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26TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION





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## TRIBUNE

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-- Upali Scientist

#### LETTER FROM EDITOR

preach a homily on washing dirty linen. Now we have another occasion to preach a similar sermon and as we cannot find a better picture for the purpose we have fallen back on this. Washing dirty linen is an occupational hazard in any undertaking where human beings It happens in the lead the "masses" places and in the worst, in the oldest of nations and in the youngest, . and in the richest and the poorest. In periods of stability and calm, nobody takes much notice of dirty linen even when washed in public. But when history enters one of its periods of turbulence and change, public scandals (Watergates) proliferate even more than the spread of a depressing decadence of private morals. When empires crash, all that is rotten and bad in society surface to the chagrin of those who persist in hankering after a past that is no longer what it was. One has only to read the classic The Decline and Falt of the Roman Empire by Edward Gibbon to sense that in the twentieth century we are witnessing the fall of all empires not only global or regional, but also national and domestic. Stability has been replaced by uncertainty, law and order by violence and terrorism, dialogue by force and peace by war. Human values, once regarded as eternal, have tumbled without being replaced by anything worthwhile. Respect for age, learning, and religious or humanistic ethics have disappeared in the rat race for making quick mony anyhow-whether by robbing or smuggling. We live in dangerous and troubled times, and men and women of goodwill can survive in a period of this kind only by exercising the greatest restraint in all matters big and small. Such restraint could have prevented the dirty-linen washing jamboree that has reduced the mighty (former) ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) to shambles. The Party is today split vertically and horizontally. The most important dynastic family in the Party and its personal political retinue are divided and shattered. Mother and son lead the two warring sides. There was a near guerilla type stalking to capture the party office and press. These cloak (without dagger) antics provided an excuse for the government (now under SLFP's traditional rival party) to seal the office and the press under the prevailing Emergency Regulations. The Government has further justified its action by stating that the contending parties in this SLFP's verbal civil war were now before the Courts seeking legal redress and that it (the Government) would abide by the verdict of the Courts as to which faction it should hand over control of the premises, funds and printery. There is no doubt that many people had looked forward to the SLFP to provide leadership for a united opposition to challenge the UNP at the next General Election. But the SLFP, as it is, is in no position to offer such leadership. What is worse is that the statements, counter-statements and cross-statements issued by the protagonists have provided so much inner-party dirty linen for public display that the morale of all the opposition forces has sunk very low. Every pluralistic democracy needs a strong Opposition that has the capacity to form an alternative government. The SLFP, which is the only national party that could have provided such an alternative, is today sunk in the quagmire of defeat. disgrace and despondency, and unless its leaders can pull themselves up by their saree ends or sandal (no one wears boots these days) straps, this country can look forward to a further period of UNP rule One party supremancy in the island- whether in the North, Centre or the South-is inherently dangerous to the well-being of any democracy.

WE USED the picture on the cover this week a long time ago to

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## **Budgetary Prospects**

of the upper limit of Treasury bills by another Rs. 3,000 million to Rs. 13,000 million. This was the fifth time in the last 16 months that the Government has sought to increase the upper limit to which Treasury bills may be issued—that is to have recourse to the "Printing press" to raise revenue.

The following table sets out the issue of Treasury Bills from 1969:

Date of Increase	Increased By	New Limit	Total issued
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Aug. 18, 1969	200 m	1,950 m	1,750 m
Sept. 25, 1970	100 m	2,050 m	1,950 m
July 21, 1972	500 m	2,550 m	2,325 m
Nov. 26, 1976	450 m	3,000 m	2,700 m
March 6, 1980	1,000 m	4,000 m	
July 10, 1980	2,000 m	6,000 m	1
Oct. 17, 1980	2,000 m	8,000 m	9,800 m
Dec. 1, 1980	2,000 m	10,000 m	
July 7, 1981	3,000 m	13,000 m	10,000 m

The Central Bank in its annual report for 1980 had this to say on this matter: "The financial operations of the Government in 1980 stimulated a very high level of aggregate demand in the economy with far reaching consequences on the growth of money supply and the price level on the one hand, and on the exchange rate and external payments on the other. To an appreciable extent, these developments in 1980 were the result of the failure to pursue a policy of fiscal stabilisation through conscious financial discipline."

\* FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE" is now a word of the World Bank and IMF to impress on governments the need to check squandermania. And Minister Ronnie de Mel has been repeating this word at every turn-hinting that he has been found fault for failing to enforce such "discipline". The Central Bank report had gone on to say: ..... There were many pressures, both within and outside of Government control which made adherence to a strict budgetary programme and financial discipline a formidable task. Voted estimates of expenditure were frequently revised in the course of the fiscal year to accommodate additional commitments as well as cost escalations. Additional expenditures incurred by Ministries, not previously programmed and provided for, were covered

through supplementary estimates. These increases in expenditure would not have caused strains on budgetary operations, such as were discernible during the year, had there been a commensurate growth in Government revenue and financing resources. Relief from these latter sources was Barely forthcoming. The growth of revenue seriously lagged behind the growth of expenditure. The heightened level of trade (that is, imports) and economic activities in the private sector and the alignment of deposit rates of commercial banks with those offered by the National Savings Bank pre-empted savings that otherwise would have been available to finance the budgetary deficit In 1980. The flow of foreign resources channelled to the budget was inadequate to finance resource gap with the result that the Government, trapped in a resource constraint of major proportions, was compelled to resort to bank finance on an unprecedented scale. Domestic market borrowings from banking sources consisted of Rs. 7,077 million, obtained by way of issue of Treasury Bil's and Rs. 183 million under Central Bank advances. In order to obtain finance through Treasury Bills' the statutory limit was raised on four occasions' from Rs. 3,000 million to Rs. 10,000 million."

TREASURY BILLS have been issued by nearly all Governments in Sri Lanka since Independence to finance deficit budgets. It is no doubt an easy way out, on a short-term basis. Unless remedial measures are taken in time, the "consequences" may be disastrous. The "consequences" will not be quite so bad if Treasury Bills are absorbed by the non-bank sector (the Employees Provident Fund and other Provident Funds, Insurance Companies, Savings institutions, Corporations other official funds.) Unfortunately, in Sri Lanka, the bank sector, especially the Central Bank itself has taken up the major portion of the Treasury Bills issued. The Report of the Central Bank sets out the ownership of the Treasury Bills in 1980 as follows:

Owners	Amount Rs.	Percentage Rs.				
BANK SECTOR Central Bank Commercial Banks NON-BANK SECTOR Employees Provident Fund Other Provident Funds Savings Institutions Insurance Cos. Dept. and other official funds	9,612.5 m 9,604.5 m 8.0 m 187.8 m 1.5 m 6.3 m 4.0 ,m 175.5 m	98.1 98.0 0.1 1.9 — 0.1 — 1.8				
Other Total	9,800.0 m	100.0				
TOIDLING O 40 4004						

It will be noted that the non-bank sector and the commercial banks have not taken an adequately substantial part of the Treasury Bills. This is probably because of the low rates of interest offered (13 per cent since July 1980) as compared to the rates for other investments. This reliance on the Central Bank to finance budget deficits has an expansionary impact on the economy—the money supply expanding faster than the output of goods and services. This means that price levels are pushed up. The Government is no doubt aware of this, but in the realities of its current economic programmes, it simply has no alternative. It is either foreign aid or foreign loans or Treasury Bills.

IN ANSWER to a question in Parliament by Mr. M. D. H. Jayewardene on September 11, the following statement on the country's debts were set out: 'Sri Lank's total external debts up to June 30, this year was rupees 24,575,321,492 while the internal debts as at the same date was rupees 80,996,791,296. Details were also given of the estimated interest payments to be made on these debts. These payments on the external debts for the years 1981 to 1985 are as follows. 1981, Rs. 794,296,654; 1982, Rs. 1,078,275,047; 1983, Rs. 1,334,907,910; 1984, Rs. 1,332,306,081; 1985, Rs. 1,264,318,851. The total amortization payments due in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1985 and 1985 are as follows: 1981, Rs. 787,066,823; 1982, Rs. 822,280,619; 1983, Rs. 1,298,062,164; 1984, Rs. 1,704,213,349; 1985, Rs. 2,266,151,384. The total interest payments due to the domestic debt are as follows: 1981, Rs. 3,017,605,969; 1982, Rs. 3,151,260,148; 1984, Rs. 2,750,549,183 and 1985 Rs. 2,569,864,856." These sums are mind-boggling to the ordinary man, but even a financial wizard cannot run away from the serious implications for the country. The Finance Minister continues to talk of financial discipline, and exhorts all and sundry in the public sector to cut down waste and eliminate corruption.

ANOTHER DISTRUBING factor on the economic horizon is the continuing devaluation of the Lankan rupee. The Ceylon Daily News on September 2, had a front page story that: "The rapid depreciation of the Sri Lanka rupee against the US dollar is substantially boosting the country's food and fuel import bill in rupee terms, authoritative official sources said yesterday. The dollar is now worth nearly Rs. 20 and the state agencies responsible for food and fuel imports are working on the basis that a further depreciation is likely in the coming weeks. The Daily News reliably understands that both the Food Department and the Petroleum Corporation have been costing their imports for some time on the basis that the rupee would depreciate against the dollar in which many international payments are made. "Official sources said

that the Ceylon, Petroleum Corporation had costed the US dollar at a somewhat higher rupee rate than was prevaling some months ago, and therefore made profits on sales whch are now being depleted by the further depreciation of the rupes The Food Department too, has worked out its costs allowing for the depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar. There was no clear indication yesterday whether the margins allowed were adequate to cover actual costs. Food and fuel imports account for the biggest slice of the country's hard currency payments and most transactions for the purchase of both crude oil and food are cleared in dollar terms. Governmental sources declined to reveal the guidelines given to both the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and the Food Department on the exchange rates at which they should cost their imports. There are certain projections made by the Central Bank and the various state agencies take account of them in working out their cost structures,' an official spokesman said". The Central Bank's July report revealed that: "Sri Lanka's export earnings during the first five months of the year totalled Rs. 8,842 million (SDR 307 million) while imports amounted to Rs. 13,960 million (SDR 626 million). The trade deficit for this period was Rs. 7,118 million (SDR 319 million) and import outlays increased by Rs. 424 million. In terms of SDR however. the value and exports decreased. This was entirely due to the depreciation of the exchange value of the Sri Lanka rupee, the bank said."

