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THE MORNING STAR

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RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

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JAFFNA DIOCESAN COUNCIL C. S. I.

At the annual session of the Jaffna Diocesan Council of the Church of South India held at Vaddukodai from the 5th to the 7th inst., the following decisions were taken:

1. An Industrial Board

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Council, based on the report of a sub-committee, the principle of integrating the work now carried on by the *Morning Star*, the Press, the Carpenter Workshop, and the Hand Work Centre, involving the appointment of a full-time paid Manager to be in charge of the work, it was also decided to set up a separate Board to be in charge of this work - now in the hands of three Standing Committees of the Council.

A notice of amendment to the Constitution, needed to establish the Board, was given to be brought up at the annual sessions of the Council next year.

In the meantime, the following were elected to constitute an Interim Industrial Board: The Bishop, the Manager (to be appointed by the Executive Committee), the Treasurer of the Council, the Minister of the *Morning Star*, the Rev. K. S. Jayasingam, Dr. W. L. Jayasingham, Messrs. L. P. Theodor, M. A. Balaraman, K. E. Jayaratnam, E. E. Jayaraj, C. E. Aandarasabai, and S. S. Selvaraj.

2. Ministerial Probationers

The following were accepted as Ministerial Probationers: Messrs. S. N. Sugumaranathan, and S. P. Arambajam. K. E. Jayaraj, following their course of studies at the United Theological College, Bangalore, and are expected to assume work under the Bishop in May of this year. Mr. Sugumaranathan is a B.Sc. of the Ceylon University and for a short period functioned as the Ministerial Officer of the Diocesan Movement of Ceylon, before he joined Bangalore. He is a son of the Rev. N. Subramaniam, Evangelist in Charge of the Diocesan Council, and Mrs. Subramaniam of Alaveddy.

Mr. Jayasingam is a grandson of the late Mr. Scudder Mackenzie, vassal, who was for many years the Headmaster of the Malajay Memorial English School.

3. Minimum Church Subscription Raised

It was decided to raise the minimum subscription to one shilling one for voting at Church meetings from Rs. 6/- to Rs. 12/- per year. This was to be paid monthly, or once a month or once a quarter for those residing in Jaffna.

4. The Diocese and the Ohio State Conference, U. C. B. W. M.

The following letter was decided to be sent to the Ohio State Conference from the Council:
 "The Jaffna Council of the Church of South India in annual session assembled has honored with pleasure to the letter of the Rev. Leo A. Kiel, Director of Programme of the Ohio Conference, of the United Church of Christ, desiring that the Ohio Conference and the Jaffna Diocese enter into a state of special relationship by which our respective activities may be furthered."
 "This Council greets the Ohio Conference and wishes to express the hope that the new relationship between us will be of great benefit. It gives us joy that the Churches in America will feel a sense of satisfaction that the work of the American Missions started 150 years ago are instrumental in the growth of Christian Churches in this Hemisphere."
 "We trust that the new relationship between us will help towards a greater understanding between the Churches in the two Hemispheres and a further closer loyalty to our common objective of glorifying the Lord's name."

5. Greetings to Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Black

The Council voted to send the following greetings to the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Black of the Holston Church, who spent two months last year in our midst:

"The Jaffna Diocesan Council of the Church of South India

assembled at its annual meeting on the 7th March, 1968, send its greetings to the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Oliver K. Black and wishes to express to them its gratitude for their stay in Jaffna during the months of September and October, 1967, and would like them to know that their stay was a great experience to all of us and provided an impetus and inspiration for many activities of the Diocese. We trust that the Diocese and its affairs will always hold a place in their hearts."

JAFFNA BAR'S FAREWELL TO Mr. G. C. NILES

When Mr. G. C. Niles, Additional Justice, was invited to address the Bench on the 9th inst. for the last time by its President, Mr. K. E. Kadiravellogam, Crown Advocate of Jaffna, paid a tribute to him in the course of his speech he said "From 1-4-1963 you have presided over this Court in a manner that has endeared you to us all. There has been perfect co-operation between the Bench and the Bar during this period of five years. Out of 11,000 cases instituted during the last five years you have disposed of 10,200 odd cases and some of the odd cases which were real marathons, like case No. 1720, have been disposed of in a manner in which the parties were satisfied, whether they won or lost, that their cases had been given full hearing by you and justice had been done. There has been no question of any party feeling that their cases have not been presented in full or stifled in any way."

