

# TRIBUNE



27TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION





## TENDER NO. NFC/81/14

### NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

#### Tender for the Supply and Installation of Air Conditioning Equipment to National Film Corporation Studio, Dalugama, Kelaniya.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the Supply and Installation of Air Conditioning Equipment at National Film Corporation Studio, Dalugama, Kelaniya, as per specifications and drawings relevant to the Tender.

Sealed tenders in duplicate should be sent to the Chairman, Tender Board, National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka, 224, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo. 7 under Registered Cover or could be handed over to the General manager not later than 3 p.m. on 18.12.81, marked on the Top Left Hand Corner of the envelope "Tender No. NFC/31/14 -Supply and Installation of Air Conditioning Equipment at National Film Corporation Studio, Dalugama, Kelaniya". If the tenders are delivered by hand, a receipt will be issued.

The tenders will be opened immediately after the time fixed for the closing of tenders and those quoting can be present.

Tender documents could be obtained from the Office of the Manager-Supplies and Sales, National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo. 7, on payment of a refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 250/- and a non-refundable tender form fee of Rs. 50/- till 3 p.m. not later than 17.12.81.

The General Specifications, conditions of the contract and drawings applicable to the project are available for inspection at "Mihindu Keerthiratne Associates Ltd, 24/1, Castle Street, Colombo.8, Architects & Engineers, Telephone Nos. 94649/96124-

Prospective Tenders are hereby requested to obtain tender documents before the date and time specified for issue of tenders. Tenders will be accepted only on forms issued by this Corporation.

Further details regarding this tender could be obtained from the Manager - Supplies and Sales, Telephone No. 88773.

GENERAL MANAGER,  
NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

224, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,  
Colombo. 7  
2nd November, 1981

## MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION, NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

### VACANCIES

Applications are invited for the following posts in the National Housing Development Authority, from citizens of Sri Lanka:-

#### Posts of Steno—Typist (English)—Grade VII

##### Qualifications:

A pass in the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in 6 subjects obtained in not more than 2 sittings, with 4 credit passes including Mathematics / Commercial Arithmetic / Arithmetic and Sinhalese / Tamil, and English Language; and

having 6 years' experience as a Steno—typist in the State Service or in a recognised private institution with a speed of 80 words per minute in Shorthand and 40 words per minute in Typewriting,

##### Salary Scale:

Rs. 600/- 10 x 30/- — 900/- (consolidated) per mensem Other allowances approved by the National Housing Development Authority will also be paid.

##### NOTE:

1. Should not be less than 22 years, and not more than 40 years on the closing date of applications. The upper age limit will not apply to those who are presently serving in Government Departments and Corporations / Boards in the Public Sector.
2. Placement at a point on the above scale could be considered in the case of applicants with suitable experience and qualifications.
3. Applications from those working in State institutions and possessing the necessary qualifications and experience will be considered if they are sent through the Heads of such institutions.
4. The selected applicants should be prepared to work in any part of the Island.
5. Applications for the above posts, giving full details of qualifications and experience, should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the undersigned on or before the 9th December, 1981.

Chairman

NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

National Housing Development Authority,  
5th Floor, National Housing Secretariat,  
Sir Chittampalam Gardiner Mawatha,  
Colombo-2. 24th Nov. 1982.



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE UPALI AFFAIR has stolen the thunder from the Budget. This internecine war in the higher echelons of the UNP started a long time ago. Upali Wijewardene, having made his billions and become a one-man multinational corporation operating in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and elsewhere, wanted to leapfrog into the topmost positions in the UNP and the Jayewardene Government. Many who have been long in the UNP and look forward to climbing the ladder in the fullness of time, objected, understandably, to what they regarded as queue-breaking. Upali no doubt believed that as he had made a success of making money for himself he could not only boost the finances of the country overnight but also manage the affairs of the country better than anyone else. An opportunity was given to him by the President to show his mettle in the FTZ. Whether due to his efforts alone or the combined efforts of a number of Sri Lanka's top technocrats, the FTZ has done reasonably well. Upali however is a person in a hurry. He does not want to bide his time. He tried to gate-crash first through Kamburupitiya and then through Kalawana into Parliament. But in both he failed. And in the process he made enemies. And he does not seem to be anxious to make friends because he believes (so the story goes) that every man has a price and in a market economy only the price mattered. And when it happened that some continued to stand in the way of his ambitions, he started to attack them in the publications he launched. First in a Sinhala cartoon strip a dog was named Ronniya. Though Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel had once successfully defended him before the World Bank at a time when the Parliamentary Select Committee had reported that he was unfit to be the boss of the GCEC (FTZ), he had objected to Upali's entry into Kamburupitiya and Ruhuna politics. Prime Minister Premadasa was the Chairman of the Select Committee that had held against Upali. When he started *The Island*, Prime Minister Premadasa and Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel were Upali's prime targets for attack. A counter attack was therefore inevitable. Ronnie de Mel took it upon himself to launch anti-Upali broadsides in Parliament. R. P. Wijesiri, once a UNPer, later an Independent and now a SLFPer is said to have a soft corner for Premier Premadasa and he initiated a postmortem in Parliament on Upali's saga of money-making. This prompted another statement from Ronnie de Mel not only dragging in SLFP's Mrs. Bandaranaike but also threatening Interpol action. Thereupon SLFP's Lakshman Jayakody demanded a debate to which Ronnie promptly agreed. All this seems a little cock-eyed. Parliamentarians have immunity for what they say on the floor of the house. But in the "free press" a smear campaign to assassinate character through innuendoes has also an immunity of its own. Those who see virtue in Upali's flashy and quixotic tilts at the wind-mills of vested interests in the UNP also say that he is justified in breaking the unwritten code that a proprietor of a newspaper does not appear in its columns especially to promote his personal political ambitions because the present owners of the Lake House and *Times*—the Government—are glorified in its columns day in and day out.



## The U.N.P.

ON THE COVER we have a picture of two leopards side by side in loving amity. This is a picture we have used before and we use it again solely to preach a homily that personal attacks under cover of high moral platitudes will not only denigrate the attacked but also the attacker. And those who live in a glass house, chock-a-block with cupboards full of rattling skeletons, should be extra-careful before indulging in any game of throwing stones. It does not matter who started the stone-throwing because in a war of character assassination battle lines disappear. The attackers and the attacked merge into the same conglomeration of the disgraced.

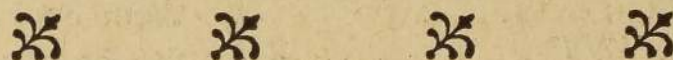
Exposures of graft, corruption and waste in the public interest are essential in a democratic society but when they are persistently selective and deliberately slanted to pay off private feuds, they lose credibility—even if the essence of the allegations are true. In a government with 90 odd Ministers and Deputy Ministers, waste and corruption are not the monopoly of one or two. Even without the exposures in the *Aththa*, *Janadina* or *The Island* the ordinary people in the island know who is corrupt or who is guilty of waste. *Tribune* has been in the exposure business for over twenty five years and we have learnt that understatements spread out at infrequent intervals have more credibility and impact than heavy-handed weekly dozes.

The moral of the picture on the cover is that if Sri Lankan leopards can live in amity, why cannot UNP chieftains do likewise? If they fight, as they are doing now, it is the species that will become extinct. The UNP stands in the danger of extinction if private quarrels become the order of the day. The UNP High Command will do well to stop the disgraceful squabble in their top echelons and get down to the job of developing this country as they profess to do. And if leaders offer the other cheek, in compassion and humility when attacked, great victories will be won.

Ordinary people know that after the new Budget, prices have shot up and are daily going up higher. Upali will do better to focus attention in his papers

on the disastrous impact of the budget on the common man rather than waste powder and shot day in and day out on ministers he does not like. Denigrating selected politicians will not make Upali the Finance Minister or the President, but if he champions the cause of the ordinary man for its own sake and not for grinding personal axes, he may get on the road to a political future.

In the meantime, though front benchers and back-benchers keep making speeches in the debate on the second reading of the Budget, interest in its arithmetic and mechanics has virtually disappeared. Prices have gone up even faster than the growing waste and corruption (and the inexcusable expenditure on foreign trips). And the newspaper reading public gets little or no enlightenment from the daily papers for which he pays so much. *Lake House* and the *Times* put forward the government point of view. The *Sun* makes an effort to put what it thinks is a different point of view. *The Island*, so far as the Budget is concerned, has put forward only Upali's personal indignation against the Finance Minister.



### EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK

## Mother Tongue

OVER THE YEARS, *Tribune* has always maintained that with all the attention paid to the national languages Sinhala and Tamil, it would be short-sighted, if not suicidal, for Sri Lanka to neglect the teaching of the English language and as a means of having an open window on world knowledge and as a means of communication with the rest of the world. Unfortunately, owing to rightist ultra national linguistic chauvinism and purblind leftwing anti-imperialist self-righteous slogan-chasing, the study of English had been totally neglected for nearly three decades. Finally it was the JVP youth when they were once again permitted to join the mainstream of political life in 1977 who demanded that English should be made an "official" language together with Sinhala and Tamil. The UNP thereafter picked up courage to make loud noises about the value of English, and after sometimes took steps to bring

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the study of English back into the curricula as a second language that would not be overlooked. But the government faces serious challenges particularly in finding teachers of English language.

In the meantime, in the intervening years, many myths had grown up about the sacred importance of the mother tongue. In this connection, we wish to refer to an editorial in the *Madras Hindu* of October 21, 1981 entitled "*Bitter Truth About The Mother Tongue*" which read: "The theoretical argument in favour of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction is that having grown with that language the young will be able to grasp and express ideas through it in a more facile way than through an alien language. The argument is unassailable if the quantum of knowledge which is put across is to go no farther than what the regional environment offers. The trouble arises precisely because the knowledge that is sought to be acquired is a lot more different and fresh than what the regional experience—social or political or economic—has accumulated. The complexity about modern knowledge consists in that it seeks to convey information about scientific and other developments to which the nation or the region concerned may be an utter stranger. The difficulty in this regard is in inverse ratio to the progress achieved by the regional language or the mother tongue in absorbing new ideas and improving the comprehension of a totally new kind of information building up in the world outside. In India almost all the regional languages have failed to organise such absorption. In fact, the supporters of some of them go to the extreme extent of insisting on absolute purity. If they were Englishmen, they would not have permitted the inclusion in the English language of Indian words such as catamaran and ghee. Such purism has restricted the range and direction of Indian languages and has, not unoften, forced on the translations of originals from other languages the use of equivalents to technical terms which sound queer to the ear even if they are not tongue twisters. Theoretically again, the problem may not be there for a student who uses the regional language from the very beginning. The loss in his case is that what he might have learned has necessarily to be limited to the quantum of knowledge translated from (western) original texts, which for obvious reasons would not amount to anything substantial.