DISCUSSING the "fluctuations" in the value of the Sri Lanka rupee, the Central Bank has pointed out that: "During the month the rupee appreciated 4.4 percent against the pound sterling, 2 percent against the Japanese Yen, 1.5 percent against the Deutsche mark and 0.7 per cent against the SDR, while it depreciated by 1.1. percent against the US dollar. The change since November 1977 indicated that by the end of July 1981, the rupee had depreciated by 16.4 percent against the US dollar, 17.9 per cent against the pound sterling, 18.4 percent against the Japanese yen 8.3 per cent against the deutsche mark and 12.4 per cent against the SDR. Export earnings in the frst six months indicated an increase of six per cent in rupee terms but in terms of SDR's export earnings decreased by three percent. Substantial increases in exports of rubber, minor agricultural crops and industrial goods however were not sufficient to offset decreases in earnings from tea, coconut products and gems. Expenditure on imports during the period January to May 1981 recorded an increase of three per cent in rupee terms over the corresponding period last year. However, a decline of five per cent was recorded in SDR terms. Expenditure on mineral products including crude oil decreased by 16 per cent. Other decreases included dairy produce,

flour, vegetables, meat and fish preparations, pharmaceutical products and transport equipment.

IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT that the Sun on Septem-4 had a front page "stunner" entitled SKY HIGH INFLATION: BUDGET DEFICIT STAGGERING PEAK: EVEN OPTIMISTIC FOREIGN AID WON'T SUFFICE. The report said: "The overall budget deficit for 1982 is estimated at a staggering Rs. 25,200 million; Government's planners have advised that even after taking into consideration the most optimistic disbursement of foreign aid, it would not be possible to bridge this deficit. Hence a series of measures intended to lower the deficit are now being given high-priority consideration by the Government. One major step, it is learnt, will be the drastic pruning down of government expenditure to levels where it will match available resources. "For this purpose, President J. R. Jayewardene will meet Ministers individually and examine with them how cutbacks on financial allocations to their minstries should be effected. He is expected to undertake this task when he returns from his official visit to Saudi Arabia. Such cutbacks, government sources said, would be intended to avoid any conf.ict with Government's policy of being committed to a free market economy. According to these sources planners have estimated—on Government's basis of existing rates of taxation—a revenue of Rs. 17,500 million. Additional revenue that could be mobilised through new revenue measures has been estimated by them at around Rs. 1,500 million. "Therefore even after considering the most optimistic disbursement of foreign aid next year, bridging the deficit will not be possible, these sources pointed out. And if this is not done, inflation will reach levels, government unbearable planners have pointed out. According to the planners, this will mean in addition, balance of payments support from the International Monetary Fund and assistance from aid donor countries will not be forthcoming thus forcing the clamping down of controls. The outcome of President Jayewardene's official visit to Saudi Arabia, informed sources believe, would also have a significant bearing on the forthcoming budget. This is particularly in view of aid negotiations now underway with the Saudi authorities."

IT IS IN THIS BACKGROUND that the President's visit to Saudi Arabia must be examined. There is no indication that any quantum of aid or credit has been finalised. The joint communique only stated that close economic co-operation was envisaged. For this purpose, a Saudi economic delegation was expected to visit the island in the first week of November—just before the new Budget is final sed. The Ceylon Daily News on September 12, announcing the reported visit said: "A Saudi Arabian economic delegation, probably

led by the Finance Minister, Sheikh Aba-Al-Khail, is expected here in the first week of November to explore the possibilities of economic assistance to Sri Lanka, authoritative governmental sources said yesterday. A delegation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry there is also due here early to examine the possibilities of private investment particularly in the areas of tourism, manufacturing and industry, urban and property development and fisheries. Governmental sources declined to discuss the detailed results of President Jayewardene's State visit to Saudi Arabia, but observers in both Riyadh and Colombo remarked on the warmth of the reception he received from King Khaled. These observers made the point that for a first visit, the achievements appeared significant although there has been no hard indication of actual results. Quantification of the results of the mission must allow the visit here of the economic mission from Saudi Arabia. They are on the World Bank Board and they have access to sensitive soundings of the economic and political status of most countries seeking their assistance", one source said. From the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the visit and from the highlights made by President Jayewardene at his meetings with the Saudi Monarch, it was clear that Sri Lanka was pitching its case for assistance on the basis that this country can be the cornerstone for democracy in the South Asian region." The report, after examining the economic, strategic and geo-political reasons why the Saudis may be interested in "investing" in Sri Lanka, concluded: "Authoritative source said that the country's current push was to raise resources to meet added costs of the lead development projects rather than find funding for new projects."

THIS WAS FURTHER CONFIRMED by the Ceylon Daily News on Monday, September 14, with a banner headline that read: BLEAK OUTLOOK BEGIN: FURTHER AS BUDGET MEETINGS PRUNING OF VOTES INEVITABLE. The report read: "President J. R. Jayewardene will chair a series of vital budget meetings beginning today when the Finance Minister will discuss the 1982 votes of the different ministries with their representatives in the context of what a Treasury insider yesterday described as an "extremely dismal" budgetary outlook. These budget meetings at which Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel and senior Treasury officials will participate wil go on for the rest of the week. The preliminary figures, the Daily News reliably understands are extremely bleak. Estimated recurrent expenditure alone at Rs. 18,785 million, is ahead of anticipated 1982 revenue of Rs. 17,500 million. "With capital expenditure, after discussions between the Treasury and the Ministries at Rs. 21,400 million the total expenditure will leap to Rs. 40,185 million leaving an overall deficit of Rs. 22.685 million," authoritative sources said. "With the anticipated deficit alone

higher than the country's projected revenue, foreign assistance in an increasingly tightened aid market is not likely to make good the yawning gap. Treasury sources said that foreign aid adding up to Rs. 12, 400 million was expected. Domestic loans are expected to raise a maximum of Rs. 3,750 That will add up to Rs. 16,150 million But it still leaves an unfinanced gap of Rs. 6,535 million. These figures have not taken the promised wage increase into account. Several government personalities have hinted broadly that a wage increase was in the offing and it is generally agreed at all levels that in the context of price rises a token increase would be unacceptable. If a wage increase is granted the bugetary gap will be much wider than demonstrated in the figures currently under examination. According to estimates that have been made, a Rs. 75 per month increase would cost Rs. 1,000 million while Rs. 300 per month will cost more than Rs. 3,500 million. "Considerable losses are also expected in the Sapugaskande Urea Factory and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's new Nylon 6 factory. The Treasury may also have to come to the assistance of the two big plantation corporations the State Plantations Corporation (SPC) and the Janatha Estate Development Board. According to Treasury sources, additional revenue proposals are expected at best to bring in Rs. 1,500 million. This is an impossible budgetary situation. There is no alternative to further pruning of expenditure', a Treasury spokesman, said."

The Sun of September 14 also had an "inside" story: "Sri Lanka has sought Saudi Arabian assistance to the tune of 500 million US dollars for the country's development programmes for next year, reliably learns. The Saudi authorities have already been briefed on how this much needed assistance will be utilised. This, according to informed government sources, took place when members of President J. R. Jayewardene's entourage held talks last week with their Saudi counterparts. A good part of the aid sought, some sources said, would be utilised for the completion of on going Mahaveli projects for which financial assistance is yet to be secured . . . Finality on how much Sri Lanka will receive is high powered Saudi to be determined when a delegation holds talks here. Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Sheikh Mohamed Abdul Khail, is expected to lead this delegation which is due her next month, just after the Haj pilgrims season in Mecca is over.

These reports in the national papers speak for themselves. No comment is called for.

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RECYCLING

## Garbage

By V. N.D. Gunewardene

Are we making optimum use of garbage? Is Srì Lanka paying sufficient attention to the question of recycling household refuse, commonly called garbage with a view to reducing dependence on fossil fuel and other conventional sources of energy? In certain towns in the USA, it has been estimated that the solid waste from urbanised areas could provide up to 5% of electrical needs; 7% of its iron; 8% of its aluminium and 19% of its tin (Sources: article by James Daniel in Readers' Digest) Reports from developed countries indicate that they are so concerned about the economic feasibility of garbage power that energy experts regard the recovery of scrap as an important adjunct to any resource-recovery programme. In New Orlenans, USA, they have opened a 650 ton-a-day garbage recyling plant that extracts iron, aluminium and glass for its garbage for resale to industry. The Reynolds Metals Co., one of the largest manufacturers of aluminium in USA, purchase all the aluminium cans that this recycling plant is able to recover. This American firm is in the recycling business in a large way. For fifteen years this company has offered to buy from consumers all the aluminium cans that they would normally have discarded or buried. In 1977, this company had recovered sufficient aluminium from its 800 collection centres in USA to make 2.4 billion cans which was approximately half of its total can output. Also, it is stated by this firm that to produce cans from old aluminium they require only 5% of the energy needed to produce cans from virgin ore.

READ of sophisticated garbage plants installed in developed countries. We learn that Chicago processes 1,000 tons of refuse per day where the iron and other metals are removed and the bulk of the residue, being combustible is converted into a lightweight fuel blown through a pneumatic tube to an electric plant in the vicinitythus saving say, the equivalent of 100,000 tons of expensive low-sulphur coal a year. In return for adapting its boilers to absorb the supplementary fuel, the power company is getting the fuel at a bargain rate a ton for its energy equivalent in coal. The shift to garbage power could save the power company's customers millions a year because their electricity rates are based on fuel costs. In Akron, USA, they are building a garbage plant that will remove metals from 1,000 tons of refuse a day, then feed the combustibles into boilers to supply stem via an existing distribution loop, to 200 custoaers, including a large tyre manufac-

auring plant. The planning Director of this city states: 'We'll kill three birds with this one stonewe'll get rid of our garbage for less than it is row costing us; improve the economy of our central city, and do Akron's bit towards helping the nation conserve energy". It is reported that Akron's refuse will replace 500 tons of low sulfer coal a day-thereby saving mil.ions a year. Hempstead, New York, a city which has a population similar to Colombo, Sri Lanka, circa 850,000 is constructing a garbage recycling operation of a different type. At Hempstead's plant which is said to be the largest resource-recovery facility in the United States—i.e., 2,000 tons of garbage a day is fed into three "hydra-pulpers", 20 feet in diameter, that work like a huge version of an ordinary kitchen blender. The metals and glass, which fall to the bottom, is sold for scrap. The remaining garbage is channelled to a machine which uses, centrifugal force to sort it out even further. The lightweight material will be so finely shredded that it will float off the top with water. After most of the moisture has been squeezed out and this mixture has been compressed, it is fed into special boilers and burned to create steam. The steam, will in turn, produce 32,000 kilowatts of power. The Commissioner of Sanitation of Hempstead, Landman, says, "We had to go in for garbage recycling because we were running out of landfill area".