Your Honour has been most courteous to the Members of the Bar, though you have been firm whenever firmness was called for. Your Honour has shown great consideration to every member of the Bar, whether he was a senior or a junior in carrying out your work. I must say that you have been closely associated with the Jaffna Bar from your boyhood as you were a leading member of our Bar whose reputation for ability and integrity has become all-legendary, and that has been the real reason for this perfect harmony and co-operation between the Members of the Bar and the Bench during your time.

Your Honour has been endowed with a fine judicial temperament which has made you one of the most ideal Judges who have presided in this Court. I am sure that in the fullness of time your Honour will come back to preside over our Court in a higher capacity. May I, on behalf of the Members of this Bar and on my behalf, wish you good health, long life and success in your career. May I also wish the same happiness and prosperity to the members of your family."

Mr. Niles in the course of his reply said:

"I must say that I have been very happy here. As Mr. Kadiravellogam has said when I was a little boy I have been coming to this Court with my father who was a member of this Bar. I was known to some of you. My connection with the Bar goes back to four generations. It is my duty to thank each and every member of the Bar, they have co-operated with me and assisted me and helped me to discharge my duties."

I am fully conscious of my own short-comings. It is because of your great help and assistance that approaching the evidence and understanding the law became less difficult and I was able to achieve anything. Sometimes when a client came to me and I was asked to go back to court as amicus curiae and that assistance has been more than one year ago when I had a brush with death but that I came to grips with life, because I put out my hand in the dark. I faith and found it was firmly held, held by God."

I suppose it would be strictly more correct to say not that I had a brush with death but that I came to grips with life, because I put out my hand in the dark. I faith and found it was firmly held, held by God."

He also thanked the members of the Staff, for all the co-operation they gave him.

CEYLON ECONOMIC GAINS WELCOMED

Representatives of seven countries interested in aid to Ceylon have endorsed the basic strategy of the Government of Ceylon in its efforts to increase food production. They indicated at a meeting in Paris on the 7th inst. a willingness to consider future support in relation to the progress of this development strategy and to the capacity of individual members.

The countries represented were Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank and observers from India and Italy also attended the meeting. The Ceylon delegation was led by Dr. Gnanini Corea, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs.

The group said it was encouraged by the continued progress made by the government since the last meeting in April 1967 in overcoming basic obstacles to economic growth. In particular it welcomed the increases in agricultural and industrial production, although it recognized that continued decline in the prices of Ceylon's principal exports had hindered growth.

The group noted that what has started in early 1965 as a bolding operation had been translated into a growth effort. It discussed the longer term prospects and endorsed the basic development strategy of the government in continuing to promote efficient production for domestic use with particular emphasis on increased food production. It indicated willingness to consider future support provided the progress of development strategy and to the capacity of individual members.

Preliminary indications by members of the group of their good intentions during the rest of 1968, together with aid from earlier commitments, suggest that Ceylon can expect a higher level of self-imports during 1968 than in 1967.

METHODIST-LAY EVANGELISTS' RETREAT

The Lay Evangelists of the Ceylon Methodist Church, belonging both to the Tamil and the Sinhalese Circuits, had a Retreat at the Jaffna Bar on the 10th inst. The Rev. R. E. Ganesan, Chairman of the Central District Synod, was in charge and was assisted by the Rev. E. E. Ganesan, Dr. J. G. K. Gnanini Corea, and the Rev. D. J. Jayasingham. The Rev. D. J. Jayasingham was the chief speaker. He gave a series of talks on "Our Youth for Christ" Movement addressed the Retreat one day on "Work among the young."

NEWS OF FORMER MISSIONARIES

Mr. Edwin J. Nichols, formerly of the Jaffna District College, Vaddukodai, and later at Jaffna, writes that in June, 1967, his father went to the 70th anniversary of the graduation from Cornell University of his father, New York; and to Expo 1967. She lives alone in New York City.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

A Service of Thanksgiving in memory of Mrs. Harriet Cholmondeley Black, the wife of the late Mr. William Black was held at the Jaffna Bar on the 13th inst. at 9 a.m. The Rev. S. P. Vijayarajam led the service, which commenced with the reading of the Bible. Lessons were read by the deceased lady's sons, Mr. Edwin Black, the member of the family since it was founded by the Rev. (Sylvia) Sam. 13: "These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it with joy, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. He said, in the course of his sermon, that they were only strangers and pilgrims on this earth, and emphasized the fact that the aid that men and women cannot take on gathering and accumulating treasure on earth. Abraham, God, obedient to the call of He lived like a pilgrim always. But faith Paul himself always strived, unnecessary things come and go, but was victorious."