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"It is this that has led some to insist that modern knowledge had better be transmitted at school and college through a language whose diction and range have developed adequately to receive and communicate that knowledge. That is no doubt why eastern scholars desire to learn, German or French in the pursuit of higher education at the post graduate level and beyond it is entirely for a country to decide whether only a small section of its intelligensia in the making should go after learning through a foreign tongue and share their knowledge with the rest of their countrymen or whether in the university courses (particularly in the sciences) every student should be made to read foreign words in the language in which they are written. There can be no gainsaying however, of the fact that the latter type of arrangement holds greater promise of creating a reservoir of skills so essential for keeping in step with the progress taking place in other lands. One thing has been established by a recent survey conducted by the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore; it is that the mother tongue may not be the best learning medium and that those who use the English medium perform better and reveal a keener intellect. This may be bitter news for the purists, but truth quite often is bitter".

**We are no experts in linguistics nor have we any fixed notions about the mother tongue as being the best medium of instruction. We do not want to enter into any controversy about teaching in the mother tongue, but we take this opportunity once again to stress the importance of having at least one world language in our school curricula. There is no reason why we should not continue with English which is undoubtedly the best developed and most widely used world language, especially because it has been in use in this country from the first decade of the last century. There has also grown up a Ceylonese or Sri Lankan dialect of the English language and it is still growing.**

IT IS TIME that all political parties in the country review their attitude to the language question. The JVP has adopted a very rational commonsense position in regard to language—to make Sinhala, Tamil and English "official" languages. The UNP has Sinhala



as the official and Tamil as a national language and is administratively seeking to make English not only a link language but also the universal language in commerce and also to get employment abroad. Without English, it would be impossible for Sri Lankans to keep in touch with the growth of culture and knowledge in the rest of the world. The SLFP, the LSSP and the CPSL are still clinging to their old clichés about the mother tongue and swabasha, and if they think that they can score at the next elections by stating that the UNP and JVP have sold out to the English "imperialists" on the language question, they will be disappointed. In India, too, there is a welcome awakening about the value of English and the dangers of regional language chauvinism. In Sri Lanka there should be fresh rethinking about language so that a small nation like Sri Lanka can continue to have a place under the sun and not be lost in the miasma of infinitesimally small vernacular dialects.

It is not in Sri Lanka alone that there is fresh interest in the English Language. The *Far Eastern Economic Review*, October 30, 1981, Della Denman had a piece about Burma entitled BACK TO BILINGUALISM-KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH SEEMS SO BE A KEY TO DEVELOPMENT AND EVERYONE FROM INFANTS TO OFFICIALS IS URGED TO LEARN IT. This is from the report: "Fearful of the world passing it by, Burma's socialist government has launched a crash programme to give English the status of a dual language with Burmese. English was virtually outlawed along with all other foreign influences when President Ne Win introduced his xenophobic Burmanisation policies in the mid-1960s but, as the government began easing up on its self-reliant stand and opening doors to outside aid donors to help develop the country's resources, it became clear that only the older generation was at ease with English and Burma was suffering as a consequence. This year it is being taught from kindergarten level upwards and in the future it will be the medium of instruction in senior high school classes and universities. Civil servants are being sent by the hundred to crash courses in English. Burmese TV is running teach-yourself-English programmes. Government news papers are exhorting English-speakers to help others with their studies...."

After setting out the way the Government was seeking to spread the knowledge of English, the report went on: ".... Andrew Thomas, also seconded to the Burmese Government from Britain, has for the past three years been teaching linguistics students. This year he was asked to establish new courses under which he instructs a group of secondary-school teachers how to run English courses. They then go to the provinces to train primary-school teachers. Thomas believes that the Government's new English drive was due partly to the need for a means of communication with the outside world and partly to keep up with advanced educational standards.

..... Doctors and scientists must be able to read and understand the latest reference books, which are usually in English. Since English was neglected and textbooks had to be translated into Burmese, the quality of graduates turned out by Burmese colleges and universities has declined dramatically, he said..... The circulation of the government's two English language newspapers *The Guardian* and *The Working People's Daily* has reportedly gone up since they began reproducing the scripts of BBC English language programmes shown on TV. The government has bought the TV rights for such programmes for the next three years. A leader in *The Guardian* earlier this month was headlined: 'Don't be shy, speak English if you want to improve'.

Sri Lanka has gone the way Burman had gone, but is still a little "shy" about reverting openly to the study of the one world language which this country and the people can easily learn, namely English. Burma had displayed both religious and language chauvinism to a greater degree than Sri Lanka in the wake of Independence. Now it has embarked on a realistic language policy that whilst not denigrating or belittling the mother tongue, it has launched on a policy of lingualism to ensure that the people can take their rightful place in the world. In colonial times, English, nay all education, was for a small elite. Now it must be for all people.





## Mixed Bag

This column would like to spotlight some of the highlights pinpointed by Chairman Anton Wickremasinghe in his speech of welcome at the President's Award Ceremony held recently.

*Television:* Addressing the Honourable Minister of State who was the chief guest and within whose purview T. V. is enumerated, the Chairmansaid: "The Minister is only too well aware of the impact the expansion of TV will have on the local film industry. At a discussion held recently, when the Film Exhibitors and Producers Associations participated to consider this problem, it was said that the decisions taken by the Minister in respect of the TV Industry were just and reasonable. TV however being the most effective mass media today, any firm decision taken hereafter regarding TV to the detriment of 'Cinema' would seriously effect nearly 21,000 people employed in the latter industry. The TV threat in this respect in Western countries was overcome by the modern film technology, superior methods and corresponding distribution systems. Sri Lanka being a smaller and poorer country the film industry cannot do what the technical giants of the West are capable of. It is a sincere hope therefore, that since both Cinema and TV are state enterprises, a golden mean would be struck between the two media to co-exist and grow fruitfully and purposefully to entertain the masses."

*Assistance to Producers and Directors:* "In 1978, Rs. 3,700,000 was given as loans for the production of 37 films, in 1979 Rs. 4,200,000 for 34 films, in 1980, Rs. 8,600,000 for 48 films and Rs. 7,000,000 31 films up to September this year. Thus, increased assistance has been granted to Producers and Directors over the last few years. This largesse on the part of the NFC, would serve as an incentive for the production of more films for TV markets abroad instead of standing in a queue for local release only, where a delay is inevitable. It has been a cabinet decision on the initiative of the NFC to request our diplomatic missions abroad to encourage the sale of locally produced films. This is being implemented."

*Colour Laboratory:* "Since colour productions are fast replacing black and white films, a studio has been set up with modern facilities and equipment,

costing 10 million rupees for the processing of colour films, within the next few months. With this quick and easy availability of this colour complex, a contended Producer Director class would emerge, for they will be benefited creatively and financially by this NFC enterprise". **This column hopes that the much talked about cinema complex too would get off the launching pad, as it is being held in abeyance now due to economic pressures on the country.**

*NOSFERATU, THE VAMPYRE* (English): This 20th Century Fox presentation by Michael Grushoff is written, produced and directed by Werner Herzog, to embrace a story that is rather off-beat, but yet set painstakingly in the classic mould. Knit together by brilliant photography, with every scene a rare visual experience, to a new version of the Dracula story, where the mythical malevolent and blood thirsty Count of Transylvania, travels by boat from his dark and musty lair in the Carpathian mountains on a campaign of lust and destruction. His sensuous target is a pretty lass (Adjani) who experiences premonitory visions of creepy creatures that signal the arrival of the obsessed Count—so convincingly portrayed by Klaus Kinski, a much sought after actor in Europe. Technically and artistically the film hits a new high in cine entertainment, so much so, that even the "horror" of it all pales into the background. In its impact, a sequence worth mentioning is "Dracula" on his revengeful rampage, with a "river" of plague infested rats as he closes in for his bloody tryst, where an overdose of "sex" and "daylight" gets him in the end. There is a haunting beauty goaded on by like music to the bizarre climax, that brings out the best in the creativity of Herzog, one of cinemas most acclaimed film-makers. As often in such classic productions where the technical finesse tends to submerge the story, a chequered run is on the cards—but let that not influence you, for it is not often that a film of such excellence comes one's way.

*THE BLACK HOLE* (English): The stereophonic boom lifted me to ethereal heights as I sat this brilliant film out with my friend and veteran journalist E.C.T. Candappa. I am handing my pen over to him to record the review of this film, for *Tribune* readers. "Ron Miller's production of *The Black Hole* for the Walt



Disney Studios is reputed to be the most ambitious ( 20 million) film made by these studios. And that's saying something. The film concerning the chance meeting of an US Space exploration team with a mammoth spacecraft, the USS Cygnus, 'lost' in outer space for twenty years involved the recreation of scenes which even now exist only in the imagination of man. Fabricating such sets would cost many millions of dollars. The cinematic short cut is known as *matte*, paintings on glass, photographed along with projections of parts of the set on to the clear sections of the glass. When the action takes place against such a fantastic background the result is the kind of space spectacular with which audiences are now quite familiar. The special effects in "The Black Hole" are the work of a famous father-son combination, Peter Ellenshaw, whose film career of 45 years include 31 with the Disney Studios, and his son Harrison, who did the matte work for "Star Wars". The out-of-this world musical score is the work of Oscar winning composer John Barry, who wrote the incidental music for five James Bond films, "Born Free", "Midnight Cowboy" and "Impress File" among others. The impressive cast includes Maximillai Schell, as the deranged scientist, looking for "The First Cause", Ernest Borgnine, Anthony Perkins and Yvette Mimieux. The story, like all space films, seems less fantastic than it might have been ten years and certainly twenty five years ago. So much is happening in space exploration that audiences are coming to believe that anything CAN happen. Apart from the credibility of the narrative, the visual impact of the film, the wizardry of the effects are so sophisticated that adults can appreciate them more. It is cinematic artistry at its best, when one has made allowances for the nearly human (and in this case, even really human) robots, and the Dr. Who kind of space-chase (with which TV viewers are familiar) audiences with a philosophical turn of mind can enjoy the film on another dimension—the hunt for mystical symbols and spiritual allegories. The game began with Arthur Clarke's 2001—A Space Odyssey, when various theories were adduced to explain the famed monolith. The first viewing of the film can be over-whelming, so a second might be profitable for a leisurely look at the effects and a conscious enjoyment of the music" (E.C.T.C.).

*TITANIC*: On April 10th 1912, the world's most luxurious liner set sail on her maiden voyage. Named "Titanic", she left Southampton waters destined for New York. It was just four days later that she ploughed through ice infested waters and her hull was ripped open below the water line by the tip of an iceberg, believed to have been projected about 50 feet out of the water. The time of mishap was 11.40 p.m. on the night of April 14th. By 2.20 a.m. in the early hours after midnight, the 45,000 ton liner had cracked amidships and water swamped over the bows weighing them down, taking the liner into a vertical dive. The stern stood upright for minutes before being sucked below the water to rest two miles down on the ocean bed. To the very end. the giant ship was blazing with lights from bows to stern and below decks, a young wireless operator named Philips continued to tap out the S.O.S. distress signal, until he too was submerged with his wireless cabin. He was drawn and is remembered as the First Man to use the S.O.S. distress signal over the Marconi Wireless System, at sea. 1503 passengers and crew perished, while a mere 703 people mainly women and children, survived to tell the awesome truth of that horrific night of terror. It was all the more terrifying, because the mighty Titanic had been dubbed as un-sinkable as far back as when she was under construction in the Belfast Shipyard. She was on exquisitely deisgned feat of marine engineering. Thus when disaster struck, both passengers and crew took some time to realise that the unbelievable more than the unexpected was happening. *Tribune* readers may be interested to know that aboard the ill-fated liner when tragedy struck was Joseph Ismay, its proud owner who made a cowardly exit from the sinking ship. It has been reported that "the enormity of the tragedy and his act of cowardice by rushing into a life boat, meant for women and children, finally left him with remorse and mentally deranged. He lived thereafter like a hermit and ended his days as a complete recluse.

