTEES

By W. Lionel Fernando

GAMSABHAS or Village Committees which had their roots in this country in the dim, distant past and which grew with the Sinhala Nation claiming ancestry to the time of Vijaya, will cease to function from June 4, 1981 with the coming into operation of District Development Councils. It is said that the landing of Vijaya in Sri Lanka 400 years before Christ was both the beginning of the Sinhala Nation and the Village Committee system in this country. The followers of Vijaya, the *Mahawansa* says, formed establishments all over the country and these establishments are stated to be the origin of the Village Committee system which has survived in this country up to this day. These community centres at grass-roots level trained the Sinhala people for higher administrative achievements, provided the work force for the building of dagobas and tanks initiated by Sinhala kings and helped the country in its nation-building. The Donoughmore Commissioners (1928) were greatly impressed with the administrative system which had prevailed in this country from the time of its recorded history and observed in its report: "From that distant age, over 200 years before Christ, when the story of the Kingdom of Lanka, passes from a legendary to a historical basis until the last King of Kandy was dethroned in the second decade of the nineteenth century A.D., the country called Taprobane by the Greeks and Romans who knew it by hearsay, Serendib by the Arabs who traded with it, Ceilo by the Portuguese who were the first Europeans to occupy part of it and now known as Ceylon flourished as an absolute Monarchy. Representatives—sometimes relatives—of the king ruled on his behalf the parts of it called Maya and Ruhuna and he had Ministers who looked after different branches of government and officials who administered justice and collected dues. . . . "The population organised itself in village communities largely for the purpose of dealing with the matters of water supply and tillage, but also to settle among themselves disputes about descent and proprietorship, and with the Royal officials, questions of dues. In the receipt of dues and generally in the overlordship of village areas the temples not infrequently were given the place of the King and at times grants of the revenue from villages were also made to those who had rendered the King great service".

OBSERVING that the Village Committee was the "one local government organisation that has its roots in the past", the Commissioners went on to add; "The Headman and specially the chief head-

men, represent the Royal officers who looked after the interests of the Kings in ancient Ceylonese times. Side by side with the government administration there then existed Village Councils ruling over the small areas into which the land was divided by one of the early Monarchs, The Village Council of Gansabhawa consisted of representatives of the groups of villagers in such an area who were chosen to look after the affairs of the group, to administer justice, to settle disputes and to facilitate the payment of dues to the Crown. The organisation lasted through centuries of native administration and through the subsequent Portuguese and Dutch periods, fell into desuetude in the middle years of the last century and was revived in the seventies, since when attempts have been made to restore it to its former vigour, to enable it effectively to deal with questions of tillage and irrigation and with sanitation and to settle disputes arising from a complicated system of inheritance. "At the present day it is represented by Village Committees for 371 out of the 567 areas into which the whole country is divided, which Committees are generally administrative only, and by Village Tribunals for minor judicial purposes. Of the latter there is one to each headman's division: a government officer presides and is assisted by three persons chosen by lot. Village Tribunals have not been created in the Northern Provinces, and here Village Committees exercise minor judicial powers." The Sinhala village called "Gam observed" Major Forbes in his *ELEVEN YEARS IN CEYLON*, "was under the ancient constitution a self-governing Municipality where affairs were administered by a Village Council: 'Gamsabhawa' composed of the head of every family residing within its limits however low his rank or small his property. These villages were grouped into Districts administered by District Councils: 'Ratasabha' which consisted of intelligent delegates from each village".

THE URGENCY for the decentralisation of the administration was recognized by the Donoughmore Commissioners who advocated the setting up of Provincial Councils in the first instance and generally accepted the desirability of representation of local bodies such as village committees, urban councils and Municipalities in the Council. It said: "The argument in favour of the establishment of a Provincial Council in each province is that such a scheme might result in a large part of the administrative work now carried out in the Legislative Council coming into the hands of persons permanently resident in the country districts and thus more directly in contact with their needs; in the relief of the Departments of the Central Government of much detail work and in their being thereby set free to consider and advice on the larger affairs



of the country: in the special views of the different races predominant in the different parts of the island having effect in the administration of these parts in members of the growing body of politically-minded persons in the country being placed in an honourable position to render real assistance in the administration: and in an increase in knowledge and capacity of the representatives of lesser local bodies who might be summoned to sit on the councils". The Commissioners suggested that its constitution, staff, composition, whether Legislative Councillors representing their respective provinces should be in those representative Councils etc., should be thoroughly gone into and as a first step recommended the setting up of one such Council in a highly developed Province and extended to other parts of the island later.

SINCE THEN several attempts have been made to decentralise the administration with the main purpose of doing away with the Kachcheri system which was perhaps the only relic left behind in the old colonial system of Government after the abolition of the Headmen system. In July 1940 Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene moved in the State Council a motion to give immediate effect to the recommendation of the Donoughmore Commissioners to set up Provincial Councils. The Executive Committee of Local Government in its report to the State Council presented by the Minister of Local Administration, took the view that Provincial Councils should have three main functions, supervisory (including controlling, co-ordination and default powers), direct (executive) and advisory. However a Bill for the establishment of Provincial Councils though ready, could not be introduced in the State Council. Seventeen years later in May 1957, the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, as Prime Minister, published the draft of a Bill for the establishment of Regional Councils providing for the establishment of such Councils for the whole or a part of an Administrative District, or the area consisting of the whole or part of two or more administrative districts: for the election of Regional Councillors by local bodies: for ex-officio Regional Councillors among whom would be Members of Parliament: for the election of a Chairman by the Council: for the appointment of a Regional Commissioner as Chief Executive Officer and for the transfer or delegation, to the Council of powers, duties and functions which may be exercised by Ministers. It was envisaged that these Councils could establish public utility services; promote, develop and assist in the development of agriculture and food production exercise certain supervisory powers over local bodies and advise the Minister in regard to the exercise of his powers over them. The Councils were also to be given the authority to appoint their

own staff, create their own funds, impose taxes, raise loans etc. The Central Government retained power to suspend or dissolve Regional Councils.

OWING TO DIFFERENCES of opinion following the B.C. Pact, he could not, however proceed with the Bill. This was followed by the appointment of the Mahatantila Commission by the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Government in 1963 to report on the establishment of District Councils. The draft Bill of the Dudley Senanayake Government, approved by the Cabinet in 1958 provided for the functioning of District Councils under the Language Laws of the country (the Official Language Act No. 33 of 1956 and the Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Act No. 28 of 1958) and excluded these councils from exercising any powers over local bodies. The Councils, according to this draft, could formulate and recommend to Government development schemes of importance in the District: raise loans with the approval of the Minister of Finance for works or public service to be undertaken by it: levy taxes with the approval of the Minister of Finance; perform and discharge the powers and duties entrusted by law. It provided that the Government Agent shall be in addition to his own duties, the Commissioner who is the Chief Executive officer and the staff to consist of Public Servants. It will consist of ex-officio Councillors who are Members of Parliament of the respective District, Appointed Members of the House of Representatives, Mayors of Municipalities and Chairmen of Local bodies of the respective district. There will also be not more than three nominated members and the Chairman will be elected by its members. Here again Mr. Dudley Senanayake could not proceed with the Bill owing to conflict of interest.

The Development Councils Act of 1980 introduced in Parliament by Prime Minister Premadasa in his capacity as Minister of Local Government authorises the creation of a District Service, the right to raise funds and obtain loans and supervision over the following fifteen subjects: Agrarian services, Agriculture, Animal husbandry, Co-operative development, Cultural affairs, Education, Employment, Fisheries, Food, Health, services, Housing, Irrigation works (not of an inter-district character), Land use and Settlement, Rural Development, small and medium scale industries. *Thus brings to an end a controversy going back to over half a century and with it closes the chapter on Village Councils—an institution which the Donoughmore Commissioners described as "the one local Government organisation that has its roots in the past".*





A CASE FOR

# A Central Agricultural University

By Jeeva Perumal Pillai

(Agricultural Economist)

THE DEVELOPMENT of agriculture and related fields are the most important factors for the growth of the Sri Lanka's economy. It is the main impetus to the socio-economic well being of the masses of Sri Lanka. Nearly eighty per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture for its livelihood and 2/3 of the GDP is composed of agricultural produce. Thus, rapid growth of the rural sector is vital. Recognizing this, Sri Lanka has put through many programmes for agriculture development, including harnessing of the great Mahaweli river. Success in these programmes requires intensive research, technological improvements, institutional changes and efficiency of farmers. Hence, education is the key. At present Sri Lanka has nearly 30 educational institutions:—Faculty of Agriculture under the auspices of Peradeniya University, 19 Farm Schools, four technical agricultural schools, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science of the University of Peradeniya and small fisheries and forestry training institutions that have no real significance. **Although there are many private and public institutions devoted to agriculture education in the country, they are inadequate to fulfil the multifarious tasks, which a University solely devoted to agriculture can perform.**