We' ourselves were called upon to lead such lives while here on earth. "When we die, we arrive in the Canaan prepared for us by God. While here, we must do deeds of glory and God will be a light unto all men". The Rev. recalled that, even when the Israelites were taken as captives to Babylon, they always yearned for Jerusalem. "We are called upon like them, to consider our life as a pilgrimage and live with our eyes toward Jerusalem, not regarding from her, but from her. It is the Christian regards himself as a pilgrim towards Eternity, crossing this bridge". The Rev. in closing urged that they should all press on with faith and assurance in God who sustains us and not feel tired or defeated.

The Rev. N. Kadiravellogam paid a tribute to the late Mrs. Black of the deceased lady. In the course of it, he characterized Mrs. Black as a sculptor, a prophet, a scholar, a person and a church. She had been responsible for moulding several broken-up families into harmonious wholes, leveling down their differences. She had, as early as fifty years ago, felt that the line was coming where all differences between high castes and the depressed classes should go, and had begun to help the latter generally. Her home was ready to give shelter and food to all who were in need. There was all ways a certain brightness in her face, which was a reflected brightness from her mind and heart. The Chankaskal Church depended very much on the Black family. She herself was foremost in extending her support to the Church in all its activities and needs. She gave heartily to all good causes.

The service came to an end with a prayer and benediction by Bishop Kadiravellogam.

CEYLONESE IN BRUNEI GET TOGETHER TO FORM ASSOCIATION

All the Ceyloneses in the State of Brunei got together on the 4th of February for the third year in succession to celebrate Ceylon's Independence Anniversary.

The special feature of this year's celebrations was the formation of "The Ceylon Association of the State of Brunei". A meeting had been convened for this purpose at the Recreation Club, Kuala Belait in the State of Brunei. All the members of the Ceylonesse Community in the State numbered over one hundred and twenty five had been invited and over one hundred persons who were eligible for membership were present at the meeting and the first-gether celebrations.

The first item taken up was the adoption of the Constitution of the Association. This was followed by the adoption of a resolution forming the Ceylon Association of the State of Brunei. At the elections the Executive Council of the Association, the following office-bearers were chosen for the current year:

- President: Mr. P. Pararajasegaram
- Vice-Presidents: Mr. Peter Somasundaram, Mr. Victor de Silva
- Hony. Secretary: Mr. Guy R. A. Alivinos
- Asst. Hony. Secretary: Mr. Frank Fernando
- Hony. Treasurer: Mr. Vincent Perera
- Asst. Hony. Treasurer: Mr. C. Buluanandaram
- Social Secretary: Mr. Qelatin Fernando
- Sports Secretary: Mr. W. W. Perera
- Committee Members: Dr. (Mrs) P. Durayappah, Mr. J. Kadiravellogam, Messrs. Harold S. Sivarajah and N. R. Ramchandran.
- Hony. Auditor: Mr. O. G. Wijeratne.

The meeting was followed by a lunch at which all those who attended participated. After lunch a friendly cricket match was played between the Ceylon Association and the Panaga Club. At the Panaga Club Reception Club Cricketers gathered. The Panaga Club, which consists mainly of Europeans most of whom are employees of the Shell Company, was the match. It may be interesting to recall that at the cricket match played last year the Ceylon Association was the team and the Panaga Club was victorious.

BOOKS IN THE VERNACULARS

By J. R. Sinnatamby.

The publicity, that was given recently to availability and cost of books printed in Tamil as compared with those available in Sinhalese, would appear to indicate that the position occupied by the Tamils and their language in some parts of the island in ancient times has deteriorated within the last few decades.

According to Fr. S. Thaninayagan, quoted by M. D. Karbhavan in his book, *India in Ceylonese History, Society and Culture*, "when printing was introduced into this island for the first time, the Dutch published books in Tamil and Sinhalese tongues. A copy of a Tamil Book published in Colombo in 1754 by the Dutch Pastor, Brunsveld, refers in its dedication to the Tamil Language spoken within the greater area of this island. Robert Knox and the Dutch despatches speak of Tamil townships and Tamil-speaking people of the Kandyan Kingdom."