THUS THE MOTIVATION to reclaim energy from garbage is becoming more manifest. Whilst it is burgeoning in developed countries, we here in Sri Lanka woefully lack the sophisticated techniques and equipment that are vitally necessary for making sold waste disposal projects economically viable. In these developed count ies more stringent environmental controls and increasing costs of both fossil fuel and other methods of solid waste disposal are making resource recovery economically competitive. We here in Sri Lanka have our priorities all'inverted". We go in for prestigious but expensive projects that bring no economic return. The Municinalities of Colombo, Dehiwela-Mount Negumbo and Galle are glaring examples of the failures of the city fathers to cope with pressing problems, adequately. Their prespectives are low; they go in for the spectacular and ornate rather than the unspectacular, purposeful and economically beneficial projects. In passing, it would not be out of place, although invidious, to draw attention to the monstrosity of a public market that has just been completed in Mount Lavinia. Whilst heaps of household refuse are piled up daily on almost every street in this suburban area lying for days with flies and other disease-carrying germs, literally breeding health hazards round the clock, the lament of its City fathers is that they have no money for efficient garbage collection and disposal. It would be interesting to ascertain

the cost of the Mt. Lavinia public market "White elephant" erected at the cost of its ratepayers and other inhabitants. Surely, it would have been possible to purchase at least one modern garbage disposal plant with the money expended on this extravaganza. Do these City fathers realise the very harmful deterioration that they are responsible for as regards the health of its inhabitants?

The collection and disposal of our city garbage alone will not solve our waste-disposal problems. We should on a national scale make every effort to reduce the amount of waste that is generated. Also, garbage recycling is not the sole answer to the energy crisis. But converting garbage into a supplementary source of energy-garbage that might otherwise have been accumulating in overcrowded landfills or garbage disposal dumps is a positive step. It is an exercise that can be done now.

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#### **LETTERS**

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor," and must include the writer's address and signature. Priority is given to letters that are brief and do not request anonymity. Letters may be abridged. We are unable to acknowledge all letters, but value the views of readers who submit them.

LETTERS

#### HOTEL CHARGES

Sir,

The article on the above subject, published in the issue of the 29th August 1981, should, I consider, be given the widest publicity since it is not only tourists but even locals who are fleeced. About two weeks ago I had occasion to go to Chilaw and having taken my children along with me, was keen on giving them a meal out of home. I informed the Rest House at Chilaw, before I set about my business, that I would be in for lunch and was pleased to find, when I returned, that a good lunch had been prepared. The meal was reasonably priced at Rs. 17/50 per head but it was a different matter where the "extras" in the shape of fried fish was concerned. Seven slices of seer fish were served and the charge for this was Rs. 80; There was certainly no more than a pound of fish on the plate and the prevailing price that day was Rs. 18 at the market.

Time was when a Rest House was run by the Government Agent or local authority, to provide a fair-priced meal and reasonable lodging to less-affluent travellers. This was provided as a service and was certainly a welcome one. Today the picture has changed and the accent is on profit. I was told that the Chilaw Rest House has been leased to a private individual who has to pay the local authority Rs. 16,000 per month. It is therefore no wonder that visitors are 'fleeced'. If locals are called upon to pay these exhorbitant charges one can imagine how Tourists are "skinned".

21/12, 5th Lane, Pagoda, Kotte, 8th Sept. 1981.

Sir,

F. YOUNG.

### Price Support Scheme for Holders

I have read the article "Price Support Scheme for Small Holders" by I. O. K. G. Fernando, the Permanent Secretary-Chairman of the Tea Board. I have also read the comments of the Editor on this as appearing in the *Tribune* of August 20, 1981. The complaints of the small holders are against the exhorbitant deductions by tea factory owners for manufacturing their leaf. The Permanent Secretary /Chairman has confused the issue by bringing in a Price Support Scheme, which operates only when the selling average of each factory drops below a certain level.

When I was the Chairman of the Tea Board, the question of what this deduction should be came up frequently. I then had the Statistics Department to collect these figures monthly from the JEDB and the SPC which very willingly complied. However, these figures were always challenged by one board member who was a bought-leaf factory owner. He was however, not willing to table his figures from his report or table his report, although requested by me many times. The Tea Control Department nevertheless obtained some of these figures for me. You have published a letter from a small holder in your journal of the 11th August 1981.

The "Lander" system of costing was the accepted system on all agency as well as well managed estates in the Country. The column under "Manufacturing" will give the cost for the month as well as to date. However, from this the cost of plucking has to be reduced. An attempt was made by a very high ministry official who thought he was the last word in estate management, to change

the system to the one recommended by the Canadian team that drew up the Master Plan for tea. To please this official, some estates in both organisations changed their system. In a short time the estates got into such a mess with their accounts. that they reverted to the old system. More about this official who ruined the plantation industries The Permanent Secretary/Chairman, Tea Board should stop writing this type of article he sent you. He obviously has no clue to the working of a tea estate or its accounting system. As a Board member and the Minister in charge are both large bought leaf factory owners, the instruction from the ministry to charge Rs. 6/12 from the small holder is ethically questionable, deplorable and obnoxious. I have written to the Minister of Finance too on this subject.

B. Warusavitarne,

Chairman, Sri Lanka Tea Board. (1977—1980)

310, Galle Road, Panadura. 8th September 1981.

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#### **Bans or Controls?**

Sir,

Whether some like it or not, at least we in a Democratic Socialist Republic are bound to please the largest number of people in the various possible ways. So we have GAMBLING in various forms, political, economic and even religious. As long as this planet lasts do you mean to say this would stop? Therefore, gambling could and should be controlled and disciplined. It is better to regulate gambling than ban it. Like the oldest profession on earth, gambling, either individually or collectively, will go on. Because there are those who indulge in it, in one or more of the above forms.

Let the punting booths like the taverns, liquor bars and clubs be open at specific times. As is being done in the big cities, let the rule be applied to all parts of the island. This is better than TOTAL PROHIBITION or TOTAL BAN on racing. Otherwise more Booruwa would play "Booruwa". More Kasippuwas will brew still more deadly Kasippu.

Similar to the advice given on the pack of cigarettes, let there be advice and social education on

these matters. Has the state banned the manufacture of alcohol or tobacco?

Why this hypocrisy?

Even higher taxes on alcohol and tobacco will do more harm than good. Why not let the illegal cottage industry be permitted to supply the Distilleries Corporation with better alcohol? Similar to small holders supplying tobacco leaves to the cigarette, cigar and beedi manufacturers?

There would be less crime with controlled gamb'ling, especially in an underdeveloped country like ours. A total ban is a deadly bang. Legislate for discipline and control of gambling, and not for total banning.

Anuradhapura, 15.9.81

Dr. G. T. Herath

K X

Govt.



Notices

My No. LA/4420

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

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 159 (Part 111) of 18.09.1981

#### SCHEDULE

Name of Land

Kahatagahawatta

Name of Village

Pahala Walahapitiya

Plan No. & Lot No

P. Pu. 2096

D. R. O's Division

Nattandiva

The Kachcheri, Puttalam 1981.08.31

for Government Agent and Acquiring Officer, Puttalam

District.

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

Reference No. 3/2/5/6/80/80

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 159 (Part 111) of 18.09.1981

#### SCHEDULE

A. G. A's Division

Wattala

Village

Wattala

Situation

Ward No5 Hendala within Town Council

Hendala Limits.

Name of Land

Puwakgahawatta

Lat Nos

123

Plan No. P. P. Co.

P. P. Gam. 277

Kachcheri Gampaha.

A. L. S. Malweuna.

Date: 31.08.1981

District Land Offer of Gampaha

District.

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

Reference No. 3/2/5/5/1095

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No: 159 (part 111) of 18-09-1981.

#### SCHEDULE

A. G. A's Division

Ja-ela

Village

Ja-ela Kanuwana

Sitiuation

Ward No. 8 Weligampitiya within Ja-eia Town Council

Limits

Name of Land

Millagahawatta

Lot Nos

1-2-3

Plan No. P. P. Co.

P. P. Gam. 206

Kachcheri Gampaha.

Date 31.08.1881

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

## Aug. 30 - Sep. 5

#### WORLD COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS-PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30: The dispute within the Sri Lanka Freedom Party will take another bizaire and dramatic turn today when the Maithri-Anura rebel group will storm Horagolla the citadel of ex-Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike in her former Attanagalla electorate; Medawachchiya MP Maithri-Senanayake said yesterday that they had organisers countrywide for a summoned party meeting at Horagolla. The death occured in Moscow on Friday of Mr. S. A. Wickremasinghe, father figure of Sri Lanka's Marxist movement President of the Sri Lanka Communist Party; the veteran Left leader celebrated his 80th birthday in April this year-SO. Public servants have been asked to refrain from using official vehicles for private purposes; if has been found that a large slice of public expenditure went to meet the government's fuel bill and the maintenance of vehicles. Sri Lanka will issue two commemorative postage stamps of the 50 cents (inland mail) and Rs. 5. (overseas airmail) denominations to mark the visit of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh-ST. Sri Lanka has now emerged as a new operational centre in an international film piracy syndicate; world's most powerful group of film-makers the Motion Picture Association of America last week made a series of representations to the Sri Lanka government, to being a tough crackdown against the movie pirates-WK.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31: There are clear indications that the private trade is coming into the sugar import business which had long been a de facto monopoly of the Food Department, authoritative governmental sources said yesrerday. The Rs. 11 million electronic telephone exchange gifted by the Netherlands Government in May thie year to the Colombo General Hospital has remained dead during the past three days. The Ceylon Workers Congress has called upon the government to end the condition of statelessness forthwith by granting citizeship

to all persons who have applied for it. The Soviet Union is honouring Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe leader of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka who died in Moscow on Friday by laying his remains. in the Supreme Soviet on Wednesday; the body which will be flown home is expected here early Thursday; the remains will lie at the Communist Party's headquarters at Borella Thursday and Friday; on Saturaday morning they will be taken to Matara where Dr. Wickremasinghe had his political base and where he was a well loved physician for many decades-CDN. A top level intelligence unitcoordinating Intelligence Bureau (CIB)-has been set up directly under President J. R. Jayewardene; the CTB is being headed by Brigadier T. I. Weeratunge, Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army; he is currently coordinating operations of the security forces and the Police in the Northern Province. President J. R. Jayewardene will meet a delegation of the Tamil United Liberation Front this evening, to reach finality on a joint declaration containing accord reached between the government and the front with regard to several political matters-SU. The government is seriously considering the reduction of prices of rice, flour, sugar and other essential foodstuff3-DO.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: President J. R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister R. Premadasa visited the Tamil houses and shops damaged by the looters' hand in Ja-ela, and Negombo, and spoke to the owners of properties about what had happened and about their present position. A major breakthrough in restoring communal harmony in Sri Lanka was achieved at President's House last night when the national leadership and the TULF concluded the first stage of what many observers regard as an unique dialogue initiated by President Jayewardene. President Jayewardene will visit Jaffna when he returns from his official visit to Saudi Arabia; he is leaving for Saudi Arabia on September 5, Prime Minister R. Premadasa in a message of condolence yesterday paid a tribute to the late Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe, leader of the Sri Lanka Communist Party. Former Prime Minister [ Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike has challenged the requisition of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party Headquarters at Darley Road in an application she has filed in the Court of Appeal. Mr. Ronnie de Mel Minister of Finance and Planning, and Mr. M. H. Mohamed Minister of Transport and Muslim Religious Affairs arrived in Jeddah on Sunday and were received by Mr. Mohamed Abdul Whab Chief of Royal Protocol who welcomed the two ministers and the Sri Lnaka delegation led by them on behalf of His Majesty King Khalid of Saudi Arabia and the Royal Saudi Arabian government-CDN. The Government last night announced the formation of a highlevel committee under the chairmanship of President J. R. Jayewardene in order to end racial tensions and restore peace and harmony in