The reasons are: (1) An Agricultural University should address itself to helping the small farmers. By and large, the farmers of Sri Lanka are small farmers tilling small areas of land. They practise a crop/livestock/fish integrated farming system. In order to relate the Agricultural University to the needs of the country and its people, the University should carry out integrated *teaching, research and extension* education activities so that the graduates are committed to serve the small farmers and research results are applicable to them. (2) In an Agricultural University, agriculture provides the key link and various contributory and related disciplines attach themselves to this central theme. The University also acts as the focal point for agriculture extension services to the rural communities. It also serves and acts in the capacity of an Advisory Body to the Government on all agricultural issues. (3) The establishment of an agricultural University will emphasize the importance of the

agriculture sector within the economy. It will also thus give more status to the students graduating from such an establishment. A sad fact of today is that many students passing out of the Faculty of Agriculture or Veterinary Medicine are not held in esteem or respect socially and officially as those who hold degrees in medicine, engineering, social sciences, law and the like. (4) Today many young Sri Lankans have to go abroad for higher education in agriculture and related courses. Very often the type of education obtained in the Western developed countries have no relevance to the Sri Lankan agriculture situation or economy. Many persons who have returned have suffered from having no job satisfaction and do not understand the problems at home. Thus, to prevent a brain drain in such a vital field, it is important that a University of Agriculture be set up. (5) Internationally the industrialised countries are developing a commitment to solving food and social problems of the Third World countries. Thus the establishment of an Agriculture University in Sri Lanka will be taken by them as a serious effort on the part of the government to give agriculture its predominant position. The International community has recognized that the problems of the developing economies lies within the agriculture sector and the plight of the small farmer has to be remedied. Thus, Sri Lanka will be able to harness great support for the introduction of an Agriculture University.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE of the University should be the fusion of teaching, research and extension activities. In this way teaching will not become an academic exercise and divorced from practice that research will be motivated by the problems presented directly by the primary producers, the small farmer; that the students will rapidly acclimatize to the rural community they will eventually serve. The general guidelines for the University should be: (a) The University should be country-wide in responsibility for University work in agriculture, broadly defined to include Veterinary/Livestock Sciences, Forestry, Fisheries, Home Science and Social Sciences. (b) The Agricultural University should include at least the colleges of Agriculture; Veterinary Medicines and Livestock Sciences; Home Sciences; Forestry; Fisheries; Agriculture Engineering Technology and a school of Social Sciences. (c) All colleges should be constituent colleges of the University under one Board of Management, the same chief administrative officers with fully integrated faculties and curricula. (d) All existing institutions of Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry, Forestry and Fisheries should come under the policy guideline of this Central University, in academic matters. (e) Research and extension programmes in agriculture and its related fields should be fully integrated with the teaching functions. (f) The University should undertake the extension of such sciences to the



rural people within the country. The government should provide an opportunity to the University to have effective links with the various schemes aimed at the development of small farmers.

THE AIM of such an University will be: (i) To promote the desire for knowledge and understanding through study both in depth and breadth. (ii) To stimulate an enquiring and critical mind to the problems of the country. (iii) Cultivating an appreciation of the part to be played by various colleges of the University in the socio-economic development of the country. (iv) Contributing through research to the increase in knowledge and to the application of such knowledge to technological advancement of the existing rural mode of production. Thus increasing productivity of food and other necessities. Also for the conservation of natural resources. (v) To produce students, with the necessary knowledge of their chosen subject, with self discipline, initiative, dedication and the spirit to serve the country. (vi) Bringing farmers and other rural persons to partake in the services of the University. (vii) Working in close harmony with the relevant ministries within the Government i.e. Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Forestry, Ministry of Plantation Industries, Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Plan Implementation.

THE UNIVERSITY shall be established under the purview of the Ministry of Higher Education. The colleges usually included in the Central Agriculture University are (i) College of Agriculture; (ii) College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences; (iii) College of Forestry; (iv) College of Fisheries; (v) College of Agriculture Engineering; (vi) College of Social Sciences. With research in Agriculture and related fields conducted by the University, it will be an effective organization for the Country. It should concentrate on post-graduate training of various types. There should be extensive arrangements for offering short-courses for groups or producers and for youth at non-degree level. Facilities for demonstration of new breeds and techniques should be conducted on University farms and in the fields of the farmers. The University should be able to patronize a number of demonstration stations throughout the country.

The best location for such an University will be in the predominantly small farmer agricultural production areas. This is mainly in the Dry Zone. Since most of the present Universities are firmly established in the centre and western parts of the country, the main campus of the Agriculture University can be situated in the North Central region of the country.

There are any sources of financing for such an University. They are both multi-lateral and bi-lateral

and have been available to similar ventures in other parts of Asia. Of course, the main source of financing should be the Central Government itself, through the University Grants Commission. Main sources of bi-lateral aid are Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Multi-lateral aid can be obtained from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, World Bank, FAO, UNESCO and UNDP.



TO INVESTIGATE

## Hook Swinging

How do devotees at Kataragama and elsewhere endure the ordeal of swinging from hooks attached to their bare flesh? The phenomenon had amazed generations of foreign and local visitors to religious festivals in Sri Lanka at which the self-infliction of pain takes place ceremonially. Is there a scientific explanation involving some form of psychological pain control, or is it purely religious rapture that enables the persons concerned to endure suffering? A team of researchers from the Federal Republic of Germany is coming out later this year to explore the subject with the cooperation of local scientists including Professor Carlo Fonseka, head of the Department of Physiology in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.

Headed by Professor Wolfgang Larbig, of the psychological Institute of the University of Tuebingen, the visiting researchers plan to spend two weeks in Sri Lanka in December, carrying out preliminary experiments, and they will return in the summer of 1982 to do field research at the Kataragama, Festival, if the necessary permission can be obtained. Professor Fonseka has already been promised the assistance of two volunteers who are willing to swing from hooks, but the German researchers would appreciate it if more volunteers will help them to probe the problem of the conquest of pain under laboratory and out-of-door conditions, subject to the most rigid medical controls which will ensure complete safety for the volunteers. The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, 16 Barnes Place, Colombo 7, will be glad to hear from those who are willing to assist.

August, 29, 1981.





## August 23 - 29

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

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

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 23:** President J. R. Jayewardene has accepted an invitation by King Khalid of Saudi Arabia to visit that country on a five-day visit in early September; he will be accompanied by Mrs. Jayewardene and the Minister of Transport and Muslim Affairs Mr. M. H. Mohamed. The SLFP combatants appeared to have called a temporary truce over the week-end but all signs are that both factions are now struggling for supremacy in the country's second largest political party and are well set to take the road to Hultsdorf; the deputy leader of the SLFP and its parliamentary leader Medawachchiya MP Maithripala Senanayake said yesterday morning that his group was in the process of consulting legal opinion; it was likely that they would file action shortly. The Maithri-Anura group of the SLFP announced yesterday that a three-member committee comprising former Minister S. K. K. Sooriarachchi, former MP Mahinda Rajapakse and lawyer Harischandra Mendis had been appointed to hold a disciplinary inquiry into the conduct of the General Secretary of the Sirima Bandaranaike wing, Ratnasiri Wickremanayake—SO. The exodus of Sri Lankan women as domestics to West Asian countries may be stopped completely under a series of prohibitive measures now being considered by the Government; among the measures being considered is the involving of certain regulations of the Foreign Employment Act of 1980 where recruitment to categories of employment not regulated by law in the countries of employment will be prohibited; this comes in the wake of recent atrocities against Sri Lankan nationals in West Asia which was tarnishing the image of Sri Lanka in these countries—WK. A Committee comprising of the Rural Industrial Development Minister, S. Thondaman and the General Secretary of the Ceylon Workers Congress and member of the Colombo District Development Council M. S. Sellasamy to meet the President with ten demands to arrive at a permanent settlement of the problems facing the Indian Tamils resulting from the recent

violence, relief, compensation and their security—VK. Reports will be submitted to Courts before the 10th of next month regarding damage caused by the recent violence; orders have been made to the effect that reports from the areas so affected should be submitted to the courts in such areas; at the same time it has been decided to produce before courts those involved in the recent violence—CM.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 24:** The railway spends Rs. 5.4m. every month in overhauling carriages that have been stripped of 50 percent of their trappings by vandals; at the Ratmalana workshop we learned that the carriage trappings most attacked by vandals are upholstery (canvas and foam rubber), hand rails, brackets, door hinges, brass bearings, taps, bulbs, fans, even shutter glass; aluminium brackets and shutter glass are the latest targets of the vandals; the aluminium brackets which are found only in the Romanian carriages are easily snapped off by hand. The United National Party has launched a massive membership and propaganda drive at electoral level the General Secretary of the Party, Mr. Harsha Abeywardene said yesterday; he said the new Constitution of the UNP would be presented before the Party's annual session to be held in December and once adopted will come into force from January 1, 1981—CDN. The second round of the Sinhala-Tamil amity talks between the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene and the leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front will be held at the Janadipathi Mandiraya, Colombo next Thursday; the first round of talks which lasted nearly four hours, was held last Tuesday on the initiative of President J. R. Jayewardene; the talks are aimed at settling some of the major outstanding grievances of the Tamils here; amongst the other problems expected to be discussed will be District Development Councils in the Northern and Eastern Provinces—CDN. A new transport policy bringing in major reforms to the country's transport system especially in the fields of management, energy conservation, safety and road development will be implemented shortly; Transport and Transport Board Minister M. H. Mohamed and President of the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya Cyril Mathew will meet President Jayewardene this week to hold discussions on the revamping of the transport service. A top level investigation is being conducted to ascertain as to how a bundle of official telegrams sent by the Chief Government Whip to Members of Parliament to attend the debate on the Emergency was dumped in the sea—SU. A high-ranking government official said yesterday that talks are being held with the Tamil United Liberation Front purely to find permanent solutions to the problems facing the Tamils and thereby bring an end to the claim for separation of the country—VK.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25:** The brutal killing of an Indian pilgrim who was one of a party of 43 return-