This E.M.I. Production is the fourth cinematic interpretation of an event destined to go down as the greatest tragedy in the history of sea transportation—the previous ones being "Atlantic" in 1930, "Titanic" in the forties and "A Night to Remember" in the late fifties, the latter proving to be a tremendous

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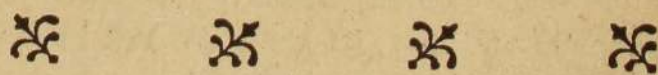
success at the box office. This film however is shorn of all the exaggerations and trimmings to remain more faithful and factual in detail than the previous productions. The first four days of the journey leading to the fateful night are gone through with an air of pending doom in the background, while music and merriment did proclaim the unique achievement that was the TITANIC—a floating carnival being laid out for its first passengers. Cameos of some of them converged to add pathos and pity at separation time—when the order to “Abandon Ship” dropped like a bombshell, from a Captain (Harry Andrews) who was cocksure up to that moment of saving the ship. The S.O.S. signal reached the “Carpathia”, which was just two hours too far to rush to the rescue. The final dip of the Titanic with all its strength, power and grace in its apparent invincibility was the piece de resistance of the film, which should have received better patronage. Perhaps most movie goers had witnessed the night of horror in previous films and TV to make another trip, but there was no excuse for depriving a whole new generation, the rare visual experience of an event that shook the whole world to cut down man’s invincible claims to dwarf size. The panic, partings and prayers together with the majesty of the liner going down with all its lights blazing, with a courageous crew remaining on board are brought out very vividly to dent one’s memory for many years. See it.

*INDU MAL MITAK* (Sinhalese): The creative talent of Director Senerath Yapa blossoms in all its artistry and is in full bloom in this film which balance neatly a sentimentally formula-lined story with that amount of realism to keep the movie goers satisfied. It is set in the hills, and the camera has gone over them to capture the scenic beauty, but unfortunately bereft of colour that would have infused more appeal, and added impact. A planter (Upali Attanayake) and his pretty working wife live happily in the splendour of their surroundings till the latter in a lesbian liason introduces an attractive pal (Malini Fonseka) under the same roof. Seeds of infidelity take root and before long a tempted husband decides to take an adulterous plunge, which bears an illegitimate fruit. The triangular relationship is ridden with guilt, and welcome relief comes from UK in the form of a handsome in-law, the brother of the wife (Ravindra Randeniya)

who rattles the mix-up by losing himself to the charms of the lovely refugee, who in her delicate condition keeps seeking peace, penance, prayers and priestly advice. The put on appearances melt and the naked truth emerges with envy for a dramatic showdown which I do not wish to reveal. Upali Attanayake excels in one of his not too frequent film appearances as the planter, with Malini striding into her difficult role as usual effortlessly. Ravindra Randeniya keeps growing in stature as an immaculate actor with every role he takes on these days, with his tall and handsome looks to help him on. The story is hitched on to a Roman Catholic background, which does not help to halt the sinful spiral that inundates it and for which very little religious solace is offered or forthcoming. The film owes its success to the strength of a story which has been embellished further with “Yapa” at the controls. The theme although bold, is projected with a taste and appeal that does not lift eyebrows—yet it is recommended for mature audiences.

*TELEFON* (English): A Metro Goldwyn Mayer release, with Charles Bronson as the star attraction but in an offbeat role. He is a K.G.B. Agent of a dangerous mission in CIA territory to eliminate a colleague (Donald Pleasance) whose hypnotic task of espionage is reaching completion. Several U.S Military installations are set ablaze by the mere repetition of the following verse by telephone—“there are promises to keep and miles to go before you sleep”—and how, is for you to sort out. In this incredible and bizarre plot, not a fist is flayed or a bullet wasted for a Bronson film but explosives keep swirling and smoking the skies, with a sweeping devastation that keeps one tied to the story. The tough “Bronson” heart too meets its Waterloo in that of the attractive Lee Remick, a double agent, before they both hit it off together, cutting the Nuclear Powers to “atom size”. A well photographed film that grips you.

JAMES N. BENEDICT.

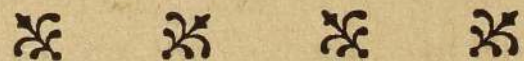




## Submarine in Sweden

*Moscow, November 12:* On November 11 the following statement by the Soviet Government to the Government of Sweden was delivered to Carl de Geer, the Ambassador of Sweden in Moscow, at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Soviet Government expresses satisfaction with the fact that the Swedish authorities have finally taken measures for the Soviet submarine N. 137 to leave Swedish territorial waters. As is known, this submarine which, was making a routine training trip in the Baltic Sea went off course as a result of the failure of its navigation instruments and resultant mistakes in position finding on the night of October 27-28, 1981, entered unintentionally the territorial waters of Sweden and in conditions of poor visibility suffered an accident, running aground off the South-Eastern shores of Sweden. The Government of the USSR expressed regret to the government of Sweden over this incident. Moreover, the Soviet side, proceeding from the character of Soviet-Swedish relations, agreed that by way of exception the Swedish authorities inquire into the circumstances of the accident. In this connection it was found possible in the spirit of goodwill to agree to a certain exception from the generally recognized principle of international law under which a warship enjoys complete immunity from the jurisdiction of any state except the state of the flag. It was expected, of course, that the Swedish authorities would abide by the existing norm of international law, under which if a foreign warship does not even observe the rules of a coastal state regarding passage through its territorial waters, the only thing the coastal state may do with respect to the given warship is to demand that it leave its territorial waters. The Swedish competent authorities were given the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the ship documents, including the log book and navigation maps, to examine navigation instruments as well as meet the ship's commander, navigator, helmsman and signaller and thus see for themselves that the Soviet submarine had entered Swedish territorial waters unintentionally and that its entry did not in any way affect the security interests of Sweden.

In the light of the foregoing, the statement issued by the Swedish government in connection with the incident cannot but arouse bewilderment. The Soviet side, taking into consideration the breakdown character of the incident, could rightfully expect at least a manifestation of correct attitude and an objective appraisal of what happened. However, instead the Swedish government took the path of distorting facts. Thus, it is categorically asserted, for example, that the Soviet submarine entered Swedish territorial water deliberately "for the purpose of carrying out impermissible activities". What sober-minded person, to say nothing of military specialists, can suppose that a submarine, in a surface run, with running lights on and running diesels the noise of which was heard over large distance in night time and in poor visibility conditions, could engage in such "activities". The Swedish government's statement admits that navigation errors did take place. But immediately the absurd conclusion is made that it was not they that were "the main cause of the penetration into Swedish territory". A demand "to prevent the recurrence of such a gross violation" is expressed at the end of the Swedish statement. In this concrete case this sounds like a demand to rule out the very possibility of breakdown situations occurring at sea. This demand is simply out of tune with common sense. The Soviet government resolutely rejects the protest contained in the Swedish government's statement as devoid of any legal and factual grounds. The Soviet government has always sincerely striven and strives to develop all-round relations with Sweden in the spirit of mutual respect, good neighbourliness and cooperation. It would like to hope that the government of Sweden, for its part, will adhere to the same line in relations between the two neighbouring countries.—*Tass*.





**November 8 - 14****DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA  
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; *IS*—Island; *IDPR*—Information Dept. Press Release

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8:** Police commandos will soon take over from riot squads and will be positioned in the 22 Police Divisions spread throughout the country, a Police spokesman said yesterday. Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel yesterday hinted broadly that a pay increase for the country's wage earners was included in his fifth budget packet that will be unwrapped in Parliament on Thursday—*SO*. With four more days for B-Day Finance and Planning Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel was in a happy confident mood yesterday; with an unprecedented Budget deficit of Rs. 21 billion Mr. de Mel said the IMF's decision to grant immediately the next tranche of SDRs 35 million had nothing to do with his confidence. Sri Lankans were out in force in a speculative buying spree in the past few days, according to shopkeepers; the overjoyed traders attributed the sudden bursts of shopping activity to the anticipated price hikes that may follow the Budget on Thursday; there was heavy buying of electronic goods as shoppers were seen investing in cookers, refrigerators, pedestal fans, transistor radios and television sets—*ST*. Amidst the proliferation of mushroom "tourist resorts" catering to cheap living in the country along the country's coast and tour operator's complaints that Sri Lanka is outpricing itself comes the news that the industry is in the throes of a crisis. The death penalty may be introduced for certain specific offences under the Prevention of Terrorism (Special Provisions Act) in a bid to stamp out the menace now plaguing the country. The Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis said "although there has been no significant policy changes in respect of the tourist industry in the past few years, the results of the present Tourist

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Development Plan will be felt in the next few years" Ananda Collge, Colombo, will be closed from tomorrow (Monday) for an indefinite period, a top Education Ministry official said last night; and advanced level students of the school are to be suspended following unrest within the school premises, he added. A Saudi oil price increase by two dollars and the depreciating value of the rupee may compel the Government to revise the prices of petrol, kerosene, diesel and other petroleum products; with only three days to go for the budget, the matter is now being closely examined by the Government's economic advisors—*WK*. The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka has stopped accepting applications for Indian citizenship following the expiry of the Indo-Ceylon-agreement last week—*S*. Trading and import licences of traders will be cancelled if any such trader is found hoarding goods prior to the Budget; the Trade and Shipping Minister is taking necessary action in this regard on the strict orders of President J. R. Jayewardene; at the same time sudden raids have been increased to arrest such hoarding—*CH*.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9:** A shocked and shaken Fisheries Minister Festus Perera has ordered a immediate inquiry into the construction of 48 houses at the Pamunugama fishing village opened on July 27; the Minister has ordered the Chairman of the Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation, Mr. Mervyn Jayasuriya, to conduct an inquiry after the occupant of one of the houses confronted him on Saturday with charges of shoddy and substandard work by the contractors; the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation built these houses—*CDN*. Leading Lawyers and medical professionals unanimously agreed that the present Motor Traffic Act was ineffective and wanted it repealed. It was a dead letter in the courts, they said; their views were expressed at a seminar on "the New Law and the Drinking Driver" organised by the Medico-Legal Society of Sri Lanka and held last Friday at the new Anatomy hall, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo. Negombo's fishermen had defaulted to the tune of ten million rupees in repaying People's Bank loans, said Mr. Denzil Fernando, Member for Negombo and Deputy Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs on Saturday—*CDM*. The depreciation of the rupee in terms of the dollar could double the country's inflation rate next year Central Bank economists and other independent financial experts have warned;