the country; Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis, Minister of State made this announcement at a press conferrence at the Department of Information yesterday; he said the Tamil United Liberation Front Leaders have agreed to work with this committee in a spirit of cordiality and peace and harmony-CDM. Guidelines for the smoother function of the National Development Councils were yesterday laid down at a meeting of the chairmen of the councils, District Ministers and District Secretaries at the BMICH in Colombo; teething problems of the councils were discussed and solutions provided by Prime Minister R. Premadasa who was the chairman of the discussions; the Development Councils, he said, were not for division or dispute but was for the unification of the country; they were not the forum for racial, political or religious riots, but the starting point of peaceful discussions to solve all problems, especially those at village level—SU. Worried over the increasing notoriety that Sri Lanka is gaining as clearing house for the illicit hashish trade, police authorities in conjunction with the Customs will for the first time introduce the red and green gate system adopted at major international airports to detect drug smuggl.ing-CO.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2: The rapid depreciation of the Sri Lanka rupee against the US dollar is substantially boosting the country's food and fuel import bill in rupee terms, authoritative official sources said yesterday; the dollar is now worth nearly Rs. 20 and the state agencies responsible for food and fuel imports are working on the basis that a further depreciation is likely in the coming weeks. For the first time in the history of the Sri Lanka Police service its 17,000 strong membership will don new badges and insignia from Thursday a police headquarters spokesman said-CDN. Sri Lanka will, it is reliably understood, establish diplomatic missions in six Middle East countries shortly; these missions are being opened as a result of initiatives taken by the Ministry of Labour in view of the complaints it has received from Sri Lankans employed in the Gulf States, particularly women working as housemaids-CDN. Government is to introduce amendments to the Constitution to enable the presidential elections to be held before parliamentary elections, Sun reliably learns; in terms of existing provisions of the Constitution, parliamentary elections are to be held in 1983 and presidential elections thereafter in 1984. Professor K. K. Y. W. Perera was yesterday appointed Secretary to the Ministry of Power and Energy and Chairman of the Ceylon Electricity Board-SU. Four youths held up a CTB bus that was returning Kataragama at Hambantota and robbed jewellery, money, wrist watches, gems etc, belonging to the passengers in the vehicle-VK.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3: The government has decided to set up unarmed Home Guards country-

wide in an effort to ensure that law and order is maintained and that the events of last month where acts of violence, looting and arson took place, do not recur; this decision was taken at ye'sterday's meeting of the Ministers at which President J. R. Jayewardene briefed his Cabinet colleagues on the talks concluded with the TULF on ways and means of achieving cummunal harmony. Government yesterday agreed to the payment of a risk allowance to all field staff in the Wild Life Department on the recommendation of State Minister, Anandatissa de Alwis. A Committee has been set up in Ratnapura to assess compensation payable to those hard-hit by the recent violence, a spokesman for the committee said. President J. R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister R. Premadasa yesterday toured Balangoda, Pelmadulla, Kahawatta and Ratnapura-four areas where viclence, looting and arson had taken a heavy tell on the recent disturbances; the Army assessed the damage caused at Rs. 41 million-CDN. President J. R. Jayewardene promised immediate relief of estate workers in Ratnapura who have been affected by the recent distrubances; the Janata Estate Development Board and the State Plantation Corporation had launched a joint fund to provide relief to the victims in the plantation sector, Mr. Jayewardene said. Any person will be able in future to encash foreign money up to 500 US dollars without revealing the source of such income; foreign currency exceeding that amount has to be deposited in Bank Accountrs; this is a decision taken at yesterday's Cabinet meeting—CDM. Government will enlist the services of a British public relations consultancy firm to counter anti-national propaganda in Britain, it was announced yesterday. The Chairman and the Board of Directors of the National Milk Board have been removed by Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman-SU.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4: The World Health Organisation will support a hard-hitting campaign against smoking in Sri Lanka, Dr. J. Stjernsward, Chief of the WHO Cancer Unit who is now here for the on-going fifth Asia Pacific Cancer Conference said yesterday. Several police stations in the North are o be closed for security reasons and their men, arms and amunition are to be deployed to the remaining stations to supplement their resources, a senior Police headquarters source said; stations due to be closed with effect from September 4, are those at Chankanai, Kopay, Ourumagar, Pallai Annaicottai and Pooneryn according to orders sent to Mr. A. Navaratnam, DIG Nothern Range by Inspector General of Police Ana Seneviratne, yesterday. Peace moves are now afoot to settle differences between the two warring factions of the SLFP, the Daily News reliably understands; on Monday, the SLFP President Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike' and her son, Anura, who are on opposite sides in the squabble together met the Mahanayake of the Asgiriya chapter in Kandy. Mr. G. M. Punchi Nilame, the acting Minister of Regional Development has been removed from office; Mr. Punchi Nilame who is the Deputy Minister for Regional Development, also loses that position. Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, arrives here on October 21, on a five-day visit to commemorate 50 years of adult franchise in Sri Lanka; they will be here at the invitation of President J. R. Jayewardene the government and the people of Sri Lanka. The remains of Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe, the leader of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka and in his heyday one of the most influential political figures in the south, was flown home yesterday for the final obsequies-CDN. The Ceylon Electricity Board is to get tough with a plethora of public sector organisations which owe the CEB a staggering Rs. 15m million as electricity bills-CO. Extra vigillance is to be excercised by Police in the southern areas of the country to control a spate of highway robberies; the robberies, Police said were being committed by several gangs who preyed on both private and Transport Board buses. The overall budget deficit for 1982 is estimated at a staggering Rs. planners Government's million; 25,200 advised that even after taking into consideration the most optimistic disbursement of Foreign aid, it would not be possible to bridge this deficit. Two days of disturbances in Balangoda and Ratnapura districts rendered 5,000 people homeless and caused damage estimated at five million rupees in estates coming under the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporations, its Chairman Kenneth Ratwatte said yesterday-SU.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5: Mountains of tomatoes have been buried in the Matale district by farmers who haven't been able to sell their crop, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, Secretary to the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research was told recently; "we are burying thousands of kilos of tomatoes a day; nobody wants them even at 15 cents a kilo," farmers said. Making pointed reference to the recent violence that rocked some parts of the country, President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday stressed the need for right action and right speech in an address he made before the UNP's All-Ceylon Executive Committee. Four gems valued at approximately £14,000 (Rs. 500,000) were stolen from the Sri Lanka exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute on Thursday; the gems were on display at the Gem Corporation stall among a large number of other precious stones valued at millions of pounds-CDN. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene and Mrs. Jayewardene leave today on a state visit to Saudi Arabia on the invitation of King Khalid Ibn Abdul Aziz Saud-CDM. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday accused some Government MPs of speaking, both in Parliament and outside, words that encouraged

hiolen ce and the murders, rapes and arson that been committed; if leaders of his United National Party could not set an example to the rest of the country, 'it is better for me to retire from the leadership and let those who believe that the harming of innocent people and property that has happened recently, is the way to solve the problems that face this muli racial, multi re igious and multi caste society, take over the leadersh p', President Jayewardene told the UNP's All island Executive Committee at the Ramakrishna Hall in Wellawatte yesterday. Seven eminenet lawyers, all dressed up in full length wig, tailcoat and bands, took their oaths in the ceremonial court yesterday as the first Senior Attorncys of the Republic of Sri Lanka—SU.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

## Aug. 30 - Sept. 5

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA: In Madras about 200 anti - Sri Lanka demonstrators including three members of the Tamil Nadu State Assembly were arrested when they tried to stage a protest march against communal violence in Sri Lanka. The number of repatriates arriving in India from Sri Lanka increased considerably as a consequence of communal violence. The Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu state government has rejected a story that corpses of 10 Sri Lankans were washed off ashore along Vetharaniam coast in Tanjore district. According to N. Wardhan, Director of Revenue Intelligence the smuggling of surplus luxury goods from Sri Lanka to India has been on the increase ever since Sri Lanka government allowed liberal import of foreign goods. The collection of funds for a Trust named after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by the Chief Minister Abdul Rahman Antulay, Marashtra State had led to an uproar in Indian Parliament. The opposition parties which staged a walk out at one stage described it to be the "fraud of the century". The Indian government has vetoed the appointment of US diplomat Griffin, who was number two in the US Embassy in Kabul as political counsellor in New Delhi. US has retaliated by refusing to accept T. P. Menon an Indian diplomat for a similar post in Washington. India will have to go on an arms buying spree to keep her armoury to match US promised F-16 fighters to Pakistan. In Pondichery a protest strike in sympathy for those who suffered in Sri Lanka during the communal clashes brought the town to a standstill. A similar all party strike is planned in neighbouring Tamil Nadu on September 12. India has discovered a major offshore oil field on the continental shelf off Bombay.

PAKISKAN: Pakistan may be re-admitted to the Commonwealth if she applies again. A religious court ordered a Karachi couple, through married now, to be stoned to death for their illicit relations prior to marriage. Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick said that the proposed 3,200 million dollars economic military aid to Pakistan is quite independent of any strategic, economic or geo-political objectives. President Zia stressed that Pakistan was hoping to develop friendly ties with Moscow when he opened the country's first steel mill built with Soviet assistance.

#### EAST ASIA

CHINA: Paul Hartling, UN High Commissioner for Refugees thanked China for accepting 265,000 Vietnamese refugees which was an unique gesture in an Asian context. China again accused Cuba of trying to propel the Non-aligned movement into the Soviet orbit and urged them to steer away from super-power influence. China will purchase planes and arms from Brazil. SINGAPORE: ASEAN group appears keen to organise a tripartite national liberation front of Kampuchea constituting Prince Sihanouk, Khieu Samphan (Khmer Rouge) Son Sann (People's National Liberation). A formal meeting of the three leaders was held in Singapore. The above three resistance groups signed an agreement in Singapore to undertake joint military action against Vietnam's involvement in Kampuchen.