It is of interest to note in this connection that the following books were printed in Colombo, "Christian Religion in Tamil Language" in 1754, "Tamil Catechism for Children" in 1776, "Gospel of St. Mark in Tamil" in 1741, "The Four Evangelists and The Acts of the Apostles in Tamil" in 1743, "The Four Evangelists" in 1744, "Sixteen Sermons in the Tamil Language, by Philipus de Vriest," in 1747, "A Grammar of the Sinhalese Language by Johannes Ruell, printed at Amsterdam in 1708. Copies of these books should be available at the University of Upsala in Sweden.

Ptolemy's map of Ceylon, issued in the year 1552 and reproduced in Lunds, Maps and Surveys by Brohier and Paulsen, has the legend attributed to Vartihema, who visited Ceylon in the year 1508, that is the year after the Portuguese got a footing in Colombo. In the language of the country Papper is called Molaga. Molaga is, of course, the Tamil for pepper.

John Brohier, Provincial Judge, Pattalam (1737), has left on record that "The inhabitants differ as much in the North and South parts of the Island as the generality do from those of the coasts. In the former, that is to say from Calpetyu on the West to neighbourhood of Batticaloa in the East side, hardly a vestige of the Sinhalese Customs is to be found and their language is generally unknown."

On the South and South West Coast the Sinhalese compose the greatest part of ten inhabitants."

Chelchra in his Minute of 1-6-1799 states "Two different nations from a very ancient period have divided the land. First Sinhala in its Southern and South Western Parts from Walawe to Chilaw and secondly Malabars in the Northern and Eastern Districts."

The Charter of 1810 established two district areas for judicial administration. The Tamil area extended from Chilaw river to Kumbukkan Aru and Sinhalese area from Chilaw river to Kumbukkan Aru.

Nell says in a contribution to the journal of Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch, 1892, "When I was acting as Deputy Queen's Advocate at Jaffna... I had been struck by the fact that the people along the Western coast and throughout the Southern Province, upon inquiring after any offender who had absconded to the Kandyan Provinces, always reported that he had run away to 'Sinhala' or the Sinhalese country, distinguishing themselves from the Sinhalese."

Letter to the Editor

WRONG FACTS ABOUT PASSPORTS

Lord Gardiner, opening the Commonwealth Immigrants Bill debate in the House of Lords, stated, according to press reports, that more than two-million migrants would be entitled to settle in Britain unless the law was changed. He quoted various figures from Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya, Jamaica, Cyprus, Trinidad and Tobago, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak, Ceylon and Malaysia. I am not quite aware as to the figures in relation to each of these countries but I beg to differ completely with the figures given for Ceylon.

I am certainly not aware of 800,000 people from Ceylon holding British passports. Even if the other figures are correct, and that I very much doubt, the Ceylonese position as stated is wrong and misleading.

It is true that there are stateless persons in Ceylon of Indian origin. They were brought by British Commercial interests to work as cheap labour in the plantation districts. While the Britishers held sway in Ceylon, their interests were well served and contributed towards their wealth and power. The Indian labour was brought without any consideration of local interests and possible consequences for the future.

When Ceylon became a free country, among many other problems, the country was faced with the sore problem of the plantation workers, most of whose earnings seeped through to India in hard earned foreign exchange. Unfortunately for Ceylon, unlike the Korean Asians, most of these plantation workers neither have a British Passport nor the means to pay for their travel and above all are not the type who would fit into a Western society and earn their living. After 20 years of Government to Government talks between Ceylon and India, there is now a gleam of hope towards settlement.

It is unfortunate that reference of this kind should be made to give a wrong impression about a distinctly Kenyan-Asian problem. Whatever whitewash is made, the bill has been well explained by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Baroness Asquith, Lord Ted Willis and many others of their kind.

Cordially yours,
 R. D. KARUNARAJAN

FOR IMMEDIATE SALE

- One Large-size Almirah
 - One Medium-size Almirah
 - One Meat Safe
 - One Basin Table
 - One Wall Book Rack
 - One Radio Stand
 - Two Cloth Racks
 - One Lady's Writing Table
 - One Medium-size Bench
 - One Small-size Bench
 - A pair of wooden Screens with curtains
- All these can be seen at the Parsonage, Anicottai, between 9 to 12 noon on weekdays except on Sundays.
 D. P. Eliatamby



15TH MARCH, 1968.