the rate of inflation, according to Central Bank statistics, now stands at 18%; last year it stood at 40 percent—*SU*. Trade and Trade Union circles expressed an opinion yesterday that the Budget has only provided for increase in the cost of living and that no action has been taken to reduce it.—*VK*.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10:** Yesterday's heavy rain wreaked havoc on many public utilities in Colombo; the phones were either dead or crazy in many parts of the city, schools were closed in some areas and several roads were flooded; many people were de-housed and the Colombo Municipal Council has got a relief operation going. A "Cadjugama" for the cadju girls of Pasyala has been built by the National Housing Developing Authority. Ananda College which was closed on Monday following an incident on Friday over the appointment of a head prefect will be reopened on Thursday—*CDN*. A ban on private practice by all grades of public officers has been strongly recommended to Government by the Tennekoon Commission; the Commission report which was presented to Cabinet last week, "strongly urged" the Government to make a firm decision on it on the basis of principles rather than a consideration of advantage to individuals or small groups. The high-powered delegation from Saudi Arabia which visited the Mahaweli project on Sunday had been impressed with the progress made, Mahaveli Ministry officials claimed yesterday—*SU*. Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that the people of this country are anxious that peace and harmony should prevail in the land but that a small section are creating violence and terrorism; he also said that the people should cooperate with the government to indentify such people—*VK*.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11:** Work gangs were on the streets yesterday tidying up the capital and restoring public utilities hard-hit by the unusually severe rainstorm which hit Colombo, and its suburbs on Monday; though the rainfall was exceptionally severe, the weathermen who studied their charts and figures said that no records were broken. Acting IGP Rudra Rajasingham has directed all SPs in charge of police divisions to arrest any person involved in printing, producing or possession scurrilous literature in the form of pamphlets, newspaper articles or books, Mr. Rajasingham has stated that ti

has been also found that drama scripts approved by the appropriate authorities have sometimes been altered so that scurrilous and defamatory lines has been spoken on the boards—*CDN*. History was created in the field of entertainment yesterday at Torrington Square; Rupavahini Mandiraya—the headquarters of National Television—was handed over as a complete unit ready for live telecasting—*CDM*. Sri Lanka's coconut plantations are faced with a major threat from two insect pests, which are reported to be spreading all over the eastern and southern regions of the country; the two pests—the black beetle and the coconut caterpillar—are jointly attacking the coconut palms in the eastern and southern provinces. Additional District Judge Wimal Wickremasuriya yesterday allowed an application by 2nd MP for Nuwara Eliya-Maskeliya Anura Bandaranaike and three others to withdraw their action against SLFP leader Sirima Bandaranaike. The storm that lashed the west coast of Sri Lanka for 24 hours on Monday left hundreds of families homeless as the rising waters swept through their homes and carried away most of their belongings; worse affected were the lowlying areas in Maligawatte, Grandpass, Kotte and Kirillapone—*SU*. It is reported that large-scale fraud is being made in paddy in the Batticaloa area; paddy that has to be hulled in rice mills and distributed to the public through cooperative societies, it is reported, is being transported to Jaffna and Colombo by private traders—*DP*.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12:** Devar Suriya Sena who died yesterday at 83 was the quiet artist, the dedicated musician who gave up law to devote his life to music. School candidates who sat the last August GCE A-level examination will receive their results either today or tomorrow; the Examination Department began posting these results on Tuesday—*CDN*. A salary increase of little over Rs. 100 per month is expected to be part of the fifth Budget to be presented by Finance and Planning Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel in Parliament this afternoon; this salary increase will further burden the Government with an additional expenditure of Rs. 1,200 million—*CDM*. Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel will spell out measures to close a record deficit of 21.1 billion rupees when he presents the government's fifth Budget this afternoon. Severe penalties are to be imposed on cultivators who interfere with



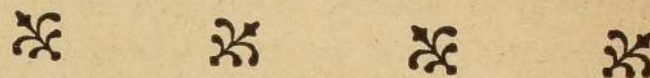
water courses, streams or canals and damage bunds, through amendments to the Irrigation Ordinance to be introduced in Parliament shortly. Four employees of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation have been interdicted in connection with a major fraud involving the siphoning off of petroleum from the installations in Kollonnawa—*SU*.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13:** In a "no surprises" budget, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel yesterday proved the prophets right by boosting public service salaries by a minimum of Rs. 107 per month and also increasing the prices of cigarettes and arrack; this month the country's 450,000 public servants will take home an added cost-of-living allowance computed at Rs. 62 for November; from January they get a further Rs. 45 a month at least, under terms of the Victor Tennekoon Committee recommendations, most of which have been accepted—*CDN*. A series of price increases, new taxes and higher surcharges were the highlights of the Government's fifth Budget presented in Parliament yesterday; the price rises will be the direct result of a new three-tier Business Turnover Tax; Lankans will also have to pay five rupees more for coconut arrack (Rs. 3/28) both for mclasses and Rs. 10 for processed arrack and five cents more for cigarettes; the price of a bottle of beer has been reduced because of declining consumption; there will be a surcharge on Income Tax and Wealth Tax for 1981/82—*SU*.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14:** While Opposition parties reacted predictably to Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel's fifth budget the average man in the street waited to see what the new business turnover taxes would do to prices; there was an appreciation among some people that the government had done as best as it could in the circumstances, while many others were apprehensive about price climbing higher in a relentless spiral of inflation. The oil exploration which began in the Gulf of Mannar at the end of September with the sinking of the test well Pearl I within Sri Lanka's territorial waters has been temporarily halted after drilling reached a certain depth without striking oil, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation sources said on Wednesday. Five people including a schoolboy were killed when a CTB bus, allegedly driven by a conductor interdicted over a suspected ticket fraud, flattened three boutiques in Mattakuliya yesterday—*CDN*. Government's fifth budget yesterday

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ran into a storm of criticism; many pointed out that it had no answer to the problem of ballooning inflation and that even the proposed pay rise would in no way cushion the impact the increase in business Turnover Tax would have on the already soaring cost of living; N. U. Jayewardene, former Governor of the Central Bank, predicted that like the previous two budgets which ended up with huge unfinanced gaps in the middle of the financial year, this too would go off the rails unless efficient control of expenditure was maintained ensuring that adequate value was received on expenditure incurred. Two armed youth held up the Pallai Co-op society petrol shed early yesterday and robbed Rs. 7,359 from the manager—*SU*.



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

## November 8 - 14

### SOUTH ASIA

**INDIA:** Addressing the Congress of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome, Mrs. Gandhi said that it is difficult to eliminate poverty, malnutrition etc. until nations come to see themselves as belonging to one world. The IMF has decided to grant 5.8 billion dollars loan to India. In Rome Premier Indira Gandhi defended India's position on Afghanistan and accused the West of double talk. She also said that less affluent countries and their security problems and hence the need for defence build up. The "Mirage 2000" fighter bombers deal between France and India has not been decided upon. India appeared to feel the prices quoted for such planes were too high.

**PAKISTAN:** Several people were injured and properties damaged when street clashes occurred between Sunni and Shia factions of Islam in Karachi. Some Islamabad University Teachers and students were arrested for distributing a pamphlet "Jamhori Pakistan" (Democratic Pakistan). It espouses the affairs of ruling military junta.

### WEST ASIA

**IRAN:** According to London *Sunday Times* Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini may step



down giving his position to Ayatollah Hossein Montazeri. Teheran suggested that Afghanistan be turned into an Islamic Republic modelled on Iran: that Soviet troops should be replaced by an Islamic peace keeping force. The Left wing Mujahideen described such proposals as another means of 'exporting reaction to a neighbouring country under the guise of anti-imperialism' **SAUDI ARABIA:** Saudis will thwart any attempt to increase the price of oil before the end of 1982 by sharply increasing her oil production. Leaders of the Six Gulf states have declared support to Saudi Arabia's Middle East peace plan, agreed to establish an Economic Commission Market and offered to help end the war between Iran and Iraq. **LEBANON:** In order to prevent the illegal seaborne import of arms a special watchdogs commission will be appointed along the Lebanese coast. This was agreed between Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Syria and the top leaders of Lebanon. **ISRAEL:** Israel sources said that the US may lease the AWACS aircrafts before their sale takes place. Israel remained silent over the alleged violation of Saudi Arabia's air space by two Israeli fighters. Israelis were obviously annoyed over US response to Saudi Arabia's peace proposals. Besides intruding into Saudi Arabia's Air space, Israel has also threatened to take military action against the Syrian missiles in Lebanon and an alleged PLO build-up there. **EAST ASIA:** Peking attacked the US for its vacillation over Saudi Arabia's West Asian peace plan. Any hesitation on the part of the US would enhance the prospect of Russian influence in the region, charged *Xinhua*. Edward Luttwak of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies at George Town University has advocated that the US should supply arms to Taiwan. China has reacted sharply to it by saying that it would downgrade her relations with the US if Washington went ahead with the sale of advanced fighter planes to Taiwan. **SINGAPORE:** Singapore Airlines has become the envy of major international Airlines for its "discount fares". The West German government has threatened to restrict the SIA flights after December 1981. **BURMA** General San Yu was elected as President of Burma. **THAILAND:** The special UN team appointed to investigate the chemical warfare in Indo-China remains tightlipped.

## EUROPE

**UNITED KINGDOM:** As a protest against the London peace talks between Britain and Irish

Republic hundreds of Protestants occupied two villages. The Protestants in Northern Ireland fear that peace talks may eventually led to a merger with Roman Catholic Irish Republic. Britain's Ambassador to Lebanon Laird Roberts said that any further move on the Mid-East problem depends on the synthesis of Saudi Arabian and West European proposals. An opinion poll held by NOP revealed that the majority of Britons were opposed to the maintenance of US forces in Britain. They also feel that Reagan's policies made nuclear war more likely. Britain's Labour Party chief Michael Foot warned the Labour left-winger Tony Benn to observe collective responsibility or face the consequences. **SPAIN:** Spain will be formally invited to join the NATO in next spring. Spain will be the 16th member of NATO. **FRANCE:** US Acting Ambassador in France escaped an assassination attempt. US suspects Libyans were behind the assassination attempt. **WEST GERMANY:** Ecologists in West Germany were opposed to the extension of the Frankfurt Airport. They held violent demonstrations against a third runway being built as it would destroy precious woodland and create intolerable noise. **SOVIET UNION:** As a mark of protest against Soviet occupation of Afghanistan the Ambassadors of 13 Western countries boycotted the military parade held to make the annual celebrations of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. The Tass news agency attacked the Polish Solidarity Trade Union of using terrorist methods to enforce strikes against the government. Soviet Union bitterly attacked President Reagan's theory of limited nuclear warfare in Europe. It said that any idea of crossing the nuclear threshold to fire warning systems or explode small warheads in battle was extremely dangerous. **SWEDEN:** About 100 demonstrators marched to the Soviet Embassy in Stockholm to protest against the intrusion of Soviet submarine into the Swedish territorial waters.

## AFRICA

**EGYPT:** Four Lieutenant Colonels of a military unit to which Sadat's assassins belonged are to face a court martial on charges of negligence. President Mubarak told Parliament that he wished to concentrate more on economic development. American troops began arriving in Cairo to participate in the Bright Star 82 military manoeuvres. Twenty four people will go on trial for

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taking part in the assassination of President Anwar Sadat and most of the defendants faced death sentences. **SUDAN:** Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiry has dismissed his entire Cabinet for its incompetence to tackle the country's problems. **LIBYA:** Libyans staged a demonstration in Tripoli protesting against the US-Egypt military exercises.