#### WEST ASIA

LEBANON: French Ambassador Louis Delamare was shot and killed in Beirut by unknown gunmen. IRAN: The newly elected President Mohamed Ali Rajai and Prime Minister Mohamed Javad Bahonar were killed in a bomb explosion in Teheran. Iranian authorities have blamed the extremist leftwing Mujahedin guerilla organisation for the bomb blast. The exiled Bani-Sadr described the current clashes in Teheran as a civil war. Ayatollah Mabdavi-Kani, a student of Khomeini, was chosen as Prime Minister in place of the premier who was killed on Sunday. Iranian authorities arrested many employers in the Iranian Priemier's office and intensified their search of leftists. ISRAEL: The attempts of the archaeologists to uncover the bibilical city of King David in Jerusalem have led to clashes between Ulhareligious Jews, Police and Muslims. Besides it has led to open clashes between Aguda Israel Party and other partners of Begin's coalition government. The Supreme Court quashed an order made by Mr. Hammer, Minister of Education, banning archaeological excavations and permitted excavations to continue.

#### AFRICA

EGYPT: Religious feuds between Moslems and Coptic Christians in Cairo is causing tension.

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Riot police fired tear gas to disperse thousands of Moslem fundamentalists marching on to Coptic Cathedral. Police arrested hundreds of hardline religious and political critics of Anwar Sadat. Among those who were detained were Mohamed Haikal, popular author and journalist and confidante of former President Nasser. LIBYA: Col. Gaddafi has warned US that Libya will strike against US nuclear systems and ally itself with Soviet policy if US persists in challenging its claim to the Gulf of Sidra again. ANGOLA: Despite Angolan's appeal to UN, OAU, NAM, South African forces entered Angola while South African claimed that ts forces are leaving Angola complained that South African tropps were occupying six towns in KueneProvince. SOUTH AFRICA: South African forces incursions into Angola caused servere damages to border towns. They claimed to have captured a Soviet Warrant officer and killed another two Soviet officers. The presence of Cuban soldiers, East Germans and Soviet Advisers may change western approach to South Africa's incursion into Angola.

#### AMERICAS

U.S.A.: The reluctance shown by Beginis government to relinquish the West Bank of the Jordan appears to be irritating the US public. This irritation has prompted the *Time* magazine to describe Israel as a liability rather than an asset to US interests. Reagan wants to cut down his defence spending by 30 million dollars in 1983 and 1984 to balance his budget. Police discovered petrol bombs near the Soviet Mission to the UN claimed to have been planted by a Jewish group called "The Thunder of Zion.

PERU: The US envoy's house in Lima, Bank of America and three houses belonging to US firms were attacked with bombs by a Maaoist group of extremists. VENEZUELA: France and Mexico had been helping the guerillas in El Salvador to fight the civil-military government. This had been condemened by Latin American countries. Earlier US stepped up its military and economic aid to El Salvador because it suspected that Cuba and Soviet Union were helping the guerillas. PANAMA: A plausible suspicion has been raised that the air crash in which Gen. Torrijos died may have been engineered by the US Secret Services.

#### EUROPE

SOVIET UNION: According to Pravda the Soviet Union would withdraw its troops from Afghanistan if Iran and Pakistan accepted Kabul's demands that they would end "armed interference in Afghanistan affairs". Reuters reported that Soviet Union has started a large-scale air and sea manoeuvre around Poland and warned that her forces are

ready to defend socialism against Western interference. POLAND: The leader to the Polish free trade union leader Walesa declared that his Solidarity organisation was keen to serve the society rather than seize political power.

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FILM FOCUS

## Kalpana Cinema

THIS COLUMN has been aware that by a curious allocation of marks for the opening release centres for imported Tamil films in Colombo South, the following cinemas have been allotted the marks or points against their names—Eros (5672),Kalpana (4910), Sapphire (4773) and Navah (2377). Rather than questioning the academics of the assessment system adopted, if a regular picturegoer were to examine closely the position that the Kalpana cinema holds in this precedence order, then he would detect a big hole in the NFC exercise. This cinema constructed not many years ago is situated in a predominantly Sinhalese residential area and has been handpicked as a Tamil release centre for some reason or other when many other alternatives would have been posible. One has to get well past the Kirillapone bridge from Wellawatte and enter the outer fringe of the Nugedoda A.G.A.s Division to reach this cinema. The latest census figures will bear out that hardly 10% are Tamil speaking within a fair radius of this cinema. Besides scars inflicted on this cinema by a racial mob during the post election incidents, are still left gaping for all and sundry to be reminded of it. To move on to matters more mundane concerning this cinema, not long ago tha expensive film Aliyatha Kolangal (11 lakhs) was released both at this theatre and the Sellamahal in Colombo North simulateneously, and in their respective box office performances hangs a tale that is very revealing. While this film-as will be in the case of Suvarillatha Chithrangal right now-staggered along, at the former cinema to record only a few housefull shows, the Sellamahal continued to draw crowds even after the film was withdrawn at the Kalpana due to a rapidly receding record in patronage.

The story has been the some with every new Tamil release, and this column logically poses the question to the NFC whether it is a profitable exercise to keep feeding this cinema with expensive Tamil films without rhyme or reason. The accoustics in this cinema have earned such notoriety, that any picturegoer will bear this column out on the muffled distortion in dialogue and the rather apathetic lighting that keeps ones ears, and eyes at full stretch. This column is also aware that a TRIBUNE, September 19, 1981

new copy of the film Ninaithale Innikum suffered extensive damage, and the NFC had to take disciplinary cognisance of it. Even so there has been no appreciable improvement since, going by what spills over anaemically on the screen for the hard cash that is paid. Facts are far too stubborn. to be ignored any longer, and the foregoing observations would be borne out further by the bleak attendance at the final shows for the day-and that too only because of the special transport arrangements made by the management. It is the considered opinion of this column that immediate repairs and replacements are necessary, after which the Kalpana should be absorbed into one of the Sinhala circuits, when better returns would be definitely recorded. Finally in this new points system of the NFC, consideration should be given to public opinion as well, and if this is done, this column will boldly predict that the precedence order would be as follows-Sapphire, Eros, Kalpana and Navah. Picturegoer opinion on such matters should always be respected as a rule, whether any cinema is to be a Sinhala, Tamil or English film release centre. Will the NFC please take notetheir daily cinema returns would be the best index for a beginning.

RIDEE THELLA (Sinhalese): Although actor Gamini Fonseka is a top-runger on the local films scene with his varied talents in the field, he keeps in touch with every step of the ladder of fame that placed him there. His early films barring Gam Peraliya, were ull of the stuff that filled the galleries and his two fisted action squences which were the launching pads, to more serious portrayals. The film under review, directed by Siri Kularatne is another film that takes a look over the shoulder into this past histrionics while adorning a simple, escapist story. A Police officer (Ravindra Randeniya) on a hunting expendition, accompanied by his wife and infant son runs his jeep slap bang into a herd of elephants, and is left the tragic loser of the bawling boy, who grows up to manhood in the new environment as Padda (Gamini Fonseka) the tough who holds a village at bay under the foster care of an elder (Somi Ratnayake) to emerge as a local (Robin Hood) who deprives the rich and helps the poor, and the needy in his surroundings. Amidst these escapades he loses his heart to the pretty rural belle (Sriyani Amarasena), and loses her in turn permanently to his boyhood friend (Lionel Deraniyagala), due to his untraced lineage and origins. His unrequited yearnings turn him on to more serious crime, and that is when he has the law on his heels, to a tragic 2nd sentimental climax when his identity is established by the Thella around his necek. Gamini has moved into his role with a great and familiar gusto that pitches him more into his element. While the camera sweeps the raw and rural background, unfortunately bereft of colour, Sriyani Randeniya, Mervyn Jayatunga-the villian in most films now-and Somi Ratnayyke strain hard to give credence to an otherwise unbelievable film story, but an excellent entertainer all the same. There was a flaw however, in that much celleloid time was wasted on the antics of the comedian (Jayasekera Aponsu), which was overdone.. This film has been received well by picturegoers and is in for a long run, with Gamini pushing it on all the way at the box office. Is is recommended unreservedly for family viewing.

CHITRANGAL (Tamil): Quite SUVARILSATHA probably the reputed and versatile actor director Bahagyaraja reached out in this film to portray the saddest South Indian Tamil film ever made and succeeded, inching stories like Nallathangal and Thulaparam out of his way. To my dismay, this praiseworthy presentation underwent the usual distortions of sound and poor lighting at the KALPANA where I viewed this film but for which my cut of appreciation would have been the more. It could have been anything between Telugu to Malayalam, the way the spoken Tamil reached rhe ears of the audience, coupled with the dim lighting, that taxed the eyes. The brilliance of Bhagyarajah however filtered through these shortcomings, with the dialogue in particular being handled so well, that in each delivery it embraced two parallel situations, juxtopasing two contradictory developments in the growth of the story, Sumathi, a child star of yesteryear and in her mid-teens, blooms in beauty in the squalor around her in the first half of the film. Storywise, she attracts the attentions of a long distance runner (Sudahar), bred in affluence and the poor boy next door (Bhagyrajah), who dreams, dreams of love, as in the Secret Life of Walter Mitty, the English film where Hollywood actor Danny Kayc excelled once. A confrontation in the salubrious climes squares matters out in the love triangle and sets the scene for tragedy in the wake of wedded poverty to take over. In the second half of the film with Bhagyarajah taking a detached back seat, the victors of the romance are thrown to the wolves at their door and become victims of dire financial distress. They cling on to accepted norms and moral principles, as the story takes a harsh hook at the conventions that stick to the grain, so as not to set any values even on human life. The heart strings and the tear ducts of audience, come under heavy strain as a whole family takes the easy way out. There was a rare sequence when the coloured film turns literally green with envy and other cameo styled portrayals excellently brought out by Bhagyaraja's down to earth father, the tailor and his little assistant "cutting out their daily lives with their racy wit for a living, and members of the doomed family, the mother particular. A fine film that packs laughter in the 14

first half and a good cry in the second, a deft combination one must not miss.

JAMES N. BENEDICT.