ing from Kataragama at Tissamaharama on Sunday has gravely perturbed the government and aroused suspicions that there is an organised effort to disrupt good relations between Sri Lanka and India, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday. The United States and Sri Lanka yesterday signed an agreement providing a \$25 million guarantee (approximately Rs. 500 million) to Sri Lanka; the guarantee is issued through the Housing Investment Guarantee Program of the US Agency for International Development (USAID); the agreement was signed by the Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning Mr. W. M. Tilakaratna and the US Ambassador in Sri Lanka Mr. Donald R. Toussaint. Mr. Anura Bandaranaike yesterday claimed that as acting general secretary of the SLFP he could clip his mother's wings but promised that he wouldn't do that 'because I have my late father's blood running in me'.—*CDN*. Government will indict over 400 persons now being held under Emergency regulations for alleged involvement in cases of arson, looting and other violent acts. An Indian tourist from Madras S. Dhanapathy was hacked to death at Tissamaharama by some persons in another incident of violence in the south; Foreign Affairs Minister A. C. S. Hameed telephoned his counterpart in India Narasimha Rao and Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran and briefed them on this incident—*SU*. Differences exist in the Batticaloa District Development Council; as a result walkouts and boycotts are often held by both TULF and UNP members; at the same time because there is no District Minister and an Executive Committee has still not been formed resolutions passed at meetings are not being adopted—*DP*.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26:** President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday invoked tough new regulations under the prevailing Emergency to flush out firearms used by Northern terrorists who have killed 20 policemen within the last three years; under these laws which came into effect Monday, unauthorised possession of arms, ammunition, explosives and offensive weapons will be punishable with death or life imprisonment; the regulations apply to the administrative districts of Jaffna, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya. The SLFP row was taken to court yesterday when Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, Mr. Haleem Ishak, and Mr. Stantley Tillekaratne challenged their suspension from the party—*CDN*. Sri Lanka's rural households are now getting more fish from inland tanks, ponds and lakes than from the sea and fish biologists claim that most varieties of freshwater fish are more nutritious and tastier than sea fish; according to fish production statistics, inland fishing operations netted 8,580 tons of fish between April and June this year compared to only 570 tons from deep sea operations—*CDM*. Nearly 300 people were rendered homeless and

several injured when gale-force winds swept across the Anuradhapura region on Monday, devastating the entire Kudagama model village and causing havoc in neighbouring areas. A special investigative team has been dispatched to Tissamaharama to probe the killing of Indian pilgrim Subbiah Dhanapathy, who was hacked to death on Sunday morning; the team, comprising top Criminal Investigating Department detectives is learnt to have been ordered to submit a full report on the killing to the Defence Ministry. Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said on Monday that Sri Lanka was India's best neighbour and that all issues be they economic or political had been settled in the most amicable manner, between the two countries—*SU*.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 27:** President J. R. Jayewardene as Minister of Defence, tabled the report of the Airports Authority for 1980; it showed a profit of Rs. 26,643,552 for the year from a turnover of Rs. 56,269,318; the Authority had also paid about Rs. 1 million to government as BTT. Government yesterday decided to approve the tender for the Rs. 216,971,928 administrative complex of buildings in the new capital at Pelawatte to Bernard Sunlay and Sons Ltd., of England; the recommendation on this tender was made by Prime Minister R. Premadasa, Cabinet spokesmen and Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis said yesterday. The country's coconut industry will receive a shot in the arm under a US \$ 30 million project (approximately Rs. 575 million) aimed at increasing the production of coconuts from smallholder's plantations and improving the quality of coconut products, Coconut Industries Secretary P. G. Punchiheva, said yesterday. The US Permanent Representative to the United Nations Mrs. Jeanne Kirkpatrick told Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed yesterday that her Government would continue to support Sri Lanka; the visiting US Ambassador who arrived here yesterday on a 3-day visit had 90 minutes talks with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and commended the country for an unbroken record of stable democratic government, "you can count on our continued support", she said—*CDN*. The Cabinet yesterday approved a supplementary estimate amounting to Rs. 57.3 million for the purpose of granting relief to over half a million persons who have been affected by serious drought in fourteen districts; Mr. Asoka Karunaratne, Minister of Social Services told the Cabinet yesterday that the drought situation had undergone a severe change for the worse in the districts of Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Mannar, Kurunegala, Kandy, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Amparai, Matale, Trincomalee, Polonnaruwa, Jaffna and Moneragala—*CDM*. The second round of talks between President J. R. Jayewardene and the TULF on defusing the present tension and other matters connected with settling the Tamil issues



takes place this evening. The application filed by SLFP Deputy Leader Maithripala Senanayake requesting the District Court of Colombo to issue an interim injunction on Party Leader, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was yesterday refused by Colombo's Additional District Judge Wimal Wickremasuriya—*SU*. Government will give top priority to reorganising several of Sri Lanka's diplomatic missions abroad in a bid to project a correct image of the country—*CO*.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 28:** Sri Lanka's tea production, which fell to the lowest level in the decade last year, has shown welcome signs of catching up, according to the first half-year figures now available; a production gain of 11.5 million kilos has been recorded during the first six months of this year against last year's drought-hit performance, a trade spokesman said. The Ceylon Fisheries Corporation will go into partnership with a foreign company in an endeavour to convert its trawler operations from a losing venture into a profitable one; a few foreign operators have shown interest in the venture and the Corporation is now considering a firm offer made by a Taiwanese company. The Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications M. A. Abdul Majeed was sworn in as District Minister for Batticaloa before President J. R. Jayewardene at the Janadhipati Mandiraya yesterday—*CDN*. Several industrial plants for the manufacture of alcohol fuel from manioc, sugarcane and sweet potato will be set up shortly, according to a decision taken by the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research—*CDM*. Forty handpicked supervisory officers have been chosen by the Police Department to handle the vast security operation that will come into effect for the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in October. The rear entrance to Sri Lanka's Embassy in Bonn was set on fire by unknown persons last week; no details of the incident were available yesterday; reports reaching Colombo said that oil had been used to cause the fire at the rear entrance. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday met leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front to discuss ways and means of reducing tension among the people of the country, a government spokesman announced last night; during the talks, which was the second round that the government had with the TULF, it was agreed to meet again on Monday for further talks, the spokesman said; TULF parliamentarians will be called on to consider certain proposals that the government put forward to them; one of the proposals is a temporary moratorium on propaganda by both parties—*SU*.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 29:** Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel leads a delegation to Saudi Arabia tonight to prepare the ground for President J. R. Jayewardene's visit to that country on September 5 on the invitation of King Khalid. US Ambassador, Jeane Kirkpatrick said yesterday

that the United States has never asked for Rest and Recreation (R and R) facilities in Trincomalee for its forces; she told a press conference here at the end of her two day visit; "it is only after I came to Sri Lanka that I heard about this misunderstanding; I can say quite definitely that the United States has never engaged in any discussion with your leaders on this subject; and we have no such plans". A sixty-member delegation from various business houses in Japan will visit Sri Lanka next month on a mission to explore investment in Sri Lanka—*CDN*. Government and Tamil United Liberation Front leaders have reached accord on a wide range of political matters, *Sun* reliably learns; a joint declaration setting out the various areas is to be made public next week, well before President Jayewardene undertakes an official visit to Saudi Arabia. The Sri Lanka government yesterday made a concerted effort towards counteracting anti-Lanka propaganda in India—*SU*. Besides Jaffna, TULF MPs will become members of the District Development Councils of Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaitivu; it is understood that President J. R. Jayewardene has consented to this it is also understood that the TULF leadership requested the President that TULF MPs should be given the opportunity of serving in the DDCs and that the President agreed to such a request—*DP*.



## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

# August 22-28

### SOUTH ASIA

**BANGLADESH:** A former Air Force chief who helped the late President Ziaur Rahman to capture power was arrested in Dacca when he arrived there after six years of exile in West Germany. US Permanent Representative to UN, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, refused to recognize the dominance of any nation in South Asia and this is interpreted to mean India. The General strike call by Awami League to postpone the general elections for November brought Dacca to a standstill for six hours on August 26. **INDIA** while offering to help to relieve tension in South West Asia, the Indian External Affairs Minister, Narasimha Rao, said that initiative should originate within the region, India receives the biggest aid from East Germany. The French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson visited India. He said that France will consider India's arms requirements. Indira Gandhi conveyed to Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, US Ambassador to UN,



India's fears of US arming Pakistan during the latter's visit to New Delhi. New Delhi reports said that Afghanistan has agreed to sit with Pakistan and Iran under UN auspices which could pave the way for the withdrawal of Soviet forces. Maya Thevar of the DMK requested Indira Gandhi, to take steps to protect Tamils of Indian origin. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, a prominent member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party of Sri Lanka and Minister in Mrs. Bandaranaike's government briefed Mrs. Indira Gandhi on the recent communal conflicts of Sri Lanka. India is considering a proposal made by Libya to pay Indian public companies and private companies in oil up to 25% and 10% respectively. **PAKISTAN:** Soviet Union has opened a direct communication link with Islamabad by the visit of her Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Firubin. Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Sahi refused to recognise Karmal as head of the Afghan Government. Even the Kabul offer to have a conference under UN auspices was not acceptable to Pakistan, Pakistan-based five Afghan guerilla groups formed a new alliance to fight against Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

#### WEST ASIA

**ISRAEL:** The Chief Rabbis have proposed a state burial for the bones of warriors killed 2,000 years ago as a compromise formula to lift the ban on archaeological excavations to uncover the biblical city of King David. Palestinian Major Hilmi Hanoun in the Israeli-occupied West Bank has ejected Israeli plan for self-rule and reiterated that PLO is the true representative of the Palestinians. Israel received three of the F15 aircrafts from US the delivery of which was suspended as an immediate reaction against Israel's bombardment of Iraq Atomic reactor station. **IRAN:** Iran feels that there is a "Zionist and imperialist plot" to isolate her from the Moslem world. In a "mopping up" operation of Kurdish rebels Iranian government forces killed 25 guerillas. **KUWAIT:** The Secretary General of the Six Gulf Co-operation Councils (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar Oman and Bahrain) described the American behaviour over Mediterranean as "cowboy politics".