## AMERICA

**UNITED STATES:** The US appears to be preparing for a limited nuclear war either in Europe, or Asia. It has already gone in search of 50,000 hospital beds for soldiers wounded in nuclear blasts. The Pentagon has so far found only 213 hospitals with 19,000 beds. US National Security Adviser Richard Allen criticised the West European critics who condemned the Reagan administration's policy to wards Moscow as disrupting NATO. President Reagan has reprimanded his Budget Director David Stockman for his critical remarks on his economic policies. Mr. Stockman told a reporter that the tax cuts were aimed at helping the rich. **UNITED NATIONS:** The UN Security Council has not decided on the nomination of a candidate to be the next UN Secretary-General. **CANADA:** Quebec did not agree to the constitutional settlement reached between Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau and Premiers of the Canada's nine provinces. Quebec's Premier Levesque still believes that he can carry his people for a "sovereign rights association" with Canada.



JOURNEY TO AFGHANISTAN—7

## The First Lunch

By S. P. Amarasingam

A little before 10 a.m., on the day of my arrival, on August 19, I was shown to my room at Kabul Hotel. I had a shower and decided to snatch a brief forty winks to get over jet fatigue and the lack of sleep the previous night. Lunch, I was told, was at 12 noon and that by time four other foreign journalists were expected to join us. I promised to be down at the lounge in time to meet the others, but I overslept. A tinkle on the phone awakened me and I rushed

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down. The Afghan friends who had met us at the airport were there in force together with two Japanese journalists, a West German and an Indian. With Saleh from Beirut, we were six. The introductions followed, and then began the process of getting to know each other. Two more were expected from Third World countries. But they did not make it. There were also three others from socialist countries, from Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, but they were staying elsewhere, but often joined us at meal times and participated in the programmes arranged for us. I shall write about the different members of our party of journalists and the way they reacted to men, matters and events in Afghanistan, as this story unfolds itself.

The menu was a curious mixture of Afghan, European and Indian cuisine. There was western style bread, but I liked the Afghan bread—there were different kinds—and enjoyed them to the last day. Rice is always a *pilau* or the Central Asian version of the *biryani*. There were a dozen people at the table at this first lunch. A tentative programme was outlined and we were asked for our suggestions. Some of us had individual requests. I, for instance, wanted to visit a functioning Hindu temple. I was told that there were at least three in reasonable close proximity to the Hotel. On the official programme there were trips to Mazare Sharief in the North, Nangahar and Jalalabad, but there was an element of uncertainty because of the time factor. We could not spare more than ten or twelve days and many of us were more keen about meeting leaders and technocrats in key positions than in fleeting visits to other towns. We also wanted to spend a little time at the University, and though it was closed for the Summer vacation, we were told it was possible to meet members of the staff in the campus. Only one of our party, an elderly Japanese journalist, stayed on after we left, to visit Kandahar and other places. He could spare the time. But more than anything else I wanted to contact my friend Dr. C. Perumal Pillai, FAO project Manager, as early as possible. He had asked me to visit Kabul many times during the last two years. I did not send him a cable before I left Colombo because I had thought there would be no difficulty in contacting him on arrival. But I did not have his residential address, nor his telephone number. I only knew his official address. Everybody



knew he was in Kabul, but being a holiday there was no way of asking his office for his address. Even the *Kabul New Times* was closed. I had a friend in the paper who knew Dr. Pillai, but I could not reach him. It was only when the offices opened on Saturday that I was able to get a message across to Dr. Pillai and he immediately came round to see me. Only that morning (Saturday), he said, his daughter Usha and her husband had left for Australia, and his younger son to London. They had spent nearly a month there. He was disappointed that it was not able to meet them.

At this first lunch we plunged into an animated discussion about the situation in Afghanistan. The Indian journalist Kumar and Saleh from Beirut had been to Afghanistan before and they told us what Kabul was like when they were there earlier. But the Japanese set the ball rolling on a question that kept cropping up right through our stay. It is one that has come up before and after my journey to Afghanistan. Takeo Amatatsu, from Japan who spoke English fairly well told us about the kind of news that was purveyed in Japan about Afghanistan. A few days before he left, the US Embassy in Tokyo had circulated a report on the situation in Afghanistan. It was entitled *Recent Developments in Afghanistan After Eighteen Months of Soviet occupation*. It was issued on August 11, 1981 by the Press office of the International Communication Agency of the American Embassy. I will come back to this report later, but the question that crystallised itself at this lunch was whether it was true that the Soviet Union, as alleged by the West, had "invaded" Afghanistan and was engaged in the suppression of the rights of an independent nation. We discussed this matter for nearly 2½ hours that afternoon over many cups of tea (and coffee) and on several occasions thereafter. I have also personally discussed this matter with Afghan officials, with fellow journalists and with all others I met. I discussed this same question at the home of my friend Dr. Pillai and also at the houses of his friends where I was invited for drinks or a meal.

What are the "facts" about this "invasion"? The first announcement of the Babrak Karmal coup was made on Radio Kabul at 7.45 p.m. on the evening of December 27, 1978 which said that the dictatorial regime of Hafizullah Amin had been overthrown

and that Mr. Babrak Karmal had been appointed as Prime Minister by the Revolutionary Council, the legitimate successor of the revolution of April 1978. Kabul Radio also announced that Amin had been guilty of crimes against the Afghan people and had been executed by a decision of the Revolutionary Court. I have read a great deal about the events of December 27, 1979 and the period immediately after in all the contemporary journals and publications I could lay my hands on. I am yet to come across hard evidence to show that the Soviet Union had any hand in either the coup or the execution. There have been only inferences, deductions, unilateral assertions and gossip. It is interesting to recall that *The Times* (London) of December 28 published a report from Kabul that: "In spite of the unusually speedy announcement, there is no evidence that the Soviet Union engineered the reported coup against President Amin but it can only be pleased with his overthrow".

On December 28, Radio Kabul transmitted a statement by the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan that in view of the continuing and expanding interference and provocations by external enemies of Afghanistan and with a view to defending the gains of the April Revolution, it had approached the Soviet Union with the "insistent request that it give urgent political, moral and economic aid including military aid", in terms of the treaty of friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation signed between the two countries on December 5, 1978. At that time the President of Afghanistan was Mohammed Taraki, who had become head of state after the April 1978 revolution which overthrew the regime of President Daoud. President Taraki was assassinated by Amin in a palace shoot-out on September 14, 1979. Article IV of the Soviet-Afghan Treaty reads: "According to the spirit of the traditional of friendship and good neighbourliness as well as the United Nations Charter, the parties to the treaty will be consulting each other and with mutual consent will be taking appropriate measures to ensure the security, independence and territorial integrity of both countries. In the interests of reinforcing defence potentials of the parties, they will continue developing cooperation in the military sphere". The Afghan government announced that "the government of the Soviet Union has met the request of the Afghan side". It is also known that Taraki and Amin

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had made the request for massive Soviet military assistance 14 times, but the Soviet Union finally acceded to it on December 27, 1979. It is also admitted that one reason which had made the Soviet Union to move its troops into Afghanistan at that time was the information that Pakistan and other foreign interventionists had decided to stage an Islamic fundamentalist right-wing coup in Kabul on December 29, 1979. Soviet intervention, however much one may regret the need for it, was certainly not unlawful. It acted in terms of Treaty obligations. But more than that it was also in the USSR's national security interests to prevent the setting up of an anti-Soviet government in Kabul. I will deal with aspect later.

On January 2, the *London Times* totally ignoring its own report from Kabul of a few days earlier (December 28 reproduced above) now set the tone for what was to come: "The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has rung alarm bells in the capitals of NATO Pakistan, India, China, Iran and many other countries . . . . . The Soviet Union has committed an act of unprovoked aggression against a sovereign country outside its own alliance". This comment originated in its London office. "Was it an 'invasion'?", I asked many in Kabul and the replies I got from official sources can be summed up thus: If the Soviet presence in Afghanistan constituted an "invasion" where is the evidence of the opposition of the "oppressed" nation? The Afghan government then and now is cooperating everywhere with the Soviet Union, A mere puppet government could not last long in a hostile atmosphere with so much arms in the hands of the Afghans, and despite frantic attempts to uncover areas of conflict, the foreign pressmen who swarmed all over Afghanistan in the wake of the "invasion" could produce no evidence of clashes or disagreement between the Soviet and Afghan forces. There was no Afghan "government" underground, no Afghan "Government" in exile (though it would not be beyond the capacity of the imperialists to concoct one). On January 9, 1980, the *Times* correspondent in Kabul, who was able to move about the country pretty freely admitted in some astonishment: "It is clear that the Afghan army—far from rebelling en masse against the Russians as opposition sources in Peshawar have been claiming—are for most part assisting the Soviet forces". Fisk, a foreign journalist had reported that "such fighting tha

still goes on appears to be centred on Jalalabad" though he confessed "it is impossible to know where the weight of Russian armour is concentrated". But on January 13, 1980 Philip Jacobson, reporting in the *Observer* from inside Afghanistan stated: "There is a large military hospital at Jalalabad, but nobody in the city has seen any Russian casualties. It is, in fact, difficult to find anyone in Jalalabad itself who has laid eyes on a single Russian soldier dead or alive. They have never left the base since their arrival, it appears. . . . A few minutes in the teeming bazaars is enough to establish that earlier reports of stern fighting inside Jalalabad, of heavy casualties and a terrified population were rubbish. Not a shot had been fired yet to disrupt the serious business of making money. . . . There is nothing to support insurgent claims that the Russians have completely disarmed the Afghan army in the area around Jalalabad. Afghan troops with AK-47 rifles are on duty—if that is the right phrase for dozing on a chair in the sun—at bridges strategic crossroads and petrol stations." Ian Mather reported from Kabul in the *Observer* on January 20, 1980. "Stories from rebel sources of major clashes producing heavy Russian casualties appear to range from the exaggerated to the fictitious. On a road journey from Kandahar in Southern Afghanistan to Kabul I saw little evidence of fighting apart from isolated sniping. The American Embassy here, too, has been feeding wildly inaccurate information to American journalists, exaggerating the numbers of Russian troops in the country, the number of Russians killed and the extent of engagements".

Nearly one month after the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan in response to the government's request, the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*: Clarke reported from Kabul (January 22, 1980). "From the Pakistan border to Kabul. Afghanistan was yesterday a land apparently at peace. The fierce fighting, helicopter gunships, bands of guerrillas in the mountains, of which certain sources have spoken so convincingly, were not in evidence. Nor were the columns of fleeing refugees. . . . The departure of American journalists has been accompanied by a sharp drop in the stories of armed clashes and murderous incidents, usually attributed to 'diplomatic sources' . . . ." So the whole story of the "invasion" and "suppression" of Afghanistan would



appear to be nothing more than an Western propaganda exercise, part of a continuing conspiracy against any movement for social change and emancipation. There is ample evidence that Western imperialism claims to be a self-appointed world gendarme and proscribes all social change anywhere in the world. Any such change or revolution is branded as "soviet expansionism" and the West is trigger ready to intervene to destroy it. But the terrifying economic crisis the world is undergoing today will unavoidably trigger off revolutions and the deep social changes in one country after another. Revolutions and social changes have existed ever since the history of man began and all the wealth and arms of the rich imperialist countries cannot prevent them.