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IN THE NEWS

## Attanagalla Scheme

By R. Kahawita

Thirty nine years after the death of D. S. and fifty years after the scheme came first into the picture, it is back again in the news, this time as a result of rebuilding of Tammitta Anicut after flood damage two years ago, and at the usual opening and closing ceremonies with which one is accustomed to now, references were made to the history of the project. Attanagalla Oya Scheme was the earliest and the first irrigation scheme that drew the attention of D. S, Senanayake. He had several reasons for starting this project. It was in his electorate; within Colombo district not far from the city. Every inch of cultivable wet land was aswedumized for paddy fields. All the land highprivately owned and the people lived on the was lands surrounding the fields. It was in the wet zone and could be cultivated for three seasons a year without any storage for irrigation, provided the flood water could be contained banks of the Oya. The people cultivating these fields praticed a unique method of cooperative irrigation known as "flood irrigation". The method consists of building a series of "stick dams" across the river to head up the water behind the stick dam to force the water to overflow the banks and flood the fields on either side. There were hundreds of these stick dams in the Attanagala Oya valley flood-irrigating some 4,000 acres of paddy. There were two requirements for the success of the method: the structure should be sufficiently "fragile" to get washed away when the river rose about 18" behind the stick dams, and the other, the normal water level below the dam should be about 12" below its crest i.e., differences of head of 6 inches between the upstream and downstream water level. The interval between two stick dams along the waterway depended on the bed slope of the river and the level of the fields behind a dam. The trouble with this type of structure was that they had to be constructed after the heavy rains in the catchment have ceased. If there were to be cloud-burst to generate isolated floods in the basins, all the stick dams receiving the flood water get washed away, to be rebuilt after the flood water reaceded. This was troublesome and needed cooperative efforts by the cultivators to take a cultivation through. These structures we call "stick dams", the cultivators call them "weli-bemmi", "lpal-bemm", "darameti-bemmi" or "ritti-bemmie". Each name indicate the method of construction. But the features are the same—they must not be rigid, there must be a difference between the U.S. and D.S. water levels. This difference should not be more than 6" to 12" for safety of the structure and for flooding the fields and sustain the water table. These levels maintained the subsoil water-table over the whole valley around the root zone of the paddy plant. Even if the liyaddes are not flooded as understood in paddy cultivation, the sub-soil can be maintained at "saturation puint."

WHEN THE SCHEME was taken up for "modernisation", the obvious solution was to replace the stick dams with permanenet structures and develop a channel system to deliver water to the fields' below. This is the usual method of irrigation in a gravity distribution system; one method understood by the Irrigation Department. This was the mistake the Department made at the initial stages of developing the project. An engineering survey was initiated. This was the first time such a survey was undertaken in Ceylon for development of irrigation for paddy cultivation. After this scheme it was taken to other areas. Attanagala Scheme got the highest priority; for, here was a representative of the people who has lived and worked in the area, who knew the cultivation problems and how the cultivators suffered during floods and how hazardous it was to undertake a cultivation. A working scheme at the door step of the metropolis, and extent of 4,000 acres that could supply rice to the city dwellers. Obviously this project had to be number one on the list of the first Minister of Agriculture. So orders went out for surveys, collection of hydrodata, assessment of holdings, collection of information of frequency of floods etc. The scheme was scheduled to be started in 1938/39.

ABOUT THIS TIME we were without an assignment, having served a spell in N.C.P. when talks were floating about to take quick action to implement Attanagala Scheme. We thought, this area would be a salubrious work-point to recoup from the debilitating effect of malaria over serveral years. Working in a semi-urban area after the jungles of N.C.P. we thought, should be a reasonable request to make. So we did, but never got a hearing. We were posted to Colombo to be in charge of designs. The problem was how to live in Colombo on Rs. 500/-less 25% a month, travelling at-/25 a mile, and to be tied down to a desk day in and day out. We tried varous ways of getting out of it, short of resigning the job. Those days there were no politicians who wanted to be popular by sponsoring the casue of the under-dog. Orders were orders, and we had to carry them out or "get out". We nearly did, but a great friend and

adviser told us, "take it do not run away from responsibility": So we found ourselves in the Designs Office and one of the jobs on the boards was the design of Attanagala Oya Scheme. When we read about it in the Ceylon Daily News a few weeks ago, nostagic memories crossed our as to how this scheme took shape. The construction job, which we were anxious to get, was put in charge of a Construction Engineer from India. So the studies and designs began to take shape on the "classical lines"—dams, flood bunds, irrigation channels regulating structure and control devices to distribute the flood waters for irrigation and the surplus to be passed down the river, to be picked by an anicut lower down. As the designs developed, and construction commenced, sections of the schemes were put into operation, the prudence of the "stick dam engineers" became evident. Through experience and years of innovation and improvisation to control the river water they had devised "the stick dam system" to meet the special features of water supply to the fields. They are-no storage was possible, except the bankful storage upstream of each stick dam, Water supply was from the rainfall in the cultivated area, and that part of Attanagala Oya catchment which was not cultivated in paddy but had been developed in village gardens, estates and village housing but contributing flash floods in the river. Even otherwise run off from the water shed is quick and of short duration. In between the rains, the supply of irrigation water was from seepage flow into the river bed; and temporary storage in the water table. The usable quantity available from these sources was indeterminate and limited.

THOUGH EXTENSIVE GAUGINGS and stream flow data were collected during the short digestion period of the design, they were insufficient to determine the quantum that might be available to feed a gravity system of water distribution. With a limited quantity of water available the succeses of the scheme depended largely on the re-use of water over and over again from the source to its release lower down. This is exactly what the stick dam engineering did. The main problem was to determine the quantity to be drawn at each barrage and what percentage of that quantity would be available at the next barrage lower down. On this quantum depended the extent of land to be irrigated under each barrage or anicut. As the designs developed and sections of the scheme were implemented, shortcomings of the classical type of irrigation became evident. The solution we thought, was to increase the number of barrages and regulators in the main river and other drainage lines. The "stick dam engineers" did not face this problem At least they had the answer. They just flooded the fleds by heading up the water to flood the fields above each stick-dam. It seemed primitive to us but it 15

answered their needs. The number of stick dams and the spacing of dams along the river depended on the flood gradient and the desired depth of flooding of the fields. By a process of trail and error they increased or descreased the number of "stick dams" to suit the requirements of a tract of fields. This called for coordinated community action to erect dams or re-erect the dams after a flood, or wash away due to defective re-erection methods. This was great hinderance to cultivation programme, yet they did it for generations, until the Department came along to modernize it. The rigid anicut system replaced the stick dams, but there were distribution problems and deficit irrigation water. Even today it is evident by the intensive weed growth in some of the fields. Of course there was a solution to replace the stick dams by "collapsible barrages". They fell flat on to the river bed at predetermined water levels and after the passage of a flood, the collapsed segments can be "ploughed into erect position" within a couple of hours. In 1939 we were not prepared for that level of technology, so the suggestion was not entertained. That kind of device would have saved Tammitta Anicut. If so there would not have been the need for a news item to mark the ceremonies nor would we have been prompted to write this article.

AFTER THE SYSTEM of permanent anicuts were completed, several problems in irrrigation cropped up. Apart from increasing the number of anicuts, there was the problem of holding up water in the fields long enough, for weed control etc., the method the cultivators were accustomed to. Nevertheless the rigid structeres and the gravity distribution system had to be justified and maintained. One may ask what was the solution to satisty the farmer demands? When we understood the problem, we found that the pre-modernizing conditions could be maintained by judicious operation of the Anicuts; that is, to maintain the bankfull stage below an anicut while it is diverting water into its channel system above. This helped to maintain the water table at "field level" while an anicut was being operated to distribute water. That is, head up water in the river above an anicut sufficient to its channel system and release the surplus to the river section below the anicut and hold up this water at the next anicut below it at bankful stage. This proved successful and the farmers were satisfied. To guide the operating staff Issue and Control rules were drafted and implemented with a controlling office at and in charge of each anicut. To warn these officers in advance of an impending increase in river flow, rain gauges were established over the basins and tables were prepared to indicate the expected run-off for each inch of rainfall over a particular catchment area. The Department evolved

a co-ordinated system of issue and control and relieved the peasants of their coordinated sction under the stick dam system. This is the final improvement achieved. The areas under cultivation has remined the same. The success of the operation and distribution depend on the standard of maintenance of the structures, channels, protection bunds and the flow of, observations and rainfall. Like in all operating irrigation schemes over the Island, maintenance has fallen far short of requirements. Attanagala is no exception.

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SMOKING

### And Lung Cancer

By K. N. Tyagi

"I just dont like a man, Kishan, who cannot smoke, for it is the prerogative of Homo sapiens to smoke which makes him advanced over animals. Then talking while holding a cigarette between the lips, and smoke gradually coming out through the oral orifice with each word spoken adds extra charm to the masculine personality" said Gurwant pointing towards me when we were coffee in the university cafeteria. Her remarks made me restless since I was the lone non-smoker in our group of the university students. I did what any teenager would do in such a vulnerable situation to "impress" his fiance. Soon smoking became my habit. The reasons why people habitually smoke tobacco are certainly complex and it is no easy matter to reach a simple and reasonable conclusion concerning the mental health aspects of smoking. Social environment plays a large part in determining smoking, the offering and accepting of tobacco, like alcohol, is important in the development of personal relations in business and in private life. The purported benefits on mental health are so intangible and elusive, so intriately woven into the whole fabric of human behaviour, so subject to moral interpretation and censure, so difficult of medical evaluation and so controversial in nature that this aspect has been rarely studied.

It may be interesting to note that there is no substantial and clear cut personality difference between smokers and non-smokers. While cigarette smokers tend to be more extrovert less rigid and more neurotic than non-smokers, the pipe smokers are notably introvert. There is no difference in intelligence between smoking and non-smoking children but the former are less academically successful. Emotional stress is associated with heavier smoking amongst smokers rather than with starting to smoke by non-smokers. Many smokers are not

aware of the composition of tobacço smoke which is so complex that about 300 compounds have been indentified in it. It varies with the type of tobacco and the way it is smoked. Seventy-five microgram of lead, 2 to 22 microgram of benzo (d)-pyrene and some heavy trace metals are present rer 1,000 cigarettes. Different brands of cigarettes may contain 18 mg. to 31 mg. of tar. Each inhaled puff of the cigarette contains 100 million to 10,000 million particles of various toxic substances and a smoker inhales 50 micrograms of smoke particles per cigarette. However the chief pharmacologically active ingredient is nicotine, the amount absorbed varying from 90 per cent in those who inhale to only 10 per cent in those who do not. Substances carcinogenic (causing cancer) to animals like polycyclic hydrocarbons have also been identified in tobacco smoke of cigars, pipes and cigaretttes. Besides smoking air polulation is the other main source of heavy trace metals like lead, and cadmium. Cigar smokers inhale less smoke cigarettee smokers and hence have a low death rate from lung cancer. "Hukkah" a common smoking device used in Indian villages is comparatively less risky since the tobacco smoke passes through water and a long pipe before it is inhaled.