#### AFRICA

**LIBYA:** Col. Gaddafi accused USA of planning to invade Libya and declared that his country would resist it even if it leads to another world war. **EGYPT:** President Sadat had called for the execution of Col. Gaddafi the Libyan leader, if he is found guilty for the US Libyan air crash over the Mediterranean sea. Israel and Egypt have agreed to re-start the stalled talks on Palestinian autonomy based on Camp David agreements. **ANGOLA:** Angola appealed to the UN Secretary General to halt the aggression planned by South Africa. Angola mobilised her troops in readiness to meet the

imminent attack of South African troops numbering nearly 45,000 amassed on her borders. Angola appealed to Non-aligned countries and Organisation of African Unity to persuade South Africa to withdraw her forces from penetrating into Angola. West Germany, Britain and France have urged the withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. The OAU has demanded the expulsion of South Africa from UN and sanctions be applied against it. **SOUTH AFRICA:** Foreign Minister Pik Botha invited members of the UN Security Council to visit South West Africa (Namibia) as the Security Council members prepared themselves to discuss Angolan complaints against South African invasions. While international pressure was mounting South Africa announced on August 28 its forces had been withdrawing having killed hundreds of Namibian guerillas.

#### EUROPE :

**BRITAIN:** British Government is agitated over the foreign funded journals published in London. *The Asian Digest*, and *The West Indian Digest*. *The Arabian Times* by Arif Ali as a matter of policy gives priority to Libya. **SWEDEN:** The Swedish riot squad rescued the Iranian Ambassador to Stockholm and his wife and others held as hostages by anti-Khomeini Marxist-Leninist Iranian youths. **SWITZERLAND:** The headquarters of the proposed international sea bed authority will be located in Kingston, Jamaica. It is now left to the US and other industrialised countries to decide whether to accept the 440 article draft of the UN-sponsored law of the sea conference. **SOVIET UNION:** In a terse comment *Tass* said that the delivery of the three F-15 fighter bombers to Israel could encourage that country to "toughen a policy of aggression and brigandage towards the Arabs". *Tass* news agency criticised South Africans for its incursions into Angola and US for encouraging it. **FRANCE:** Bani Sadr's wife too had made a successful escape from Iran to France. French Minister for External Relations Claude Cheysson had discussion with Jordanian King Hussain over peace moves in West Asia.

#### NORTH AMERICA :

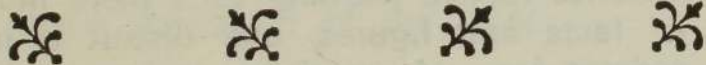
**UNITED NATIONS:** Khawaja Mohamed Kaiser of Bangladesh emerged as the chief contender for the Presidency of the UN General Assembly. UN Security Council decided to hold a public debate on South African forces invasion into Angola. **UNITED STATES:** Alexander Haig said that US leadership is ready to meet Soviet Union half way to improve communications between the two countries. In an ABC Television broadcast former President of Iran Bani Sadr said that the Islamic Government of Iran had been supplied with Israeli arms. The Pound Sterling continued to fall while the US dollar made considerable progress. The jubilant scientists were disappointed as the camera



fixed in the Voyager 2 failed to send back vital pictures of Saturn. The strength of soviet military forces will be made available to the public on both sides of the Atlantic by US. US warned North Korea for the alleged firing of a missile at her SR-71 aircraft which was flying over South Korean and international air space. US Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick visited six Asian nations including Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and explained certain "myths" surrounding Reagan's Administration.

### EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA :

**TAIWAN:** A Taiwanese plane Boeing 737 exploded in mid air over central Taiwan killing 110 passengers. **CHINA:** Former President of US Carter visited China. China has welcomed the American Neutron bomb to counter Soviet tank superiority. Carter said that China no longer had "any quandary" over US present policy. **SINGAPORE:** The Food, Drinks and Allied Workers Union of Singapore has withdrawn from the Geneva-based international labour movement as a protest against the expulsion of the Ceylon Workers Congress which was a "politically inspired" move. **MALAYSIA:** According to John Hunt leader of a visiting British Parliamentary delegation, the government's decision to increase the fees for the Commonwealth Students studying in Britain is bound to affect her international relations. **THAILAND:** The Visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir refused to concede that the visit of Chinese Premier to some of the ASEAN countries has had any significant influence on them.



### FILM FOCUS

## Indian Films

THIS COLUMN understands from a local Tamil weekly, that a Committee of three has been assigned the task of selecting suitable South Indian Tamil films for local exhibition. In this panel, quite aptly are two Tamils unlike on previous trips to India, when the majority were non-tamils and therefore not knowledgeable enough to bring their minds to bear effectively on the careful scrutiny and selection of such films. The newcomers, besides Mr. George Wickremasinghe who has been on previous trips, are Dr. K. S. Nadarajah of the National Film Corporation Board (as chairman of the panel) and Mrs. B. Lakshmana Iyer who is well versed in film scripts. This column while welcoming this change would also like to add that besides academic suitability, a down to earth knowledge of the back-ground to the films that would be viewed, should be a very essential

requirement on such missions—combined with a bargaining capacity, as many lakhs in foreign exchange would be involved. This column also recalls that when the late Mrs. Punitham Tiruchelvam undertook this task in spite of her fading health, she did her home-work well before she set out, by reading widespread literature on the films that would be placed for her scrutiny before purchase. She even discussed some of the finer points of these productions with me, when in doubt and thanks to such devotion, we have had a fine array of Tamil films in the recent past and even at the moment of writing this column. The news item in question also mentions that this committee has been instructed to select 20 Tamil films, 4 Telugu films and a few Kannada and Malayalam films.

Hindi films which have proved very popular with all communities in Sri Lanka are conspicuously absent in this list and this column is curious enough to ask why. Is it the prohibitive cost of Hindi films—re-issues could always be purchased cheaper—or any private and particular prejudice against such popular fare? The picturegoers in general and Hindi film fans in particular would also like to be informed why Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam films are being given precedence over Hindi film hits. While on the subject, I would like to reproduce extracts of a letter I have received from Asoka David of Puttalam. He says that "It is common knowledge that there is a great demand for Hindi films in this country, and India in fact has a fascinating array of such films like Bobby, Shale, Takkar, Neeyat, Aanchal etc. This being the case the NFC had not been purchasing a single Hindi film since 1977 under the ridiculous excuse that people of Sri Lanka do not speak Hindi. However there has been an inconsistency in this line of thinking as they have given their blessings for the purchase and release of the Telugu Sangara Paranam. He adds that India's famous Hindi playback singers have been gracing the UNP's May Day platforms these last few years and the common people of Sri Lanka should not be deprived of this legitimate entertainment and particularly so when a favoured few and restricted groups are able to entertain themselves with the best of Hindi film fare through the video cassette medium". Over to you Chairman Anton Wickremasinghe.

**NEELA KADALIN ORATHILE** (BY THE BLUE OCEAN SHORE) Tamil: Anchored down and angered constantly by controversy and censorship problems, the versatile Gamini Fonseka in his escape route from the local Sinhala film scene appears to have stopped by in South Indian to take star billing in this Tamil film, directed by K. Shankar. There is a Sri Lankan touch too, as this film is a Fernando Production which opens

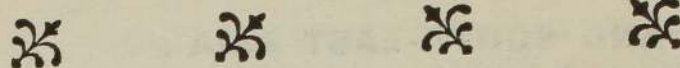


with a benign picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour — probably the Producer being Her ardent devotee. The film has an escapist theme and keeps rigidly to the formula, that such South Indian films thrive on as an opiate of the masses. Gamini whose forte has been more realistic histrionics is more like a fish out of water in this film with his heavy makeup and a wig that he is not generally used to in local films. Although he comes off well in the action sequences as a James Bond styled character, who enters a fishing village by the blue sea, that is being run to the villainous whims of a middle-man (Nambiar) in his employ, who mismanages to line his pockets. The scene stealer throughout the story was Sri (Neeya) Priya who is more at home as the village belle and a woman libber at that, till Gamini melts her down gradually. Attractive as she is, her role is taken on with a gay rural abandon, and too balanced at times by the woman Jai Ganesh who is a guest star in the film. The usual mixture of songs, dances and fierce fights, pilot the story along to an all too familiar climax. The dialogue sizzles with double *entendre* and Gamini is outacted by the shrewish and spritely Sri Priya in the romantic sequences. To Gamini, this column can only recommend that there would be no place like home for him, unless he wants to tarnish his image now and then, by such superficial film excursions. The film is running to crowded houses, but does retain the shimmer of Thee which was sustained by a similar plot, action being the main tonic.

**CHALLENGE IN THE LAST PARADISE** (English)  
This is yet another mediocre production by Mohammed Riffai who has lost no time in bringing to the screen, a near true story that runs parallel to the fanatical life of Reverend Jim Jones, who bred a cult with his magnetic charisma, and led his followers by the hundreds to an untimely death a couple of years ago. Directed by Umberto Lenzi the film takes courage from the success of films like *Mountain in the Jungle* and *River of the Caymans Gate* at the box office, by overplaying sex and semi-nudity in voodoo style. In this film too it is the bare bodomed beauties who keep the story bobbing along. Although the camera flits from New York to the jungle of New Guinea—the latter sequences have been shot along the waters and shores of the Mahaveli, and rather flippantly so, without enhancing our scenic splendour. The story is woven around one (Ganet Agreci) who engages the services of strong man (Robert Kerman) to locate her sister who is held in the spell of cult leader Jones among others in an inaccessible jungle hideout. There is a hurry scurry about the film, that does very little justice to foreign film making in Sri Lanka, money making being the main menu and should not be encouraged. Over to you once gain, NFC.