A WORLD SHOCKING CRIME

The entire world stands today aghast and shocked at the execution first of three Africans and later, within a few days, of another two by the Rhodesian Government of Prime Minister Ian Smith. From all over the world strong protests have come pouring in since the first execution took place on the 6th of this month. We have not seen yet any defender supporting the action of Rhodesian Government, with the sole exception of a Conservative Member of the House of Commons of England, who asked during the discussions in the House on the day following the executions: "Do you appreciate that, where a de facto Government in Africa is publicly and openly challenged, it has no alternative but to react to that challenge?" On the other hand, the condemnation of the Rhodesian Government's action has been unambiguously strong and wide-spread, India's Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said in the Indian Parliament, which observed one minute's silence, that she felt "inexpressible horror at the heinous crime... this monstrous deed of the white racist clique (of Rhodesia) evokes our anger and indignation". A French journal has said that the execution showed that "Smith and his regime are not only political rebels in the eyes of the British law, but equally assassins against whom an international arrest warrant could theoretically be launched". The Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva has said that "the Rhodesian Government had flouted world opinion", adding "these men had been under sentence for two years and it is usual under humanitarian terms to grant reprieves in such cases". And U. Thant, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has expressed shock at these executions in the face of the reprieve ordered by the Queen.

Such unequivocal condemnation has been made on two important grounds: first, these executions were unconstitutional, and secondly they were inhuman. At the head of the Rhodesian Government there is still the Queen of Great Britain, and she has the right to grant reprieve to condemned men from Rhodesia. The men now executed were under a sentence of death for about three years, more than a year before the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by the Government of Mr. Ian Smith. Ever since sentence was passed on them, their lawyers were making to higher responsible bodies for appeal against the sentence. When their request for permission to the Privy Council went to the High Court in Salisbury, the judges by a majority decision held there was no right of appeal. Two of the judges openly declared their objection against this decision. Mr. Justice Dandy Young, the senior Judge of the Rhodesian High Court's General Division, read a statement in his court challenging the decision, and another judge, Mr. Justice Fieldstead, has resigned, warning that "the protection of individual rights, supposedly enshrined in the 1961 Royal Rhodesian Constitution, had now been wiped out". So, then, in spite of the queer decision of Rhodesia's Chief Justice, who in January of last year, though giving the regime a 'local de facto status', had remarked that it was not yet firmly enough established to be recognised de jure, that there was no right of appeal to the Privy Council, impartial opinion is heavily weighted in support of such a right. However, whatever the merits of this question may be, the condemned men had a right to appeal for reprieve to the constitutional head of the Rhodesian Government. And the Queen granted them the reprieve by reducing the sentence to one of life. Piqued by this the Rhodesian Government immediately went on with the execution of three Africans, and then within a few days, even as the condemnation of its action

HERE AND THERE

Sri Lanka and Imperialism

All true sons of Sri Lanka would, I am sure, have felt a thrill of pride when our local Cricket Team, called the President of the Board of Control's Team, refused to score more than 48 runs against an English Team brought here by Joe Lester. These imperialists, not being content with having oppressed us for a 150 years, had the impudence to come here and try to engage us in a game that is the very hallmark of imperialism and the symbol of our erstwhile bondage to an alien culture. Very rightly our men refused to play a long-drawn out game. To have done so would have meant that we had not shaken off the shackles that once held us.

But all of us would have felt a sense of shame sweeping through them at one Mr. Felix Dias Abeyasinghe writing in the Daily News and trotting out a Dutch map to prove that Kachchiariva belonged to Ceylon. In an international dispute can not we quote our own Mahanama or Dhatusena or Parakrama Bahu? Are we fallen so low as to quote the map of an alien Christian power that once oppressed us? Fie on you, Mr. Abeyasinghe!

To say that there were no maps in the time of Mahanama or Dhatusena would be an intolerable insult to our national culture and great heritage. If, by chance, those maps of ancient times cannot be found now, we can let that wretched little uninhabited island go rather than quote a Dutch map.

The Price of Text Books

There has been a good deal of controversy in the Colombo press about the discrepancy between the prices of Tamil and Sinhalese Text Books. Even the Daily News felt compelled to take our side. But few realised that, in pricing the Tamil books sometimes, at twice the cost of Sinhalese books, the Government was recognising an important fact and was paying us a high compliment indeed, that is that the Tamil student sets a high store by knowledge. In the first place, it means that he is willing to pay more for its acquisition. In the second place, it means, that if the book concerned is above his means, so eager is he to get learning that he would be willing to get on without buying the book (by borrowing it). In other words the Government recognises that in the pursuit of knowledge the Tamil student does not recognise any obstacles. So let us not resent what was meant as a compliment.