Tobacco was introduced to Europe from South America in the 16th century. The WHO in its 1980 global review points out that not only are tobacco companies turning more to the Third World but there is evidence that at least some are selling stronger and more addicitive cigarettes in the developing countries and the people in these countries are being persuaded by the costly advertising. In India almost every magazine and newspaper has attractive and colourful display of cigarette brands, some cigarette companies select smoking couples in the form of "made for each other", some offer these selected couples free air ride to some countries, others provide a lucrative modelling career to many young people. Surprisingly smoking is gradually declining in the West, non-smokers outnumber smokers in United States, Norway, Sweden and UK, while smoking has increased dramatically in the developing countries. Obviously statutory warnings in India like like "Cigarette Smiking is Injurious to Health" superscribed on the beatiful cigarette packets has no relevance. Smoking us a stimulant is regarded as a mood elevator by some and it leaves a psycholodependence gical dependance unlike the physical of alchohol. The importance of finding out just what smoking does or does not do may be clear from the fact that the death expectancy in men at the age of 35 before they attain the age of 65 years is-15 per cent in non-smokers, 23 per cent in smokers of 1-14 cigarettes a day, 25 per cent in smokers of 15-24 cigarettes a day and 33 per cent in smokers of 25 or more cigrettes a day.

Increase of mortality with cigar and pipe smokers are substantially less. One of the most impressive bits of information in the new reports comes from a monumental long-term follow up of 59,600 British medical practitioners and their smoking habits. Starting in 1951 half of all the participating doctors who smoked gave up, becoming in effect a self selected reported test group by 1964.

Based on a world-wide survey of contining medical research the studies contain bad news for heavy smokers. The recent increase of lung cancer in many countries proves that there is a genetically determined tendency both to smoke and to develop lung cancer. In UK, the lung cancer mortality rate has risen by 2,00 per cent in the past 40 years and more than 33,000 people die of lung cancer annually. In USA smoking takes a toll of 350,00 of lives a year, a disease that would still be a rarity if cigarettes had never been populari sed. While deaths from lung cancer for all men in the age group of 35, to 64 years rose seven per cent in UK from 1951 to 1965, among all the doctors such deaths fell by 33 percent. Among the doctors who stopped smoking the risk of gettnig' lung cancer was found to fall in direct proportion to the time elapsed since they had last smoked. This experiment contradicted the argument of tobacco lovers that their exists a "smokers personality' since of this were so giving up should have no effect on mortality". It may not be surprising to know that in the case of lung cancer women are today dying of this disease at twice the rate they did 20 years ago. A pregnant women smoking as many as ten cigarettes a day has a significantly greater chance of losing her baby either before it is born or in the first four weeks of infancy, than a non-smoking mother. Smoking affects an unborn baby. Some agent in cigarette smoke besets the foetus with potentially disastrous consequences pracisely how is not yet known. Smoking may restrict the flow of blood to the placenta (chord connecting the foetus with mother's body) thus reducing the nourishment the baby gets or carbon monixide present in the blood of a smoking mother may work its way into the baby's circulation. Whatever be the cause smoking retards the growth of the unborn child. A smoking mother is more apt to produce a still-born baby or one who dies soon after birth and the more she smokes the more she increases such risk. A baby born to a smoking mother is approximately 200 gms. less in weight than that of babies born to non-smoking mothers. Smoking before the start of pregnancy does not appear to effect foetal growth and if the mother stops smoking in the early months normal growth can still be expected.

Laboratory tests have demonstrated that nicotine introduced into the mother's blood stream increased

acidity in the foetus, impaired its heart rate, blood pressure and oxygen supply. One in five of the smoking mothers who lost their babies would pregnancy if probably have had a successful time. in smoking stopped had Bristol Professor Neville Butler, Director of University Child Health Department studiedas test group all the 17,000 children born in England, Scotland and Wales during one week of March 1958 and his finding was most disturbing that babies who develop under tobacco's toxic influence may suffer long-term liabilities. Prof. Butler found that when these children were seven they were clumsier at handling objects, less adjusted to the school environment, over a centimetre shorter than children of non-smoking mothers. Butler points out that at least some of these defects may turn out to be a delay in development rather than permanent impairment, But statistics show that women are starting to smoke at an earlier age, are smoking more and more and are not giving up in such great numbers as men,

—Patriot, New Delhi.
To be concluded....

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**ANNIVERSARY** 

## Indo-Soviet Treaty

By Vijaya Chari

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the controversial Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Frendship and Cooperation was celebrated all over India on August 9 on a rather low key. The treaty was signed at the peak of high tension between India and Pakistan in 1971 when the liberation struggle headed by the late Sheik Mujibuer Rehman was at full momentum in the then East Pakistan. Over nine million refugees had crossed over to India to elude the worth of Pakistan armed forces and the entire North Eastern region of the sub-continent was thrown into a turmoil with an Indo-Pakistan war looming large in the horizon and with the prying eyes of China and the US concentrated on the conculsive situation. It is in this context that the treaty which provides for mutual consultations and appropriate action in the event of either of the contracting parties becoming an object of aggression by a third party was hammered. The treaty served its eminent purpose at that time and acted as a deterrent against China's intervention in support of Pakistan and against US pressure on India to remain quiescent even as the Yahya Khan regime of Pakistsn exterminated the rebel elements in the then East Pakistan. The treaty (expectedly) was then assailed by the anti-Soviet lobby as nothing short of a

military pact by which India had sold itself out to Russia in violation of its non-aligned tenets. But there is no denying the fact that the treaty did serve its purpose at the crucial time for India during the Bangladesh crisis. Now that the treaty is ten years old and has ten more years to go, its relevance in the present geopolitical situation in the Indian Sub Continent in particular has come up for debate. The Russian front organisations are hailing the treaty as a bastion of peace and a bulwark against aggression on India. The US lobby decries it as nothing short of politice-military alliance which stands in the way of improved relations between India on the one side and the US and China on the other.

A REVIEW of the history of Indo-US and Indo-Soviet relations since India's independence in 1947 will undoubtedly help to get a balanced view of the efficacy or otherwise of the treaty in the present day context. Stalinist Russia took some time to strike a correct, not to speak of cordial relations, with Nehru's India and had a lurking suspicion, for quite some time after India's independence, that Nehru with his admiration for Parliamentary Democracy and love for liberal western traditions was essentially pro-west in spite of his socialist bias in his economic philosophy. On the other hand at the height of cold war in the wake of the Second World War the US had no respect for "neutrality" in foreign policy as non-alignment was hen known, conditioned as it was then by the Dullesian theory that "if you are not with me, you are my enemy". Thus the US also views India as an apologist for Soviet hegemonism in the early years of its independence. Only during the post Stalin period with the ascendancy of Niketa Khrushchev the Soviet Union began to evolve a balance and realistic appraisal of Indian motivations for international peace and harmony and its zeal for nonalignment in global affairs. Barring a brief spell of cordiality during the Kennedy era, India's relations with the US continued to be luke-warm with Nixon-Kissinger combine bearing a blatantly pro-Pakistani and anti-Indian mantle in inability to comprehend the power-equations in the Indian sub-continenet at the height of the Bangladesh crisis.

WITH THE STEADY IMPROVEMENT in the Indo-Soviet relations after Mrs. Indira Gandhi's assumption of office, the Soviet leaders made bold to broach the idea of a friendship treaty with her in 1968. But she was not at that time enthusiastic to go along with Mr. Brezhnev's proposal which also embraced as Asian Security Pact conceived as a counter to the "imperialist pressure" on newly independent nations. At that time, Mrs. Gandhi had just began to drop from her inner power circle pro-US elements who were responsible for unwise decisions like rupee devaluation and

shift to greater free-market economy and was anxious to avoid criticism that she was being sucked into Russian orbit. Undeterred, Russians continued to prod with her with the treaty idea and it was only during the Bangladesh crisis that she made bold to take the plunge dictated by considerations of national security and integrity. The undisguised pro-Pakistan tilt of Nixon and Kissinger during mass rebellion in the then East Pakistan had left her with no other choice. She was well aware that the convulsions in the Eastern wing of Pakistan way fast heading towards an Indo-Pakistan war and that she could not count on neutrality either on the part of US or China in the event of Indian subcontinent conflagaration. She had the compelleing reason to deter both these powers from coming out more than verbally on the side of Pakistan and the Indo-Soviet treaty was the only weapon available to her. And she opted for it without any further loss of time.

The controversial "mutual assistance" clause was beefed up in the final draft (to give teeth to it) as follows: "Each high contracting party undertakes to abstain from providing any assistance to any third party that engages in armed conflict with the other party. In the event of either party being subjected to an attack or threat thereof, the highcontracting parties shall immediately enter into mutual consultations in order to remove such threat and to take appropriate effective measures to ensure peace and security of their countries". The treaty was not a defence treaty per se as it does not provide for automatic armed assistance (or intervention) by Russia to India, if attacked, and any such assistance will be only after "mutual consultations" and with India's explicit invitation. But the clause did confer on India the right to rely on the Soviets in the event of Chinese intervention or US pressure and the treaty as a whole resulted in 'hands off" attitude on the part of China and kept the US Seventh fleet at bay during the Bangladesh liberation

During the Janatha rule, the importance of the treaty was sought to be diluted by Mr. Morarji Desai and references to the Indo-Soviet friendships were made then on as "in the spirit of the treaty" and not in terms of a more solid expression of the past namely "on the basis of the treaty". With the recent thaw in the Sino-Indian relations, there has been further efforts to underplay the importance of the treaty. It is now being looked upon now as a "landmark" in Indo-Soviet friendship, thereby implying that the treaty is not the fountain-head" of Indo-Soviet cordiality and is only part of the continuing process of mutual cooperation and help. The tenth anniversary of the treaty has not been marked by euphoric celebrations at governmental level in Delhi which has left the job to the friendship societies in both the countries. Pragmatically,

Russia has not shown undue annoyance over the low key celebration of the treaty in India. It is conscious that the Indo-Soviet friendship is too abiding to be measured by over-display of enthusiasm on occasions like the tenth anniversary of the treaty which continues to have relevance to India at crucial times in future in the context of the molten flux of the Indian Sub Continent politics.

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WEST GERMANY

#### Chemical Fertilisers Threaten Groundwater

By Dankwart Guratzsch.

GROUND WATER, West Germany's main source of drinking water is more heavily polluted than pessimists had thought, according to a university study. Geologist Peter Obermann, of Bochum University, found that nitrates from chemical fertilisers were the main pollutant. He also says that the supply of self-purifying elements in ground water is limited. "There will come a time when the breakdown of nitrates will stop", he says. Obermann tested water from near the Liedern and Mussum waterworks near Bocholt and found that ground water collects in different layers or levels which do not mix. Each year has its layer of water and scientific analysis of each level can determine the environmental influences in any year. Obsermann found that the deepest layers were 22 years old. This water was the purest. But from ten metres upwards the "clean" water lavers end. The change from comparatively clean to polluted water is sudden, not gradual. The nitrate levels in more recent ground water are considerably higher. Water specimens taken near Mussum waterworks show how serious this problem is. In the six to seven metres range where the water is about two years old the nitrate levels from one layer to the next rose from 19 to 192 miligrammes per litre-

Obermann says that this illustrates as graghically as any history book the time when intensive use of chemical fertilisers began. Hydromechanical stratification of ground water is not Obermann's discovery. It is a phenomenon to which scientists have so far paid little attention. Tests have focussed only on pumped-up warer in which the water levels were mixed. This meant that measurements taken over the years showed only a gradual increase in nitrate levels. Even these data were alarming enough. On a map of West Germany, a broad sickle-shaped area ranging from western North

Rhine-Westphalia through Hesse to Bavaria marks danger zones where ground water could soon be so heavily polluted as to be undrinkable, i.e. exceeding the present maxima for nitrate content. This grim picture is lugubriously upstaged by Obermann's findings because it is "decades out of date" he himself says. The higher, more heavily-polluted water strata are now coming nearer the surface. The time when high-nitrate level water starts coming through the taps is not so far off. Within a very short time, nitrate pollution levels have risen spectacularly. Those who trust in the self-purifying qualities of ground water risk being disappointed. Obermann has found that the supply of self-purifying elements in ground water is limited. "There will come a time when the breakdown of nitrates will stop".