**MOVING VIOLATION** (English): A 20th Century Fox production which pleases, with a nascent cast, headed by Stephen Mckenzie and Keng Long who should go far. The story is about a Cop-Killer-Cop and a diabolical frame up, bridged by a furious car chase to eliminate the two key witnesses to the foul deed. A surprisingly good film that will tie you to your seats. Have a date for it when down your way.

JAMES N. BENED/CT.



POINT OF VIEW

## Private Tuition

*Question:* Does the student population benefit from tuitions at Private Tutorials?

*Answer:* Definitely no, when speaking of students in general. In fact it is positively detrimental. The reasons are as follows:

- (a) Tutorials thwart the very ideals of education, because they cater for only examination successes. Education is the development of the individual, the expansion of his horizons, and not merely exam success. Tutorials provide only knowledge of subjects, and that too in relation to exam questions, and do not impart education or wisdom.
- (b) Tutorials reduce learning to a mere mugging of facts and figures, and distort it into a tedious form of examining and memorization of notes, that leave no room or scope for the pupil to train his faculties to understand and deduce conclusions after sifting facts. This method does not give a chance to the student to use his creativity, or ability to correlate facts in problem-solving.
- (c) It affects the physical health of the student. Tutorials steal hours of relaxation and recreation from the student. It consumes energy in the frantic rush from one centre to another. Before he is aware of it, the pupil is caught up in a whirlwind of mechanical intellectual processes.
- (d) It has serious repercussions emotionally. Love affairs before their time, and emotional entanglements ruin them emotionally and a bright and sensitive student comes to grief. Not only does this halt all learning but leads some times to mental and emotional breakdown. Tutorials provide opportunities for clandestine lovers' meetings. Private tuitions

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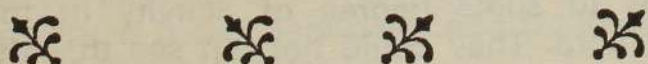


necessitate going out at unlikely hours and to long distances, and girls become brazen and bold.

- (e) Being unprotected and fending for themselves their morals are in danger. One of the causes of moral deterioration among the students is laxity in Tutorials.
- (f) It is economically ruinous. Tuition fees cut heavily into the budget of parents, who will beg, borrow or steal, under the mistaken notion of helping their children and this course affects the pupils who often have to save and scrimp on essentials such as food to pay tuition fees and this endangers their health.
- (g) Private Tutorials cause widespread absences in school and discourages the school teacher who has to face a series of vacant chairs in his class-room. It breeds a kind of disrespect for the teacher at school giving the illusion that the student can succeed even with disregard for school lessons. This affects the teacher-pupil relationship in a harmful way and develops wrong attitudes in pupils.
- (h) Tuition detracts from a student's desire for references and research on his own because it hands out instant answers in the form of tailor-made question and answer. "Canned" learning is not true learning and is not in keeping with the natural development processes of the mind.
- (i) It handicaps the pupil at the University, where real merit counts. A weak student who manages to enter by a series of hit or miss methods of guessing likely questions—a favourite practice at Tutorials—will find himself alone and without any "push" at the University. Such pupils are failures at the University.

**S. Anthony Joseph,**  
*Principal.*

*J/Holy Family Convent, English School  
Jaffna.*



TRINCOMALEE

## U.S.A's Position

**Excerpts from a Speech by Ambassador Donald R. Toussaint at the opening of the New American Center in Kandy on August 15,**

TRIBUNE, September 12, 1981

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MY GOVERNMENT, and I personally, are both indebted to you, Mr. President and Mrs. Jayewardene, and honoured by your gracious acceptance to be our honoured guests today—at a ceremony to open a new, revitalized American Center in Kandy. We have found a new home for the American Center in Kandy and there is a final reason for our gratification. Three months ago it looked like this summer might mark the closing of the Kandy Center. The new leadership chosen by the American people last November, leadership which took office in January, immediately undertook an intensive revaluation of all governmental activities, domestic and foreign, financed by American taxpayers. Literally nothing—including, the Kandy Center and operations like it elsewhere in the world—was not immune from scrutiny, careful scrutiny, as the new leaders—in their determination to restore the strength and vitality of the American economy—undertook the painful process of trimming fat and eliminating waste, a process which has brought about the most massive attack on government expenditure and deficit financing in the modern history of the United States. We fought hard to save the American center—and we succeeded though I am still not entirely sure of the reasons. Basically, I believe that what carried the day was a general recognition that the American center service a vital purpose in a key cultural and intellectual center of Sri Lanka the same purpose served in part by the Voice of America throughout much of the world, namely, the objective depiction of the immense, virtually limitless variety, diversity, openness and plurality of American society. Our two countries share a rich history of intellectual and cultural exchange.... Many of your countrymen—more than one thousand since the early 1950s—have been to the United States under the auspices of the agency for International Development and the United States International Communication Agency. While I am the first to admit—and constantly reminding Washington—that this number is not enough for countries the size of yours and mine, it is substantial and it is now being multiplied by Sri Lankans who pursue training or education in the United States on their own. I take a special interest in the reactions of those from your nation who take part in the intellectual and cultural traffic between our two countries. Few have the same experience or reaction. Almost no one regrets the experience—although not all return without complaints, but there is one element in common to all I have talked with: they have been "surprised" by America.

THEY HAVE FOUND that America was different from what they expected. They have found the realities of America at first hand are not the same as the impressions of America from afar, impressions gained in some cases from media originating in the US. itself. They have found, in short, what I too have found in Sri Lanka—that there are myths,



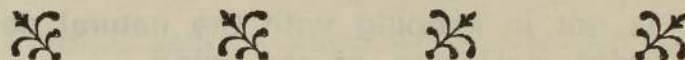
misunderstandings and misconceptions of the United States dealing with virtually every facet of American life, culture and activity: (1) one myth has it that America is an irreligious and materialistic society; (i) another myth would have Sri Lankans believe that family life in America is dead; (iii) still a third depicts the average American as luxury and consumption prone, unwilling to roll up his sleeves and do an honest day's work; (iv) a fourth myth pretends that Americans so preoccupied with earning or spending money, have no time to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate or to neighbours, newcomers and visitors; (v) and still another myth makes out that American youth is so involved with problems of narcotics, alcohol, violence and sex that they have no time to plan or prepare for the future. The difference between these myths and reality is the same as between night and day, and that difference comes as a surprise to anyone who lives or travels in America.

**There are also myths of a political nature. And I will address a few comments to one of them—indeed, the longest standing modern myth in Sri Lanka about my government and its alleged policy towards your country. This is what I call the myth of Trincomalee. Since coming to Sri Lanka a little over 18 months ago, I have often heard it said—and seen it printed—that my government has some design or plan for gaining access to Trincomalee so that we can use it as a military base or military facility of some sort. This myth came into being many years ago and endures for a variety of reasons. To the extent the reasons relate to the domestic politics of Sri Lanka, it would not be appropriate for me to comment publicly, to the extent they relate to alleged actions or policies of my government. However, some comment is appropriate—indeed called for. Let me make publicly—in the presence of the President of the Republic—this brief, unqualified comment: The US government has no plans or policy to develop Trincomalee into a military base or military facility. Nor has the US government ever discussed such a plan or policy with officials of the Sri Lankan government, either the present government, or past government, either here in Sri Lanka or elsewhere.**

AS TO THE FUTURE, American investors and entrepreneurs will, alongside those of other nations, hopefully join in seeking opportunities to help develop the economic and commercial potential of Trincomalee—as is being done elsewhere in Sri Lanka. American ships, naval and otherwise, may join with those of other nations in making visits to Trincomalee's magnificent natural harbor—as in other ports of Sri Lanka. So much for the

myth of Trincomalee. In every country, similar myths and stereotypes exist about other societies and other countries, and America is no exception.... and that brings us back to the American Center. The Center, for more than a library, is place where exercise of the intellect—in books, lectures, films, exhibits, debates and dialogues—is promoted and encouraged. It is a place of cultural and intellectual contact between our two peoples contact which provides insights into political, moral and aesthetic values and the philosophical underpinings of our societies. We take particular pride in the fact that the books and other materials and activities in this Center do not stem from a single point of view or a single ideology. On the contrary, they represent—indeed, they are designed to present for public scrutiny—clashing views and opposing attitudes on the assumption that the individual should decide for himself or herself which view is closest to reality. The Centre reflects the very nature of American society—its diversity, its openness, its plurality and its confidence in the basic good judgement of the individual. The Centre, in short, offers a means—short of visiting the United States—to discover the realities of our country and to shake off unfortunate myths, misunderstandings and misconceptions, whether they arise from ignorance or politically inspired misinformation. In opening this new Center, our purpose is to help in the exciting but never ending venture of seeking for the truth.