Though many people the world over have begun to realise that the Afghan problem cannot be oversimplified into a simple question of "invasion", western propaganda continues to insist even to this day that it was an "invasion" because according to them Amin had not asked Moscow to send the troops and that the Soviet Union has acted unilaterally to "invade" Afghanistan, kill Amin and instal Babrak Karmal. Amin is dead but many who had worked with him are still alive. This is one matter I questioned a number of people who were in Kabul during the last days of Amin—in the government and outside. Every body said that Amin was universally hated: that he was only another Pol Pot. Just as some countries have now adopted Pol Pot as the new saviour of Kampuchea, the same countries are shedding crocodile tears for Amin.

I was told that official records exist to show that Amin had asked for massive Soviet military presence even after he had killed Taraki and that the last request was made on December 11, 1979. I was also told that Amin's ruthlessness and anti-religious ferocity had played into the hands of counter-revolutionary Islamic fundamentalist forces based in Pakistan and that he had to be removed if the Revolution had to be saved. And this was done. The Soviet Union was then willing to help the Afghan Government under Babrak Karmal with an increased military presence knowing fully well that such assistance would bring far-reaching and fateful international repercussions. Moreover, the Soviet union could take no chances with a country that was on its southern

doorstep in a most strategic location. Moscow has now faced boycotts, embargo and a barrage of hostile propaganda. The Western powers, China and some Islamic nations regularly mobilise countries in the United Nations within their "aid orbits" to pass resolutions to condemn the Soviet Union for its action in Afghanistan. These resolutions have become as meaningless as those which kept People's China out of the United Nations for over 20 years. Resolutions asking Israel to quit Arab lands it had actually conquered and later illegally annexed and occupied with settlers have become a joke. And, it is amusing, if not ludicrous, to see the US and other western powers condemn Islamic fundamentalists in Iran and Egypt while supporting them in Afghanistan.

About the intervention from outside against the Afghan government, there was surprisingly, truthful reporting in the early days. As early as February 2, 1979, the *Washington Post* correspondent described the training of guerillas in Pakistan "to oust the Afghan Government". During the year repeated efforts were made to destabilise the new regime, and press reports became more frequent. Here are some examples: "Pakistan has received the backing of China and the United States. The Afghan rebels have been trained and armed inside Pakistan, and no reprisals made by Moscow" (*Christian Science Monitor*, August 9, 1979) "In Peshawar (Pakistan) it is possible to meet some of the leaders of the Afghan rebels". (*Observer*, November 11, 1979). "A short distance from Peshawar, on the road that runs west to the Khyber Pass and Afghanistan, stands a modest house guarded by two Afghan tribesmen.... The house is the headquarters of the Afghanistan National Liberation Front, which its leaders say is dedicated to establishing a fundamentalist Islamic state. The ANLF is not the only insurgent group with headquarters in Peshawar.... There have been numerous alliances in the past year involving leaders of the six exile groups in Peshawar" (*Times*, November 20, 1979). On December 30, 1979, a *Times* message from the Pakistan capital of Islamabad admitted that the raiders received funds "from supporters in the Gulf States, and other Arab countries". "Reports from Pakistan suggest that China is arming resistance groups in Afghanistan, presumably with Pakistan

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complicity", (*Daily Telegraph*, January 5, 1980). "Early last year, when the guerrilla campaign was in its infancy, regular units of the Pakistani armed forces took part in cross-border raids. From that time other opponents of the Afghan government supplied material aid to the rebels: Saudi Arabia, Iran and Kuwait provided financial aid, and China, a long term military ally of Pakistan, provided arms to the guerrillas as well as sending instructors to Afghan rebel bases in Miranshah and Chitral", (Fred Halliday in *Labour Weekly*, January 11, 1980).

But, beginning with 1980, a major campaign was launched to destroy the Revolution in Afghanistan under cover of fighting "Soviet expansionism". So massive has this propaganda become that it is difficult to get a message about Afghanistan even to a Sri Lankan reader, or a reader anywhere within reach of Western propaganda. The Sri Lankan media, as also that of many other third world countries, is so saturated by the transnational news agencies that the readers, most of them at any rate, have already had a distorted picture. Media, print or electronic can play havoc with human responses. For years it has become a tool of the West's psychological warfare against liberation movements and the demand for an independent economy in the third world countries.

It would be useful to recall a classic case where Prince Sihanouk was the victim, and which paved the way for his being thrown out of Kampuchea. The year was 1970. The Americans were desperate in Vietnam. Vietnamese heroism was more than a match for B-52s. The Ho Chi-Minh trail, which passed through Kampuchea, was carrying Vietnamese supplies despite the heavy battering it received from the air. And the air space over Indo-China those days was under the exclusive control of the Americans. Washington then decided to resort to desperate remedies. The trail had to be cut in Kampuchea. But Sihanouk, though a friend of the US, was helping the Vietnamese possibly for fear of retaliation. So it was decided to depose him. His loyal subjects had to be mentally prepared to throw him out. And then it happened that the Kampuchians began to hear broadcasts by their dear prince. He was exhorting the womenfolk to go to bed with Vietnamese soldiers. They were aghast, but then it was his voice, there was no mistaking about it. Nixon scored: Sihanouk was overthrown in 1979 and replaced by a stooge, Lol Non. It was only years later that Jack Anderson revealed the real truth in his *Pentagon Papers*. The CIA was able to manufacture the exact voice of Prince Sihanouk. And the dirty message was fitted in. And the tape was played, day and night, from a clandestine transmitter located in Thailand.

I recall this episode to underline the difficulty about writing on Afghanistan. It may be many years before stories to denigrate the Babrak Karmal government will be shown up as fabrications in the same way the Sihanouk story was exposed. But neither the clandestine radio station nor any other device was of any avail to the US Ambassador in Saigon who had no other alternative but to take off in a hurry in a helicopter. Yes, ultimately the truth prevailed in Vietnam, and surely one can not rule out its triumph eventually in Afghanistan also, whatever the temporary difficulties that beset the Saur Revolution that shook that country to its very roots in 1978 and is bringing a new Afghanistan into being.

To be continued...

To be continued...



A NOTE ABOUT

## Krishnamurti

By Narada De Silva

A Krishnamurti Centre will shortly be opened in Sri Lanka. We publish a note about him sent to us shortly after his last visit.

KRISHNAMURTI'S VISIT to Sri Lanka last November created a great deal of interest and it is useful to try to assess his impact here. In so doing we would, I think, be able to understand a little better a powerful tendency of our time namely the widespread interest in mysticism. This manifests in many forms—a devotion to cults of eastern, mainly Indian origin, the practice of individualistic forms of Christian



mysticism and within the church, the Pentecostal movement. All these are attempts to get back to experience, to the experience of God as opposed to mere discourse about him or the performance of ritual.

There were large crowds at Krishnamurti's talks and they were there right up to his fourth and final talk and they were there right up to his fourth and final talk. This was a tribute as much to the man as to his ideas: they were acclaiming not merely another celebrity but a celebrity of a particular kind namely a *guru*. We in the east have a special admiration for the *guru*, the wise man, the man who has experienced the truth in his life and speaks from experience as opposed to the expert (or resource person as he is now called) who is a mere expositor of ideas. One listens to the *guru* with a particular kind of attention, in a total engagement of personality. Those unused to or incapable of this mode of discourse would find the whole exercise irritating and even fraudulent (Dr. Carlo Fonseka in Radio Discussion 2) But it was for this that the crowds came and they were amply satisfied with Krishnamurti, and whatever the worth of his ideas, is very much in line with this great oriental tradition.

THE POPULAR RESPONSE then was at this uncritical level. But what was his impact on the intelligentsia? On the radical section (which is the dominant section here) it was nil. This could be inferred from the exchanges between Dr. Carlo Fonseka, a leading rationalist and radical, and Dr. Adikaram in the two panel discussions over the radio. (There was also the silence of the radical press on Krishnamurti). Dr. Fonseka asked Dr. Adikaram what Krishnamurti had to say on the global problems of today—injustice and deprivation in the Third World, the arms race etc. These problems are the pre-occupation of thinking people and what is Krishnamurti's contribution to their solution? "Think correctly" was Dr. Adikaram's answer. "Krishnamurti wants us to think correctly. Our thought is so obscured by tradition and habit that we do not see reality. Rid your minds of these veils that come between you and reality and then you can see the truth. A mind thus liberated can act effectively in the world and solve its problems". This answer did not seem to satisfy Dr. Fonseka or the panel because the discussion sagged after that and ended quickly.

At the second radio discussion Dr. Fonseka took issue with Dr. Adikaram on the question of attention. Krishnamurti said Dr. Adikaram wants a particular kind of attention; the mind has to put aside all ideas and images, create a kind of *tabula rasa* within if it is to receive the truth. This, according to Dr. Fonseka, is an impossibility. When I listen to something I always relate it to what I already know, I weigh and measure it with reference to my earlier experiences. It is impossible to put aside these. But on closer examination this is not always so. Even in scientific research there are occasions when the investigator confronts a mass of data with a blank mind not knowing what interpretation to put on it. They do not fit in with accepted theory so he has to reject them and it is just his blank self and the data until a coherence emerges. Or in poetic appreciation when we disagree with the content of a poem although we appreciate its beauty, there is a suspension of disbelief and the mind receives the poem without cognitive interference. (Great poetry, Eliot said, can communicate before it is understood). So the process of understanding which relate what is received to what is already existing in the mind, is only one mode of activity, and not the most complex one. In the apprehension of religious truth which involves sensible and supra-sensible data, immanence and transcendence, the mind must be both active and passive, approximating even at times to the blankness of mind recommended by Krishnamurti. What this debate showed, however, was the gap between the secularized mind, the mind that works within a limited reality and the religious.

WHAT WAS HIS IMPACT on the religious? There are many today (and they are not all Christians) who are dissatisfied with traditional religion. They find it too formalised and are looking for a more personal and satisfying religion. Some find it in the pop cults of our times like the Guru Maharaji and Hare Krishna movements which promise an instant satisfaction; others fashion a Christianity of their own which bears no relation to orthodoxy; and still others experiment with novel forms like pentecostalism. For people like these who are looking more for psychological rather than spiritual satisfaction, Krishnamurti is particularly attractive with his insistence on spontaneity and rejection of tradition. But what was his impact on the more serious-minded?

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They were puzzled. Was he not enunciating ideas which we already knew, ideas which are there in the established religions? (The second radio discussion brought this out with reference to Buddhism). The essence of Krishnamurti's doctrine is the creation of a tabula rasa within the mind so that it would be ready to receive reality. Is this not the form of the mystical life under any tradition? It is for instance the doctrine of St. John of the Cross—the *via negativae*, the way of darkness, the intuition of pure being through an emptying of the self.