A Patriot

I greatly regret that great patriot, Mr. I. M. R. A. Iriagolle, has been so roundly abused recently on account of his proposed trip to Paris. The Times and the Daily Mirror let themselves go on the subject. The Daily News, of course, soared to look down from its Olympian heights at such trivialities; but I am sure that the Sinhalese Press must

was beginning to gather momentum executed two more. As has been justifiably described by the Ceylon Daily News, Mr. Ian Smith is following the rule of the jungle. In its editorial of the 7th inst. the Guardian, London, while admitting that some of the 100 men originally convicted of murder, including the five already executed, no doubt were common-law murderers, said: "But many others — and eventually more who are yet to be condemned — are guerrillas. These are freedom fighters, waging war against a racist regime which is officially considered in Britain to be illegal and rebellious. In African eyes, if not in the legal sense, Mr. Smith will be seen to be executing prisoners of war." Under these circumstances, is it possible to bring any sense of justice to Mr. Smith and his Government? The British Government cannot absolve itself of its responsibility for the present state of affairs, where the 'illegal and rebellious' Government is permitted to have its own way, behaving like the denizens of the jungle in its attitudes and actions against the coloured men? Is Mr. Harold Wilson satisfied that the sanctions his country has till now imposed against Rhodesia, with the support of the U. N., are enough? And what will the U. N. do now?

have had a merry time tearing Mr. Iriagolle to pieces. The charge against him is that, when Education is in such a mess here, it was a distinct disservice that the Minister of Education should leave the island. But this kind of hostile attitude grossly underrates Mr. Iriagolle's patriotism, courage and insight. It is because he had these qualities to a high degree that he realised that it is his absence from Ceylon that would be the greatest service to the cause of Education; and so he could leave for Paris, in spite of all that people might say.

The Height and Depth of Technology

Whatever other faults America might have, it will be acknowledged by all that America is technologically the most advanced country in the world. Yet recently President Johnson had scheduled to have a farewell function to Robert McNamara, the second most important man in his cabinet. It was to be a grand affair. But on his way down to the hall the lift which brought Mr. Johnson and his aides got stuck between the floors for twelve minutes, and, when finally he arrived and started speaking, the loud-speaker failed. A year ago when Winston Churchill was speaking the loud speaker fastened to his lapel failed; he plucked it and threw it away and said to the delight of his audience, "Now that we have exhausted the resources of Science let us fall back on mother nature". Technology can give you great power, but also let you down unexpectedly (as all those who have electric lights know, when the current fails and they have to search for candles). Technology has heights and depths; nature keeps to the same level.

Harold Wilson's Reputation

Obviously Harold Wilson's reputation does not stand very high now. The unkindest cut inflicted was by the cartoonist of the London Daily Mail. He drew a picture of Chas P. Wilson, the train robber who had escaped from prison while serving a period of 30 years and had been arrested in Canada and brought back. He was shown saying, "I could have gone on fooling most people for some time; but with a name like Wilson it was difficult".

Yet it must be realised that Harold Wilson is seen in this light not because he is a slipping character, but because he is standing on very slippery ground. He is being asked to do something no one can do; he has got to be one thing abroad and something else at home. He inherited the responsibilities and prestige of an Empire without the Empire itself; but he is still expected to keep up those responsibilities and prestige. At home he is a Labour leader not concerned with the outside world but with the demands of Trade Unions and the needs of labourers. He is expected to keep up a Navy on the Indian Ocean and troops at very strategic centres with nothing to defend. He is expected to allow the East Indians of Kenya and West Indians from the Bahamas to come and compete with British labour, simply because at one time Britain was the headquarters of the Empire. He is expected to keep the price of the sterling high, when the British labourer is not willing to put in more work and produce more goods. He is expected to put down the rebellion of Ian Smith in Rhodesia without sending troops. Wilson has got a bad reputation, because he is seen to be taking up contradictory attitudes. He is taking up contradictory attitudes, because his country is expected to do contradictory things.

An Observer

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

FOR THE LIFE AND WORK of Miss E. S. Vyravanathar (Sinnappillai Acca) will be held on Friday, 5th April, 1968, at 4-30 p.m. at the C. S. I. CHURCH, UDUVIL.