*USICA, Colombo.*



A BRIEF NOTE

## On Iqbal

By A.A. Latiff

CANTWELL SMITH summing up the influence of Iqbal in his 'Modern Islam in India' writes: "Almost everyone found something in him to applaud, something which stirred him to renewed Islamic vigour. There were those, of the liberal school, who read Iqbal, and were merely proud of him—were proud that modern Islam had produced so great a man. Others, however, were incited by Iqbal's message to some degree of activity in the name of their Lord. They could not but see that the world about, or within, them was less good than it might be: and the poet's eloquence stirred them to do something about it—and to co-ordinate their doing it, more or less precisely with their Islam. Islam as religion has produced no intellectual modernisation of its idea of righteousness more explicit than Iqbal's. He is great because he said with supreme eloquence, and on convincing passion, what his fellows were

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beginning to feel, but were unable to formulate. Any modern Muslim who would talk about religion must begin where Iqbal left off; otherwise he is not worth listening to." *True. But this succinct evaluation needs amplification. To him Islam was a social and cultural institution which was equipped with the necessary elements on which to build the ideal society of social justice he visualised. He contributed new ideas combined with spirit of the times to modern Islamic philosophy.*

It is a tragedy that those who claim to be his ardent admirers have distorted his image and turned him into a bigotted obscurantist. Somebody has said that even the dead only ask for justice—especially because they cannot defend themselves,

*The narrow-minded Mullah took me for infidel:  
And the infidel thinks, I am a Moslem.  
The sinner calls me saint and the saint a sinner;  
Having heard their eloquence, I am amazed.  
Behold me, Oh Enemy Eye! but not with  
contempt; for*

*I am Man, of whom even the Creator should  
be proud.*

THAT WAS HOW he saw himself. Iqbal saw Islam as a dynamic philosophy and sought through it to dismantle the pessimistic and stultifying fatalism which was asphyxiating any progress after the decline of Islam as a temporal power. In a series of lectures he delivered in 1928 at Madras and Hyderabad which were published in book form under the title, 'Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam', he maintained: "...The most remarkable phenomenon of modern history, however, is the enormous rapidity with which the world of Islam is moving towards the West. There is nothing wrong in this movement... The only course open to us is to approach modern knowledge with a respectful but independent attitude and to appreciate the teachings of Islam to differ from those who have gone before us". In fact Iqbal wanted to name the book "Islam As I Understand It".

He called for individual perfection. For the perfect "Ego", the superman of his conception he claimed "divine vice regency". Perhaps, some would see in this conception the intellectual and spiritual stimuli which his group and his class needed in its struggle for the advancement of its material ambitions and interests for a better economic and political destiny. He says of his perfect man—

Before every decision of fate  
God would ask of man  
Tell me: 'What's your will?'

It could be said that "Iqbal's ideas represented the continuation, perhaps the fulfilment, of the

Aligarh Movement. Sir Sayid Ahmed Khan, too had preached the need for an active view of life and the rejection of fatalism". His poetry was the vehicle of his philosophy. He saw the organic connection of poetry with social historic processes. He was very clear on the social role of art. "The inspiration of a single decadent", he warned, 'may prove more ruinous to a people than whole battalions of an Attila or a Ghingiz Khan". And affirmed that 'the spiritual health of a people largely depends on the kind of inspiration which their poets and artists receive".

"JAVID NAMA", his magnum opus was completed in 1932 and is in Persian. The late Syed Sulaiman Nadvi has said that it is one of the immortal classics in that language, the other four being Firdausi's "Shah Nama", "Divani-i-Hafizi", Maulana Rumi's "Mathanavi" and "Gulistan-i-Saadi". Written in the tradition of Muslim mystics it describes Iqbal's vision of Heaven and other regions.

If in "Divina Comedia" Dante had Virgil for his guide Iqbal had the great mystic poet Rumi for his guide. They journey through successive heavens. In the heaven of the Moon he places Buddha, Christ, Zoraster and Muhammad. In the tour of what the Higher Beings call "The Valley of the Testament" the first testament is that of Guatama Buddha and it is in the form of his sermon to a courtesan which leads to her conversion. It is one of the moving passages in "Javid Nama". It bears evidence to the regard which Iqbal entertained for the Sakyamuni, notwithstanding the latter's philosophy of complete renunciation of desire. The third testament is that of Jesus and as interpreted by Tolstoy. In Jupiter which is dedicated to the spirits of three great "heretics" of Islam—Hallaj, Ghalib and the Persian poetess Qurratul Ain Tahira—who created, says Iqbal, new worlds with their sacrifices.

TIPPU SULTAN is presented as the symbol of patriotic martyrdom while Mir Jafar, whose act of betrayal opened the road to the British conquest of India is placed in Zahal or Saturn which the poet reserves for those whom even Hell has rejected. It could be taken as an intimation of the value he placed on freedom. He reverts to this theme often. He presents the spirit of India. He describes her in words which are at once tender and exalted—"a brow in which shines eternal light and in her eyes eternal rapture".

Because new nations need philosophic sanctions, Iqbal's love for India has been denied in certain quarters. It is a pity. Did Iqbal after 1915 even deny being an Indian? In "Shun-i-Ummid" written in 1937 (Zarb-i-Kalim) a ray of the sun becomes so bold as to say:



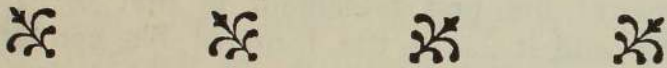
I would not leave the black atmosphere  
of India to remain black,  
I will go on piercing it until the people  
rise from their slumber.  
India is a focal point of the hopes of  
the East, and Iqbal had made it  
fertile by his tears.  
This land given light to the moon and the  
the seven stars,  
And even its piece of stone is better  
than a big pearl...

Prof. Hiren Mukerjee commenting on Iqbal's lines  
on Karl Marx—

"He is the Moses  
Without the divine light of Mount Sinai;  
He is the Jesus  
Without the crucifixion;  
Although he is no prophet  
He also came with a Book under his arm"

observed that there could be no greater tribute  
from deeply cultivated Muslim piety.

There was also something else in him that was  
undeniable—his catholicity of outlook his total univer-  
sality.



WALDHEIM

## Consumer Protection in Developing Countries

By Thalif Deen

*New York*, If the world's next generation is to become sophisticated consumers, consumer education should be an integral part of primary and secondary school curricula in developing countries, according to a report on consumer protection released here this week. The 34-page report by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, prepared in compliance with a resolution by the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), says that consumer education claims to counter the somewhat unequal relationship now existing between those who produce and sell goods and services and those who buy and use them. Making a strong case for consumer education in developing countries, the Waldheim report says that an important contribution of consumer education is the physical and mental preparation of the consumer to cope with the rapid changes created by advances in technology and innovation and the availability of so many varieties of goods and services. The report says consumer education is

still relatively little known in developing countries, and even if it existed, efforts in this direction have tended to focus on urban areas and on the middle class consumers, even though the need is greatest among the urban and rural poor.

In some developing countries, where many cannot read, it is necessary to find novel ways of bringing consumer education to the public, especially in rural areas. For example, says the report, informal plays and puppet shows that entertainers stage in village communities should serve a dual purpose: carry the message of consumer protection while retaining their primary aim of entertainment. The report says that consumer alienation and cynicism occur in most parts of the world, but are probably more common in third world countries. All too often the poorer consumer feels helpless in the face of the economic power of the traders and their inability to choose among alternatives on the basis of adequate information. In many cases, because of ignorance, Consumers are not even aware of their rights and thus suffer unjust treatment in silence. The report takes note of the charter of consumer rights of the council of Europe which specifically provides for children to receive consumer education in schools as a regular part of their curriculum. A wide field of consumer activities, including consumer protection in relation to international trade and transnational corporations, consumer rights, governments and their role in consumer protection, and the need for national legislation aimed at protecting and educating consumers are covered in the Waldeim report.

It also focuses on consumer protection in special categories of goods: pharmaceuticals, food, water and manufactured products. The report says consumer protection is related in many ways to the wider efforts now being made by the international community to attain the central objectives of the New International Economic order of the (NIEO) namely, to accelerate the economic growth of developing countries and promote the social well being of their peoples. In developing countries, the average urban consumer spends an average of 50 per cent of his income on food, in the rural areas this goes to about 80 per cent. The importance of food in the overall priorities for consumer protection in developing countries was therefore quite obvious. Making a sharp distinction between developed and developing countries, the report says that while in developed countries the consumers, attention tends to focus on which television set or automobile he should buy, in developing countries the consumer is in need of protection from such menaces as contaminated food or from having to spend too large a proportion of his small income on essential imported goods such as drugs. When

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the poorer consumer, of whom there are so many in the third world, is cheated, the effect on himself and his family is apt to be serious and in some cases catastrophic.

The report recommends that at the domestic level, governments should check on defective weights and measures, substandard and shoddy products, artificial shortages, hoarding, blackmarketing, usury, adulteration and overpricing. This required concerted effort by government, business communities, labour and consumer groups and above all by consumers themselves. If consumers are to uphold their interests adequately in the market place, the report says, then consumer education had to be included in primary and secondary school curricula. As a consumer protection measure, every country should have an irreducible minimum of consumer protection legislation, covering standards, quality control, weights and measures, world place hygiene and sanitation, control of various trades and professions, including the rural shopkeepers, consumer safety product liability and the like. There was also a need for appropriate procedures to monitor voluntary standards, the report said. *IPS—Lankapuvath.*



GRENADA

## Another Path to Development

By Marc Nerfin

The following article appeared in the most recent issue of the IFDA (International Foundation for Development Alternatives) Dossier. The author is President of IFDA, an independent body based in Nyon, Switzerland.