*"To arrive where you are, to get from where you are not  
You must go by a way wherein there is no ecstasy.  
In order to arrive at what you do not know  
You must go by a way which is the way of*

*ignorance"*

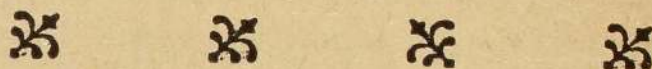
(Eliot)

WE GET THE SAME thoughts echoed in other religious traditions too. But traditional religion in its wisdom did not offer this life to the ordinary man. It knew that this was beyond his capacity. Such a life was reserved for the mystics, those special people rare in any society with a capacity for contemplation. For the rest it was "prayer, observance, thought, discipline and action". This is a distinction that Krishnamurti does not make. He presents the methodology of the mystical life with an amplitude of detail to be found nowhere else perhaps; but the elementary caution that this is not within the capacity of the ordinary man, is not made. Hence two things could be observed in his philosophy. Firstly its contradictions. A young man approached him once and asked him "Why should one not take drugs, you apparently seem to be against it. How can you condemn them not having taken them? to which Krishnamurti replied "Must one get drunk to know what sobriety is". This flies in the face of a central tenet of Krishnamurti's philosophy which is the need to experience a thing in its purity before one can pronounce on it. Any notion of sobriety without an experience of drunkenness would be on a priority judgement. This would apply to every other aspect of reality and the mind boggles at the prospect to society if people really followed him.

Secondly, the impracticality of his philosophy at the level of ordinary living. He admitted to Mr. TRIBUNE, November 28, 1981

Stanley Jayaweera (Radio discussion 2) that in all his fifty years of lecturing and counselling he has not produced one (and he emphasised this point) not one person who has realised his doctrine. This too is a logical consequence of his philosophy. He has put forward ideas which are to be found in the mystical traditions of all the established religions. His only originality lies in confusing two realms—the mystical and the ordinary sensible, which have been traditionally kept apart, and thus offering to ordinary people the chimera of a spiritual enlightenment which can never be realised.

15/5 Albert Perera Avenue,  
Nugegoda  
20.3.81.



AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

## In Sri Lanka-2

By Nissanka Seneviratne

Much had been achieved in agricultural research in Sri Lanka—although this is a fraction of what might have been achieved. Yet, much remains to be done, for in Sri Lanka more than 50% of her people are engaged in pursuits related to agriculture; agriculture accounts for a third of her gross domestic product and more than three fourth of her export earnings. Many wounds have been inflicted on the research structure and its personnel; research has not received the priority it deserves; the development of a strong and self-reliant national capability in research has been stunted and suppressed. In March 1980, the National Science Council of Sri Lanka organised a workshop to examine the question of establishing an Agricultural Research Council. This paper entitled "An Agricultural Research Council. —Some Notes" was prepared for the workshop by Dr. S. N. de S. Seneviratne, Plant Pathologist, Central Agricultural Research Institute, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya.



**THE ROLE OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL:** Given the situation outlined above, there is a case for the establishment of a body at a national level which transcends ministerial and departmental borders, able to view the overall situation objectively and to make decisions impartially. It will be involved in influencing policies, in planning and organising programmes and projects, in ensuring their successful execution and in their evaluation. This body, conceived as the Agricultural Research Council, can serve the above purposes ONLY if it is constituted of persons of vision, integrity and competence. One more council or board composed of globe trotting commissars or one more secretariat packed with insensitive bureaucrats will mean only one more millstone hung round the country's neck. The composition of the proposed ARC, if it is to serve a useful purpose, is absolutely vital. Its members must, above all, command the respect of the agricultural research community and inspire confidence. Therefore, they must be persons of high integrity and proven intellectual ability, able to make decisions objectively and judgements fairly; they must be knowledgeable about matters relating to agricultural development in this country and appreciative of the character and needs of research; they must not be persons who can accomplish virtually nothing without doing a trip abroad or without seeking advice from a foreign expert; they must not be businessmen promoting family and sectarian interests. They need not necessarily be persons occupying "positions" or holding grand titles. After all, a University Professor today may have hardly any academic attainments or professional achievements to inspire confidence; and the sub-species of "Directors" is increasing at a rate akin to that of tour operators—their credentials are questionable. The membership of the ARC also ought to include representatives with management and administrative skills.

**THE STRUCTURE OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL:** In his inaugural address to the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science in 1978, President Jayewardene enunciated the Government's policy "to involve scientists in the formulation of policy and in decision-making at the highest levels". A competent national body such as the ARC can serve as a very effective instrument in implementing that policy. The ARC must be adequately informed about matters concerning the

various national institutions and departments engaged in agricultural research—the TRI, RRI, CRI, Department of Agriculture, Department of Minor Export Crops, etc. It must also involve scientists, especially those actively engaged in research, in the decision making processes, these objectives can be realised if the ARC is structured to contain three components as follows:

- (1) *The Executive Body*—This will be composed of men of vision, integrity and competence, knowledgeable in matters relating to agricultural development and appreciative of the character and needs of research. It could consist of, say ten members with not less than seven scientists, the remainder to be drawn from specialists in management and finance.
- (2) *The Advisory Group.* This will consist of the Directors of the research institutes, (TRI, RRI, and CRI) and the Directors of Government Departments in which research is carried out (Department of Agriculture, Department of Minor Export Crops) and the Heads of the Research Division of each of these Institutes and Departments.
- (3) *The Panel of Scientists*—In this panel should be included all active scientists have a recognized post-graduate qualification and a minimum of ten years service in active research. They will provide the specialist opinion at the request of the ARC in different disciplines for shaping policies and influencing decisions in matters relating to their particular disciplines recognising the fact that a variety of specialities are involved in agricultural research.

**THE SCOPE OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL:** The scope of the ARC, for the present at any rate, should be confined to the area of experimental research, investigational and interpretative work relating to agriculture. Such areas as agrarian research and fisheries are excluded. The inclusion of animal husbandry within the scope of the ARC is desirable because of the close relationship between crop husbandry and animal husbandry in the local situation; also, forestry which is closely linked to soil conservation, land use and water management which ought to be considered within the framework of the national agricultural research system.

**FUNCTIONS OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL:** Among the functions

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to be performed by the ARC, the following are the more important: (1) The formulation and evaluation of policies relating to agricultural research in response to Government imperatives with the participation of the most informed personnel on the subject as appropriate; (2) The identification and classification of research programmes and projects and the determination of priorities. A scheme whereby programmes and projects can be formulated by the respective Institutes and Departments has been worked out for the Department of Agriculture. Other schemes, as appropriate, can be worked out by other Institutes and Departments. The programmes and projects of the various Institutes and Departments should be submitted to the ARC which will make the decisions, with the advice of and in consultation with the Advisory group and the Panel of Scientists; (3) The co-ordination of inter-departmental and inter-institute activities where the participation of different Departments and Institutes may be necessary for the execution of particular programmes with specific objectives; (4) The evaluation and review of research and the publication of periodic reports and technical communications; (5) the disbursements of funds to support agricultural research. Funds required for research should be budgeted for separately by the various Institutes and Departments and a consolidated Budget prepared by the ARC. The ARC will be responsible for the disbursement of the funds provided; (6) The recruitment of staff for agricultural research; (7) The ARC will be the authority in matters relating to the training of scientific staff for research, the selection of candidates for the award of fellowships and the selection of candidates for programmes abroad; (8) The ARC will be the authority determining the need for securing the services of foreign "experts" and in approving nominees in response to requests made; (9) the ARC will serve as a body to which representations can be made by scientists in matters governing their performance, working conditions etc. individually or collectively; (10) the ARC will play a leading role in securing for research personnel 'good conditions of service' as enunciated in the Science and Technology Policy statement by President Jayewardene.

**The placement of the Agricultural Research Council : The ARC should preferably function under the President, Initially, it may be linked to the National Science Council of Sri Lanka**

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FOR THE RECORD

## Budget Proposals

**TO INCREASE INCOME\*** payment of a new cost of living allowance to public servants and pensioners. Allowances for November 1981 will be Rs. 62 : \*Implementation of salaries Review Committee recommendations from January 1982. Minimum wage increase will be Rs. 45/- \*Increase in floor prices of subsidiary food crops.

**BOOST FOR TEA, RUBBER, COCONUT.** \*Reduction of export duty on tea : \*Revision of ad valorem sales tax on tea; \*Increase in tea replanting subsidies \*Increase in rubber replanting and new planting subsidies; \*Introduction of sliding scale of export duties on coconut products; \*Removal of export duty on mattress (twisted) fibre.

**SURCHARGE ON TAXES.** \*Increase in subsidies for new planting, replanting and under-planting of coconut land; \*Extension of fertilizer credit scheme to tea and rubber; \*Imposition of surcharge on income tax and wealth tax; \*Cut-off date for tax holiday approvals; \*Removal of income tax exemption of foreign contractors; \*Normal company rate of income tax to apply to small companies having taxable incomes over Rs. 250,000; \*33 1/3 per cent withholding tax on foreign entertainers and artistes; \*15 percent tax as final levy on interest received on withdrawals or maturity under Minor's Extended Deposit Schemes; \*10 per cent tax as final levy on interest on land Reform Compensation.

**NRFC EXEMPTIONS.** \*Exemption of interest on NRFC Accounts for a further period of 3 years after account holder becomes resident; \*Exemption of earnings abroad by resident companies and partnerships if the profits are remitted to Sri Lanka; \*Introduction of a three-tier tax rate structure of 2 per cent 5 percent and 10 per cent for imports and for manufacturing business.

**TURNOVER TAX UP.** \*Increase in turnover tax on finance companies from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. Tax restricted to income receipts; \*Increase of turnover tax on pawn-brokers from 2 per cent to 5 per cent. Tax restricted to income receipts. \*Increase in turnover tax on the advertising receipts of news papers and periodicals from 5 per cent to 10 per cent; \*Increase in turnover tax on contractors from 2 per cent to 3 per cent. \*Increase in turnover tax on architects and building consultants from 5 per cent to 10 per cent; \*Increase in turnover tax on approved restaurants from 2 per cent to 10 per cent; \*Increase in turnover tax on hotels from 15 per cent to 20 per cent from 1.4.1982; \*Increase in price of arrack ranging from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10 per bottle; \*Increase in price of cigarettes by 5 cents; \*Imposition of Excise Duty on beedies from 1.1.82. \*Reduc-



tion in price of beer by Rs. 3 per bottle; \*Imposition of a stamp duty in addition to the present licence fees on liquor shops and "beema sala was".

HIGHER DUTY ON CHEQUES. \*Stamp duty on cheques to be increased from 10 cents to 25 cents. \*Increase of fees for new and annual registration of Nursing Homes; \*Revisions of fees levied by Government Departments; \*Revision of licence, registration and transfer fee on motor vehicles;; Enhanced charitable allowances to the poor and disabled.