E. A. C. C. ASSEMBLY NOTES

By The Rev. J. J. Ratnasiah

III - Highlights and Highroads

In these final notes on the Fourth Assembly of the East Asia Conference held at Bangkok, I want to deal with some of the incidents that were highlighted, and the commitments with which the participants at the end of the Conference took to the highroads leading to the four corners of the world. Some of the highlights are on the lighter vein, and some refer to the deeper concerns of the Conference.

The Conference goes to the King

Attempts that were made to get the Royal Couple grace the Conference with a visit to the venue failed owing to other important appointments in the Palace. The King, therefore, obliged with an invitation to the Conference to come to the Palace, and the number that was managed in a much smaller Assembly Hall at the Conference became too cumbersome for a royal audience hall. By some kind of acceptable formula an exact hundred participants out of the total three hundred were chosen. All the hundred came back safely to the fold after meeting and conversing with the King. A misunderstanding had crept into the arrangements, and the Queen, therefore, did not know that she was expected at the Audience. The King usually adds interest and charm to the audience that he gives, but, if his Queen who is claimed to be one of the five best dressed women of the world also had come, the audience would certainly have had more cheer and colour.

Ceylon on Top

It was not without an element of pride and satisfaction that one saw Ceylon leading the way in many departments of the Conference. This was one of the many regional, national and international conferences in which one sees "D. T." ubiquitously guiding all matters, not only theological. And so at every turn Ceylon gets on top. In every singing period Tamil lyrics of Ceylon were sung lustily by every participant, whether from West or East. These lyrics that have found a permanent place in the E. A. C. C. Hymnal have also found a fond place in the hearts of people who come together in such conferences. With Rathie Selvaratnam presiding over the musical accompaniment right through the Conference; with Kenneth Lanerolle leading the singing at practices and services; with a greater number of the choir seats occupied by participants from Ceylon; and with another participant, whose name may be left out here for obvious reasons, singing a Tamil lyric at the Opening Assembly Service, and greeting and ushering in every delegate at every service and meeting, there was more than enough reason to see that Ceylon was on top all through.

New Member Churches and New Officers

The E. A. C. C. Family is certainly growing not only in interests coming within its purview but in numbers. At the very first business session the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Indonesian Christian Church and the Kuro Bataks Protestant Church of Indonesia were by earlier application accepted as full members of the E. A. C. C. The applications for membership from three other Churches were being considered awaiting reports from consultative committees. Bishop Sobrapena of the Philippines, E. A. C. C.'s first Chairman, who guided it in its formative years, was honorary Chairman during the past quadrennium, and to his place was elected Dr. D. G. Moses who had guided the Conference as its Chairman for the period. The great hue and cry raised by every man and woman present over the announcement by the Nominations Committee that, since Dr. Niles wanted to be relieved of the heavy reins of the office of General Secretary owing to his immediate commitment at home, Dr. Niles, Chairman and Dr. P. S. J. C. P., Secretary, be asked to

take on the mantle that fell from worthy shoulders, expressed the deep appreciation of the services rendered by these officers by the whole Conference. Alan Brash, who was Secretary of the Inter-Church Aid Committee, gave up this office to take on the same on the World Council level.

Ideas and Services

A twenty-page document entitled "Ideas and Services, being a Report of the E. A. C. C. by the General Secretary for the period 1957-1967" was placed in the hands of all participants at an "appropriate" juncture of the Conference. This remarkable document hailed by every person in the Assembly as a masterpiece was a research, a detailed and critical study, a discussion, an apology and, one may say, dogmatics regarding the ten-year life and work of the E. A. C. C. The appropriateness of the time this report was released is reflected in the following quote from the opening paragraph: "There was no General Secretary's report presented to the Assembly either at Kuala Lumpur in 1959 or at Bangkok in 1964. It is right, however that I should present a report to this Assembly. Ten years have passed since we first met at Prapat in Sumatra in 1957 to organise our Conference, and ten years is a sufficient spell within which to discern the outline of growth of a new organisation. An organisation, like the E. A. C. C., cannot be moulded into a pre-conceived pattern. It must grow so that the shape it will take is something to be discerned than to be contrived. Also, at this Assembly, I relinquish my position as General Secretary, so that it is imperative that I share here with you my own assessment of what has been accomplished and where we are going." Also, this was an appropriate time to receive this first report because listening to the clear, hammering voice of the General Secretary, those who criticised before with ignorance and any who may have doubts about the future, everybody was literally silenced and spell-bound. The eloquence of the silence that reigned during the forty minutes of its reading burst out into physical applause that almost raised the roof of the modern and uniquely architected Assembly Hall.