An IFDA delegation visited Grenada in May at the invitation of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Grenada is a small country in the eastern Caribbean. It has 110,000 inhabitants on some 340 kilometres, and, for whatever it means, a Gross National Product of 460 US dollars per capita. In spite of a very fertile volcanic soil, it imports, at increasing costs, a large part of what it eats, and until recently, the problem of malnutrition was ignored. It exports, at decreasing prices, nutmegs, cocoa and bananas. It has no industry. Its mini-airport is unfit for either night landing or regular planes, which means that its touristic potential remains underutilized. Unemployment is widespread. Until two years ago, it had 17 doctors, no dentist, and 3 students on government scholarships in universities abroad. This is the result of 29 years of tyranny, before and after independence (1974). The situation was so bad that the Opposition—

the New Jewel Movement—could easily take power, in a bloodless revolution, on March 13, 1979.

Since then, the country has set in motion a process of far-reaching social change, material as well as political. The economy which rests on three sectors, state, private, cooperative is now geared to the satisfaction of fundamental human needs. Idle land is being put into production, and fishing modernized. Local processing of fruits and fishes has started. Young children get milk, and primary school feeding programmes reach the whole country. 2,500 jobs have been created, the number of doctors has doubled, dental clinics, health centers and stations have been opened. Education is high on the priority list, both in and outside formal schools. An alphabetisation campaign is underway as well as training and recycling programmes for young peasants, teachers, civil servants and others. There are 220 students abroad. A new, larger airport is being built.

The state recurrent budget is 28 million US dollars, and local income balances expenditures. Its investment budget is 35 million US dollars. One third goes towards the airport construction costs, another third to push food production (the corresponding figure, in 1978, was 3 million US dollars). Structural transformations are taking place in the social sphere as well. A mass-based system of participatory democracy is being established, from the local level up. Militant People's Organisations—women, youth, peasants, workers—contribute to give content to the new democracy, women play a crucial role in all fields of development.

The revolution is also a cultural one. Change bears on people's mentality. On the basis of indigenous values—black power is an important ideological source of the New Jewel Movement—and traditions of peoples' struggle. A new sense of self confidence and dignity is being enhanced. That self-reliance—especially in food production—is a cornerstone of the process does not imply autoarchy. On the contrary, Grenada has established cooperative links with a number of Third World countries, Cuba to start with, and also Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Venezuela, as well as with the European Community. The New Jewel Movement is a member of the Socialist International.

This is highly disturbing for those who benefit from the old International Order and the most powerful country on the planet does not find it shameful to try and prevent European countries from aiding the construction of the airport, nor to mount a vicious disinformation campaign on one major TV network. Grenada is moving towards another development in the most hostile geopolitical environment. It deserves the understanding and support of all those individuals, organisations and governments, who are committed, or are prepared to give a chance, to a genuine, people-oriented process of development.

*IPS—Lankapuvath.*

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## Diamond Jubilee

By Gamiya

Somebody said cynically: "There are no problems, man, there are only priorities". To which an innocent man added: "There are no injustices, just imbalances". He was surely innocent of deeper reflection. The imbalances are such that when the rural areas have less amenities, the town-pull is greater than the countryside pull. People flock to the towns and to the City. When amenities are greater in the rural area, people tend to stay, unless a greater pull is exerted on them. The centrifugal force then brings large numbers migrating to the towns and cities. Take a recent slum, Sammanthranapura, produced, in a South Asian city (somewhat like a commemoration of a non-aligned Summit). Those who were displaced and bunched together were from several places, and remotely from Anuradhapura to Vavuniya (running the range of the alphabet) but there were also some from Uva's Moneragala, Wellawaya, Katargama, Badulla, Welimada, Diyatalawa, Haputale. The centrifugal force was very great, away from their own areas and the centripetal force of Colombo great enough, to pull them. But once they went to Colombo, pawns that they were in the colonial and neocolonial game (still being played with great gusto) they succumbed to another centrifugal force away from the established centre.

Diamond Jubilee of the 1921 Geddes Report is also Diamond Jubilee (60 years) of this centripetal-centrifugal force operating in Colombo City. Listen to Geddes: "Legal protection of homes in Colombo is needed. The law, at present claims impartially to defend the life and property of all men, but it is not adequately doing either until it protects the poorest citizen from eviction from his home, however insanitary or however needed for public purpose, until some reasonably adequate accommodation can be offered him elsewhere. But, at present the law operates usually on the other side, and the poor man is evicted accordingly; and this, on the whole, to increase overcrowding elsewhere and help to raise rentals all round, in return for less accommodation than ever".

"In the new Sutherland Avenue, what became of the slum dwellers it displaced? At Kolonnawa, no particulars are available of the people evicted for the oil installation. As town planning law and procedure improve, they will see to providing compensation for disturbance as regards housing. . . . I have seen numbers of people thus ruined in Indian cities, and at home as well. This compels me to plead for better law and procedure in this matter. It has been easy for legislation to punish for short weight and to prohibit

sale of deteriorated food and adulteration of the necessities of life. But housing is also one of the necessities of life, and law is still slow and weak in defending the poor tenant against what corresponds exactly to the above three frauds. . ." (Ceylon Sessional Papers, Geddes, pp. 37, 38) 1921.

Humane officer that he was, position and power didn't get to his head like heady wine. How easily officials blame the slum people and the few social workers working with them? But listen to Geddes: "All this sin-space minimum, building and sanitary regulations—still fails to meet the problem of the slums and thus largely have arisen their shameful worldwide conditions for which we then too easily blame the people". (*ibid*).

This calls for another kind of Celebration of the Jubilee—an attempt, however feeble, but sincere, to help all the people of all the slums.



ITALY

## Unions & Government

—Anti-inflation Pact—

By Estrella Gutierrez

Rome: Italian unions and the government ended a non-stop three-day meeting recently after reaching an understanding on an anti-inflation pact. But the talks, which will resume in September following August vacations, reached no concrete agreement. Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini promoted the talks in order to define the positions of both the government and the unions. In a concession to the unions, the government agreed to delay a general rent increase, which by law is to take place every August 1, Despite criticism from landlords, Spadolini and his economic advisors yesterday announced that this year's increase would be delayed until October. Price increases for gas and sugar, which Spadolini had been putting off since taking office June 28, will take effect before the next round of negotiations, but increases in the price of electricity and certain basic foodstuffs, which the unions wanted controlled, will be delayed. The unions met yesterday with public and private employers to set the agenda for the first meeting on overall labour costs. Spadolini wants an agreement which will allow the government effectively to revitalise the economy, specifically maintaining inflations three to six points below the current 21.8 percentage.

He gave this pact—or "agreement" as the unions prefer to call it—highest priority during his first month in office, but yesterday he was less hopeful

TRIBUNE, September 12, 1981



than when the talks began earlier this week. The Prime Minister did say, however, that while there were too many topics for the meeting to tackle adequately, a general understanding had been reached and there was a clear commitment to reach agreement. There certainly were too many issues to resolve in a three-day meeting, but Spadolini had hoped to keep the talks going through August, regardless of vacations. 'Inflation never rests', he said Monday. But the Unions said they would not make a decision without consulting the rank and file, virtually impossible in August. Spadolini and his economic cabinet represented the government in the negotiations, while the union representatives were the secretaries of the Unified Confederation Luciano Lama (CGIL, Communist), Pierre Carniti (CISL, Christian Democrat), and Giorgia Bevenuto (Socialist), along with the Confederation leadership.

The unions had opened the dialogue with a ten point document that touched on nearly all economic issues in Italy, from a structural analysis of economic policies to measures for the development of the south, rationalisation of public administration, tax reform, excessive public spending—which Spadolini has already moved to control—and the cost of labour. In meetings Wednesday, a delegation of the Industrial Confederation—which represents private industry—took part, as Spadolini sought a three-way agreement. But the Unions said they preferred to negotiate directly with the government first set an anti-inflationary programme, and negotiate with employers on the cost of labour. Italy's cost of labour is considered to be Europe's highest, as it includes the salary escalator, which since 1975 has indexed salaries quarterly to the increase in the cost of living. Industry has threatened on June 30 to eliminate the salary escalator, but when Spadolini took office he managed to put the decision off for a year. The Italian economy has many problems, beginning with the highest inflation rate in the industrialised world. Production and the competitiveness of Italian products abroad are down, exports have fallen while imports have risen, certain public sector agencies have become bureaucratic elephants investments in the productive sector have fallen, and the foreign trade deficit is growing.

Further, last November's earthquake had a devastating economic impact, destroying much of the south, which took enormous state investment to rebuild. It also contributed to a rise in Italy's external food dependence. Yet despite these problems, Italy had the highest 1980 growth rate in the European Economic Community, and all three sides—government, unions and industry—have used this as a weapon in the recent talks.

*/PS—Lankapuvath.*

## NEPAL

### Bribe - A Must

*Kathmandu:* Nepal's King Birendra is concerned about it, so is his Prime Minister and so are many thousands of citizens. Corruption has seeped into virtually every walk of public life. All of them and in particular intellectuals, agree that hydraheaded corruption is not only hampering the development of the economy but it also is slowing administration and causing untold problems to the man-in-the-street who needs to have things done by a Government office. Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa in his first press conference after being sworn in recently as the first elected head of Government in 22 years, had made no bones about there being "a lot of corruption". Mr. Thapa who had already been appointed Prime Minister for two years before the election, said his previous Government had been too busy to fight the evil of corruption but that he would now tackle it vigorously. But few observers believe that Mr. Thapa or his ministers will be able to do much about it unless they were empowered to take such drastic action as outright dismissal or imprisonment of offenders. The scepticism is not difficult to fathom as it is almost always impossible to furnish evidence in a court to support corruption charges because of the subtle and clever manner in which officials go about it. The people's faith in Government ability to cut the hydra's heads or some of them has in the past also been eroded by instance when a few lower-echelon officials were punished and their superiors got away unscathed in corruption cases. A number of agencies are charged with looking into the matter such as the "special police" and a "commission for the prevention of abuse of authority". Offering a bribe seems to be an absolute must for anyone needing anything from a Government office. Businessmen wanting to sell anything to the Government or semi-official institutions, complain that there is no way out but to offer a kick-back. Others, such as manufacturers say they have to bribe officials at more than one level to be able to produce anything. All those saying they have to bribe others to be able to live and work at all, add that not only the lower ranks need to be "oiled" but that all the way up to secretaries in ministries bakshish is expected and taken. No excuse but perhaps an explanation is offered by the fact that the average pay of Nepalese officials will not exceed the equivalent of \$ 100 while the cost of "decent living" in the capital will more likely be in the range of \$ 400.—UNII DPA.