*Ceylon Daily News, 13.11.1981.*



SOUTH ASIA

## Regional Co-operation

*New Delhi, Nov. 14:* Seven South Asian countries, despite mutual tensions and suspicions, are moving towards regional cooperation. One considered a logical response to development in the region, cooperation was the theme of a meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal last week. The Foreign Secretaries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives reaffirmed their previous declaration that regional cooperation in South Asia is, "beneficial, desirable and necessary". Progress has been made since the first meeting of the seven nations early this year. In Colombo, Sri Lanka, Foreign Ministers found it difficult to even agree on what areas of cooperation to discuss. Much has been accomplished this time. While maintaining working groups formed at the Colombo Conference, the officials have decided to add postal services, science and technology, and transport to their agenda. Short term programmes, such as training and exchange of experts, reportedly could start immediately; pending the creation of an institutional set-up, many projects could be implemented through such UN bodies as The Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) or the UN Development Programme (UNDP), it was suggested.

Some 13 projects have been identified and foreign secretaries are now working out financial and administrative details to enable their launch. Progress towards cooperation has been cautious, not

least because perceptions of security and strategic matters vary. There are fears of one country dominating the other, and manipulation by the superpowers, but as the records of the two meetings show, participants have scrupulously avoided raising potentially volatile issues. In addition to psychological and political barriers, each country's approach to regional cooperation is guided by different needs. Pakistan voiced its support in many areas where it has previously held strong reservations. Indo-Pakistani trade, however, continues to be restricted despite complementary economies and immense potential for expanded bilateral trade. Bangladesh and India also continue to have trade problems. At a transportation meeting last week India presented a draft agreement on road transport, and a new protocol on inland transport is expected to be finalized soon, which analysts view as hopeful. The meeting with India was held on the eve of Bangladesh's general elections, demonstrating the latter's commitment to improve Indo-Bangladeshi relations. Container-handling facilities at Chittagong Port are being considered by Bangladesh to open trade with India.

Foreign Ministers from the seven nations are scheduled to meet in Dacca, Bangladesh next year to approve a cooperation plan, and the Foreign Secretaries plan to meet again in April in Pakistan or Maldives. Indian Foreign Minister P. V. Narasimha will pay an official visit to Kathmandu on November 27, and some multilateral issues may be discussed. All the members of the EMPRYO Pact seem convinced that if resources and expertise are pooled, South Asia could enjoy a major development boost. Although progress is slow, the doors are now open and a heads of state summit, as proposed by Bangladesh, may one day be held. /PS—Lankapuwath.

MIDDLE EAST

## Smelling of Gunpowder

*Beirut, November 12:* The Middle East is again smelling of gun powder. Having violated the elementary standard of international law, Israeli planes invaded the air space of Saudi Arabia. Yet another Arab country has found itself in the sights of aggressors from Tel Aviv. The recent aggression against Lebanon began in precisely the same way. Everyone also



remembers the recent Israeli raid on the outskirts of Baghdad. And the other day the Israeli Defence Minister, Ariel Sharon, renewed his threats to "undertake armed action" against Syrians and Palestinians. The outburst of Tel Aviv's aggressiveness not accidentally coincided with the building up of the US military presence in the Middle East. The Pentagon has only just started its major military exercises in the region, which involve crack units of the "Rapid Deployment Force" supported by US air and naval forces. The exercises are being conducted in the territories of Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman. In the course of the manoeuvres the "green berets", together with troops of those countries, will practice offensive operations including capturing "certain targets", landing parties, making practice bombing and engaging in street fighting.

The Pentagon's war games are code-named Bright Star. It is indeed under the military star that the USA is trying to form a "multinational force" for Sinai with the participation of its West European allies, demanding that they give unqualified support to the abortive Camp David diplomacy. Even their timid refusal to follow that course without reserve was met with a rude shout from Washington and hysterical reaction in Tel Aviv. Israeli military blackmail against Riyadh followed in exactly the same way as soon as Saudi Arabia came forward with its own peace initiative, which Tel Aviv rejects. The gross violation of Saudi Arabia's air space shows that American military deliveries, notably the wellknown deal to sell AWACS aircraft, have nothing to do with its security and that the country is being assigned a secondary and subordinate role in the so-called "strategic alliance" being planned by Washington.

The latest developments in the Middle East give rise to anxiety. Instead of promoting detente, the USA and its Israeli accomplices are pushing the region's countries to an arms race; instead of achieving a peaceful settlement they are trying to establish their military domination.

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### Jaffna Sports Stadium

Sir,

When I was Superintendent of Police, Northern Province, a Public Committee convened under my chairmanship that did the spade work, collected the necessary funds and completed the Jaffna Sports Stadium. The credit for this formidable task must go

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primarily to the public of Jaffna who were more than lavish in promoting this praiseworthy scheme and helping to bring it in to being. This stadium was built for the present and past generations of Sportsmen of the North, for whose benefit this project was primarily intended. I may mention that the late Mr. A. S. Mariyanayagam, who was then Asst. Supdt. of Police, Jaffna and Mr. P. A. Pragasam, who was the Manager of Lake House Branch, Jaffna, were a great asset to me in collecting the necessary funds. If not for their assistance this scheme might not have materialized.

After I left Jaffna on transfer the completed Stadium was handed over to the Municipal Council by the Stadium Committee as it found it difficult to maintain it. This would never have happened had I continued to be in Jaffna. The late Mr. Alfred Duraiappa, who was subsequently elected the Mayor of Jaffna named the Stadium after his name. He was only a member of the Stadium Committee that assisted me and at no time did he function as the President of the Stadium Committee after I vacated the post. For these reasons I am not happy with the present name, I have no doubt that the public Jaffna appreciates what I have done and the Municipal Council would consider changing the name and give it a suitable name appropriate for the peninsula

18, Ridgewood street,  
Underwood,  
OLD. 4117, Australia.  
18. 11. 81.

JACK VAN SANDEN  
Retired D. I. S. Police

### ISRAEL

Sir,

I was in Israel a few weeks ago, and I think that this country should be taken as an example for all developing countries for hard work, dedication, labour and patriotism. The sooner diplomatic relations our country had with Israel before 1970 are restored the better for our country and our people. The experts in that country in all fields and scientific technology will be of immense value to solve the economic problems we are faced with. The David Ben Gurion University which is situated in the Negev Desert, a barren wasteland, is to be turned into a very productive land with all types of fruit trees and other agricultural produce, including Jak trees. It is the only country in the world that is advanced in all fields, viz., agricultural, industrial and the art of self defence. They produce sophisticated weapons and sh.ps. Almost all houses are provided with solar energy. Israel is only one third the size of Sri Lanka with a population of 3.9 million. People and tourists and pilgrims from all countries flock to Israel to see the vast progress made in this country and Holy places and Biblical sites.

HENRY DIAS.

23, Mayfield Road,  
Colombo,  
11.11.81.



## U Know Who - 2

IS IT NOT A FACT that Finance Minister, Ronnie de Mel, in Parliament on November 3, 1981 gave a complete expose of the two companies now under investigation: (a) The Perak River Coconut Company Ltd., and (2) the lower Perak Coconut Company Ltd.? That the Minister said: "I have got information with regard to the annual income of each of the companies. The shareholders have shown me the accounts of these two companies, the published accounts of these two companies, and the profit and loss accounts. The annual income of each of the above companies was in the region of 800,000 Malaysian dollars at that time, in 1973, with prospects of a much larger income after that because cocoa and coconut prices were rising. In other words, this big Sri Lankan businessman was playing out the other Sri Lankan shareholders to the tune of 1,480,000 Malayan dollars a year in 1973. Now I understand the payout is of a much higher level because cocoa and coconut prices have risen. It is well over two million Malaysian dollars a year. He is playing out all the other Sri Lankan shareholders in this country. In between the above resolution, the resolution which he passed, he and his two stooges, and execution of the lease agreement a resolution was also passed at a purported—mark the word purported—extraordinary general meeting of Lower Perak Coconut Company Limited on August 31, 1973. According to the minority shareholders the meeting was never held. The minutes were fudged. The minute book was forged according to the minority shareholders. It is for the Minister and his officials to look into this. They passed a resolution at a purported extraordinary general meeting to purchase plant and machinery from a company in Sri Lanka called Upali Electronics Company"?

THAT MR. RONNIE DE MEL had then gone on to give more particulars about Upali Electronics? "It is a proprietary concern of this Sri Lankan businessman. I do not know what electronic equipment is needed for a coconut estate at Rs. 1,460,000. To this value, this Sri Lankan businessman, behind the backs of the ordinary shareholders was allotted 46,000 shares. Thus he obtained full controlling

interests in Lower Perak Coconut Company Limited. Simultaneously, the control of Perak River Coconut Limited, the other company, was obtained by exchange of share with Lower Perak Coconut Company Limited and Ceylon Chocolates Ltd., another proprietary concern of this businessman, in which this businessman already had controlling interest. It is well known in commercial circles, in the stock-market that the share value in Sri Lanka of these two companies, the Lower Perak Company and Perak River Company, had stood at Rs. 5 per 10 rupee share since 1973, compared to the value of Rs.40 in the case of similar Malaysian companies, which operate from Sri Lanka. In Malaysia so it is still higher. The dividend paid since 1973 has been 5 per cent a year or none at all, notwithstanding high coconut and cocoa prices as compared to 20 to 30 percent, in other similar Malaysian companies in Sri Lanka. The small shareholders who amounted to 60 percent in 1973 before the so-called purported increase of capital were reduced to a minority of 10 per cent or less after this fine interlocking exercise mentioned by me, mentioned by the shareholders, took place. Then another funny thing happened. There after the managing agency was taken from Gordon Frazer and handed over to Upali Management Services Limited, which is more or less 100 percent owned by this businessman. Upali Management Services Limited entered into what the shareholders called a questionable agreement with a Malaysian company also owned by this businessman for management assistance. Why? Fees and compensation were paid to this Malaysian company for management assistance at 480,000 Malaysian dollars a year, money taken from Sri Lankan and sent to Malaysia. Thereby Sri Lanka Government is also losing so much of tax and the poor shareholders are taken for a ride and played out for all their profits. So this is what has happened." That every body now wants to know now is what next.





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**MINISTRY OF MAHAWELI DEVELOPMENT**  
**MAHAWELI AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA**

**TENDER NOTICE**

**FABRICATION AND SUPPLY OF GATES AND  
TRASH RACKS FOR THE MINIPE ANICUT  
HEAD SLUICE AND SILT EJECTOR**

Tenders are hereby invited for the fabrication and supply of gates and trashracks for the Minipe Anicut Head Sluice and Silt Ejector.

The work envisaged in this tender is as follows :

- |       |  |           |
|-------|--|-----------|
| (i)   | 3.0 m x 2.75 m Slide Gates and Hoists  | — 06 Nos. |
| (ii)  | 3.0 m x 1.5 m Radical Gates and Hoists | — 02 Nos. |
| (iii) | 3.6 m x 1.55 m Trash Racks             | — 12 Nos. |

Reputed firms including joint venture organisations with substantial previous experience and adequate capacity will be eligible to tender for this work.

Tender documents will be available from 16th November 1981 at the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Construction) Mahaweli Development Board, No. 11, Jawatte Road, Colombo 5, during normal working hours.

A non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/- will be charged for one set of documents.

Tenders will be closed at the office of the undersigned at 10.00 a.m. on 1st Feb. 1982.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL,**

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

3rd November 1981.