Work and Worship

The ten days of the Assembly were tightly packed with work. Special mention must be made of the way in which worship was so beautifully and meaningfully woven into the busy programme of work right through the Conference. Periods of worship and intercession morning, noon and evening, were not short and hurried by any means, and it was remarkable that every service was well planned, and a printed copy was in the hands of every participant. The services were so appreciated that at the close of each period of worship there was a rush for extra copies to carry home. Incidentally, every service copy bore the name of some printer in Jaffna - A. C. M. P., S. J. C. P., and other comparatively smaller printers like Gaspersion! And thereby hangs a tale.

Service in Vietnam

The concern for Vietnam was greatly highlighted throughout the Assembly in some form or other. This was not a concern arising only from sympathy with a people in an escalating war situation but from an anxiety over a moral issue which could not be solved by a mere sending war with bombs. This concern was expressed merely in verbal forms by piously worded resolutions and reports. At the time of the Assembly there was already set up in South Vietnam an Asian Christian Service Centre and Kenneth Lanerolle of Ceylon was already there guiding this service in conjunction with Roman Catholic and Protestant Services. The appointment of Kenneth who was attending the Assembly was confirmed at this Assembly. That, settled in Saigon on this appointment, Kenneth is on an essential but dangerous service was felt when the day after the Assembly broke up Saigon airport was closed to traffic both ways. He was really keen to get back to

his post of operations, but had not gone back to Saigon even ten days after the Conference owing to traffic dislocations. The offertory taken at a joint service of the E. A. C. C. Assembly and the congregation of the Church of Christ of Thailand in their city church on Conference Sunday amounted to over a thousand five hundred U.S. dollars, and with this single service collection another collection taken at the closing service of the Conference was sent for Christian Service in Vietnam.

Youth before Childhood

The natural transition from common concerns, political, social and economic on national and international levels in those concerns covered by the Youth Committee. Quite a good number of youths were on the campaign meeting separately at parallel conversations, and together with adults in general assemblies. The committees on co-operation between men and women in Church, home and society, and on Christian Education and Lay Training came out with reports that highlighted the fact that our concern for youth may be expressed by the word "preparation". "There is", it was expressed, "a sense in which the word 'preparation' is the wrong word to use when talking about youth work." "Pioneering Concerns" may be nearer the truth. This phrase repeatedly used at the Manila Conference (1964-65) was "responsible disobedience". A quote from Dr. Visser't Hooft on the role of youth in the Church as it is for the sake of the Church as it ought to be" was also highlighted. "The responsibility" it was said "of seeing that youth remains within is not one that belongs to youth alone". Here was a place where youths conferring with adults held their own, and a youth who was assigned to pray at an Assembly service prayed for God's forgiveness and guidance not only to the war leaders of South Vietnam but for leaders of North Vietnam too. The words of Dr. L. P. Linsen, the great Danish Missionary in India, were quoted in the General Secretary's report as follows: "Youth are like the sea. It is on the sea that the ship must be carried. The adults should function as lighthouses. But in some of the lighthouses, the light has gone out." The sub-group that dealt with Christian Education and Lay Training reiterated very firmly that the nurture of youth was comparatively more urgent than that of young children.

Now to the Highways

At the end of the ten most fruitful days, when the Conference broke up, the East Asia crossroads that met at this Assembly were baten out as the one highway for the King, whose command the Church must obey. The cross-currents of thought and action, which met more in obedience to the common Master than in friendliness towards one another, became one great stream in confluence. Rev. Senior's Hymn of Ceylon was sung more than once at the Assembly.

"Come, cast we up the highway That brings us back the King"

All the participants had to leave the beautiful, comfortable venue of the Conference not for the security and comforts of home, but for the battle and the service on the highways. I cannot, while I conclude these notes, resist the temptation of quoting again from the final paragraph in the General Secretary's Report as follows: "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them. These words of Theocara can well be quoted as suitably suggesting both our justification and our future task. It may well be that it is the function of the E. A. C. C. to maintain these castles in the air, while the task of putting foundations under them remains the task of our member Councils and member Churches. Nor may we forget that the city which is man's final dwelling is the city without foundations; not raised from earth but coming down from heaven."