Govt.



Notices

My No. 3/40/1/327

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

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars see Part 111 of Gazette No. 158 dated 11.09.1981 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**SCHEDULE**

*Situation:* Naula Village in Naula District Revenue officers Division.

*Extent:* 8. 811 Hactares

*Plan and Lot No./Nos:* F.V.P.254-Lot Np. 299

The Kachcheri, Matale, **Y. M. Dayaratna Banda**  
District Land Officer,  
Matale Distict.

Reference No. 9/2/2/941/1

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

It is intended to acquire the land described in the shedule below. For further particulars, please see Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lankā, No: 158 (part III) of 11-09-1981.

**SCHEDULE**

*Name of Village* Aluthnuwara

*Name of Land* Uyanwatte

*Lot & Plan No.* V.P.615, Ad. trac No. 216,218 219, and 220

Mahiyangana Town Gramasevaka Division, in the Divisional Revenue Officer's Division of Mahiyangana Badulla District, Uva Province.

The Kachcheri,  
Badulla.  
1981-08-20

**N. C. Harvie.**  
Additional Government Agent,  
Badulla District.

NEUTRON BOMB

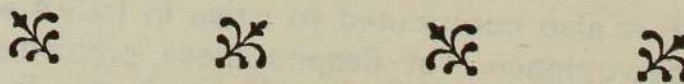
# Increases Chances of Nuclear War

By **Claudio Agrirre-Bianchi**

*Stockholm, August 28:* Washington's decision to begin producing Neutron bombs followed 25 years of intense work on the development of a "clean" nuclear weapon capable of producing the highest number of enemy casualties, with a minimum of destruction to allied territory. In 1955, NATO military advisors became convinced that a nuclear war involving massive retaliation would be impracticable. In the "carte blanche" scenario simulation of that year, the NATO chiefs calculated that, in the first two days of a war, some 335 nuclear warheads would be fired at Western Europe.

It was estimated that 288 of these bombs would explode in West Germany leaving 1.5 million dead and 3.5 million injured. Thus reaserch was begun on a weapon that could destroy the enemy without harming the friendly territory that might have fallen into enemy hands. The enormous cost of reconstruction after World War II has not been forgotten. Now, 25 years later, the United States government has decided to begin constructing the enharced radiation warhead, despite negative reaction from its NATO allies. The neutron bomb differs from other nuclear weapons in that the blast up only 20 percent of the energy released. The remainder is used to free highly active neutrons, causing massive, geographically concentrated radiation.

The Soviet Union has based a large part of its military strategy for Central Europe on its tank superiority. Soviet tanks are particularly heat and explosion resistant, but there is no effective protection against neutrons. An extremely expensive, high technology, fantastically destructive weapon, the neutron bomb is another spiral in the arms race, and it is a giant step toward nuclear war. Many of the economic objections to a nuclear war in Western Europe are not relevant in considering the neutron bomb. There would be no massive destruction of property. It allows the illusion of a "limited " nuclear war.—*IPS—Lankapuvath.*





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  - (b) 80 w.p.m. in English Shorthand and 35 w.p.m. in Typing.

*Salary :* Rs. 550/- (15x20) Rs. 850/- per month plus approved Government allowances.

Applications including age, qualifications, experience and other relevant particulars should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the undersigned on or before 18th September, 1981. The post applied for should be clearly indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

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

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



CONFIDENTIALLY

## Milk Board

WAS IT NOT A SURPRISE of the highest magnitude that an announcement was made in the newspapers and over the SLBC that the Chairman of the Milk Board and all Directors had been removed by a Ministerial fiat? That the *Sun* of Thursday, September 3 had reported: "Chairman and Board of Directors of the National Milk Board have been removed by Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman. Ministry sources told *Sun* that the Board will be run by a Competent Authority who has not yet been appointed. The Board comprised Walter Gunaratne (Chairman) Dr. A. Bandaranaike, M. J. de Silva, D. C. Weragala, Tudor Sathiyanda, Cecil B. Perera and Dr. S. Seneviratne". That readers will recall that *Tribune* had suggested the removal of this Chairman and the Board for over three years? That we had started pointing out from the time Minister E. L. Senanayake was in charge of the Milk Board, way back in early 1978, that under this Chairman and the Board, the milk industry would fast slip into total chaos? That we had hoped that Minister Thondaman would do what Minister Senanayake had failed to do? That instead of effecting the necessary changes in the Board, he (unfortunately and regrettably) perpetrated the regime of this Chairman and his Board? That one result of this was the exodus of qualified staff from the Milk Board? That *Tribune* has spotlighted acts of commission and omission on the part of the Milk Board in the last three years enough to fill a hundred pages of this magazine? That all these lapses—adequate to give a standing sack to those responsible—were either ignored or covered up? That it would serve no useful purpose to recall or detail the unanswered charges and allegations against the hierarchy of the Milk Board? That one disastrous and fateful consequence (for the nation) of the failure of Milk Board was that the Frankenstein among Multinationals—*Nestles*—was able to get a foothold in this country? That unless *Nestles* is kept in check, Sri Lanka will soon find itself a "colony" once more this time of the mighty *Nestles*? That another consequence of the failure of the Milk Board (and consequentially the collapse of the dairy and livestock industry) is that consumers have been compelled to move from the comparatively cheaper liquid milk to the more expensive powdered milk?

The philosophy of a multinational like *Nestles* is to eliminate liquid milk in preference to powdered milk? That in recent times, there is no doubt that the Milk Board has gone a long way to make liquid milk more and more difficult for consumers to obtain? That the Milk Board has itself been

trying to push its Ambawela "Lakspray" (milk powder) on its own and thereby further disrupt liquid milk supplies? That this Ambawela Lakspray is a bit of a mystery? That there is no reason why the milk powder produced at Ambawela should not have been supplied to the CWE packing plant at Welisara? That this would have helped to reduce the quantity of milk powder imported in bulk by the CWE? That instead of doing this, the Milk Board had packed its milk powder (reports indicate that they were done under comparatively primitive conditions) and then attempted to sell it through three or four multi-purpose Co-ops and some milk booths? That it is admitted that the Ambawela Lakspray refused to move and had begun pile up in tons and tons? That another gimmick, it is reported, was thought of at this stage? That a Sole Agent with a Japanese name HIDEKI was pulled out of the cupboard and was entrusted with the sales? That advertisements on TV Sri Lanka had come fast and furious inviting the public to buy Ambawela Lakspray? That though a few lakhs are alleged to have been spent on this advertising, Hideki could not sell the powder—even though the name Lakspray was used? That in bureaucratic circles there are grim stories of bouncing cheques (allegedly totalling five millions or more)?

That all this will please *Nestles*? That everything has now been made ready for *Nestles* to be invited to take over Ambawela, Narahenpitiya and the entire investment in the National Milk Board in plant and machinery running into billions? That *Nestles* has already been given the okay to start a new dried milk powder plant in the coconut triangle? That soon liquid milk will be a thing of the past and people (and only those who can afford it) will be compelled to buy milk powder at three times the price (of liquid milk)? That already fewer people are drinking milk or are drinking less milk than before? That a litre of milk from the cheapest milk powder costs nearly Rs. 7/50 at present prices—if one is to maintain fat and nutrition content? That whispers in top bureaucratic circles indicate that questions will soon be raised in political quarters about the role of two top Milk Board VIPs who are also currently the two local nominees of the *Nestle*-Sri Lanka venture, (60/40 in favour of *Nestles*? With hardly any investment capital in the venture,—everything had been invested by the State—It was raking in a 60/40 profit, plus fabulous salaries for its executives for providing management expertise? That there are Sri Lankans in this country (and abroad) who can do what *Nestles* if able to do if they were given a free hand without interference from Ministers, MPs, VIPs and other "catchers"?



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# **TENDER NOTICE**

## **PURCHASE OF LOCAL RICE**

### **FOOD COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTMENT**

Tenders are invited by the Government of Sri Lanka for the supply and delivery of Rice for acceptance at the Food Department Stores in Colombo, Kandy, Trincomalee, Galle, Jaffna and Kurunegala. Due to a slight congestion in the Stores at Badulla where rice has been accepted for delivery hitherto the acceptance of rice at Badulla has been temporarily suspended from the tenders of 5th August, 1981.

Tenders will be called weekly. Tenders should be on forms obtainable at the Office of the Food Commissioner at 330, Union Place, Colombo - 2. Tender forms and Tender Conditions covering variety of Rice, Specifications etc. will be issued upto 4 p. m. every working day on payment of a refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 100/-

Tenders will close at 11 a.m. on the following days:-

**16th September 1981**

**23rd September 1981**

**30th September 1981**

Any further information on this matter can be obtained from the Accountant, Bills and Tenders of the Food Department. His telephone number is 27267.

**N. PULENDIRAN**  
**FOOD COMMISSIONER,**

Food Department,  
330, Union Place,  
Colombo - 2.  
27th, August 1981