These dangers are intensified by, for example, the use of heat pumps. Ground water is a favoured heat source for heat pumps because its temperature remains the same throughout the year. But the ground water used to heat pumps comes back several degrees cooler-and that reduces its selfpurifying qualities. What is true of nitrates will even greater force to pollution by apply with chlorides and sulphates, salts and detergents. Even traditional measuring techiques have \found that ground water is constantly getting harder. "No wonder when lime is used even in woods," says Obermann. The chloride content in ground water has been rising steadily for the past 15 years in the greater Munich area, it has doubled in the past 20 years. One of the main reasons for the salinification of water is the use of road salt to combat snow and ice. Two million tonnes of road salt are used annually in West Germany which puts it top of the European road salt league. Road salt use has trebled in the past 15 years. Prof. Wolfgang Bischofsberger has studied the effect this has on ground water. He found that on roads where salt was regularly strewn chloride levels had risen from two to 20 milligrammes per litre and even as high as 200 milligrammes per litre. The World Health Organisation maximum is 600 mg/1, so Bischofsberger does not yet see any immediate danger, though he warns against the possible long-term effects. Ground water supply is not infinite. The days when it flowed in plenty are clearly past. Once, ground water fed and purified rivers and lakes. Today it is the other way round: the huge increase in ground water consumption has meant that ground water pipes are now often filled by foul surface water.

—German Tribune

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**ANGOLA** 

## Senator Lugar On U.S. Veto

From 'The Macneil/Lehrer Report', September 2, 1981, co-produced by WNET-TV, New York and WETA-TV, Washington D. C. copyright 1981 by Educational Broadcasting Corporation and GWETA.

Washington, September 2: Senator Richard Lugar says the United States was correct in vetoing a United Nations resolution that would have condemthe government of South Africa for that country's incursion into Angola. Lugar, who is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the Reagan administration has shown "courage and patience" by adopting an even-handed policy which takes a look at all sides of the issue in Southern Africa. The Senator spoke September 2 during an appearance on the Macneil-Lehrer Report, a nationally-televised news program. Also interviewed on the program was a former US Ambassador to Donald Mc Henry, who the United Nations, expressed concern that the US decision to veto the resolution could be interpreted as approval of South Africa's actions in the region.

Question: Senator, do you believe the adminstration was correct in vetoing that US resolution on Monday?

a very difficult call but the right call. As the administration pointed out... we condemn the aggression, no doubt about that. We condemn apartheied. We are very uncomfortable with the entirety of the South Africa problem, but at the same time we condemn the presence of 20 to 30,000 Cubans, of perhaps as many as a 1,000 Soviets, 400 Eastern Germans—or however many are there—a pretty concentrated number of people who have backed the regime in Angola that got in without election and that have given refuge to the SWAPO forces that are attempting to take over in Namibia.

Questivn: Do you think the South Africans were thus justified in going into Angola last week?

Answer: No, they were not justified. To say that you understand what they were doing and that you understand the provocations and that you see the dangers of Soviet takeover in Namibia, with the strategic implications of that, is not to say that it is justified. It is just simply to say that an even-handed policy takes a look at both of the provocations as opposed to condemning only one.

Question: Do you think this situation has gotten to be an East-West situation—US against the Soviet Union—now?

Answer: Well, I think that it always was ing a sense. In other words, Secretary Haig is pointing out we are going to leave things on the table for the Soviets to pick up easily. We are very concerned about the Cuban presence as surrogates for the Soviet Union and have been for a very long time and have condemned that. We are concerned about the Soviets themselves being there and about the East Germans. This triple play of Cubans training the militia, East Germans training the Security forces and Soviets running the whole thing has been replayed several times. We are not eager to see that repeated. On the other hand, we are working with the contact group to try to get an independent Namibia.

Question: That's five Western countries and the United States working toward a solution?

Answer: Precisely. And a that's an important element It's an important objective of our diplomacy, and this has been a setback for that, without any doubt.

Question: What do you see as the potential danger in the US actions—the Veto and other things—of alienating the black African nations?

Answer: Very clearly that is a danger. It is a very large danger and yet at the time Black African nations, it seems to me, are relying upon the leadership of the United States to bring South Africa to the table. Now, we could go into rhetoric and simply, on the basis of principle or policy, indicate what South Africa ought to do, but they haven't moved. Now, we've tried to get engaged in this situation again because without South Africa's willingness to negotiate, there's unlikely to be much independence in Namibia for the foreseeable furture.

Question: Do you think then that "persuasion rather than coercion," which has become the common term of the Reagan administration in terms of how to deal with South Africa, is correct?

Answer: Well, I don't see what sort of coercion we would have in this respect. We can talk about sanctions and trade problems and that have you, but, as a matter of fact, Black Africa's trade with South Africa increased by a multiple of at least two last year to a billion (thusand million) dollars. If we reaily got into sort of situation, we would totally disrupts of the ties between Black Africa and South Africa. Now, this, I think, is looking at it real stically and I think the Reagan administration is doing that, but to maintain even hands in this particular situation takes a lot of courage and patience. I think it's important that we do so.—USICA.

".... It is to the credit of the people of Ceylon that during two thousand years and more they obeyed this decree and continued to pay their homage to one who was a brave man and a just and humane ruler".

--G. P. Malalasekera in The Pali Literature of Ceylon Colombo, 1928 p. 25.

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with Appendices and Notes

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CHAIRMAN.

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GENERAL MANAGER.

CENTRAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY BUREAU, P. O. Box 1771, 500, T-B-Jaya Mawatha, Colombo 10-9th September 1981

#### **Mixed Grill**

IS IT NOT A FACT that the Forward of September 1. 1981 had an interesting item in its column Last Page (by Gamini) entitled EXODUS? That it read as follows: "The exit of experienced journalists from Lake House has swelled into a major exodus, especially after Upali Wijewardene began recruiting editorial staff for the newspapers he is about to start. The Daily News which lost five senior members of its editorial staff recently, is shortly to lose many more. Three will go to the Gulf News others to Upali, and one or two will 'retire'. The exodus has begun to spread to the Silumina (whose long-time editor Edmund Ranasinghe has quit), the Sunday Observer (whose main editorial backroom boy leaves soon), and may spread even further. Lake House, one of the departing journalists, quipped, 'will soon be left with its machines and its buses, and Bodinagoda will be happy'. Lake House still does not use more than marginally the Rs. 40 million Webb Offset rotary that Mr. Bodinagoda bought for it recently. And not all the considerable professional skills of the new Daily News editor, Manik de Silva, have been able to lift it out of the Bodinagoda rut. A newsman leaving to join Upali told this column: 'It's not only that he pays so much better than Lake House, it's just that one can't put up for ever with the contemtuous attitude towards the basics of journalism that prevails under the Bodinagoda regime'. In the other government-owned newspaper group, another experienced journalist Felician Fernando, has been eased out as editor of the Daily Mirror"? That the Upali newspaper empire has been a talking point for nearly four years? That it now appears to be taking concrete shape? That already a very popular weekly comic strip in Sinhala has been rolling off the Upali press for some months now? That the story presently going round is that Upali will start with Sinhala and English Sunday or weekend papers and then venture into the publication of daily papers? That there is no doubt that the Upali papers, when they take shape, will offer a serious challenge to the Lake House and Sun group of papers? That apart from anything else, the Upali group has ventured to offer remuneration close to current international standards?

IS IT NOT TRUE that there is a great deal of agitated discussion among academic and bureaucratic circles (including technocrats) about the "action" being taken against Dr. Mervyn D. de Silva, Advisor Scientist in the Ministry of Plan Implementation for having written an articles critical of the Winged Bean (Dambala) Programme in May this year? That he was sent on compulsory leave because

he had sent this article for publication (without permission from the appropriate authority) to the Sun and the Tribune? That the article in question had really arisen because of some comments in the Tribune on the hullabaloo being made about the Winged Bean? That it is learnt that two charges have been brought against him, one for having published this article without the necessary permission and the other for allegedly bringing the Government into disrepute? That it is also learnt that an inquiry is now going on against him? That among other matters, it is learnt that an attempt is also being made to show that some of the reports he had prepared for the Ministry about the agricultural sector were "critical" of the Government? That in the meantime, a group of scientists recently met at the Marga Insitute to discuss the rights of a scientist to express opinion and decided to take action about Dr. de Silva's matter through the Ceylon Association for the Advancement of Science? That the Civil Rights Movement is also reliably learnt to have discussed this quesrion with concern? That it must be mentioned that if scientists are "penalised" in this way for adverting to truthful facts in reports which may appear "critical" of government, then there will be another exodus of honest scientists and technocrats from this country?

IS IT NOT SIGNIFICANT that the Government should have at last woken up to the fact that smuggling (not merely narcotics and gems) have assumed such enormous proportions that, according to a newsflash on the SLBC last week-end, a concerted campaign has been launched by all Security Services and the Customs and Income Tax authorities to end this menace? That this smuggling which is one of the illegitimate byproducts of an open economy can "throttle" the Sri Lankan economy by the sheer weight of its operations and the corruption it spawns at all levels? That it is unfortunate that an over-emphasis is being placed on the drug menace-threatening new draconian laws-whilst all other forms of smuggling-gems, goods, textiles, currency etc. etc.-are being played down? That for the first time, the SLBC newscast, based on information furnished by a high Police source, referred to obtaining the co-operation of the Customs and Tax authorities? That if this co-operation will be anything more than a "paper plan" or an "airwave" propaganda gimmick, then one can hope for real action? That the newscast referred to a class of (smugglers) new rich, with enormous stacks of cash-but without ever having filed tax returns? That these gentlemen (and ladies) now throw their weight about so much in the noveau riche milieu of Sri Lanka that ordinary men and women (who have the vote) have begun to resent the conspicuous opulence displayed by these hundred-rupee flourishing gentry?

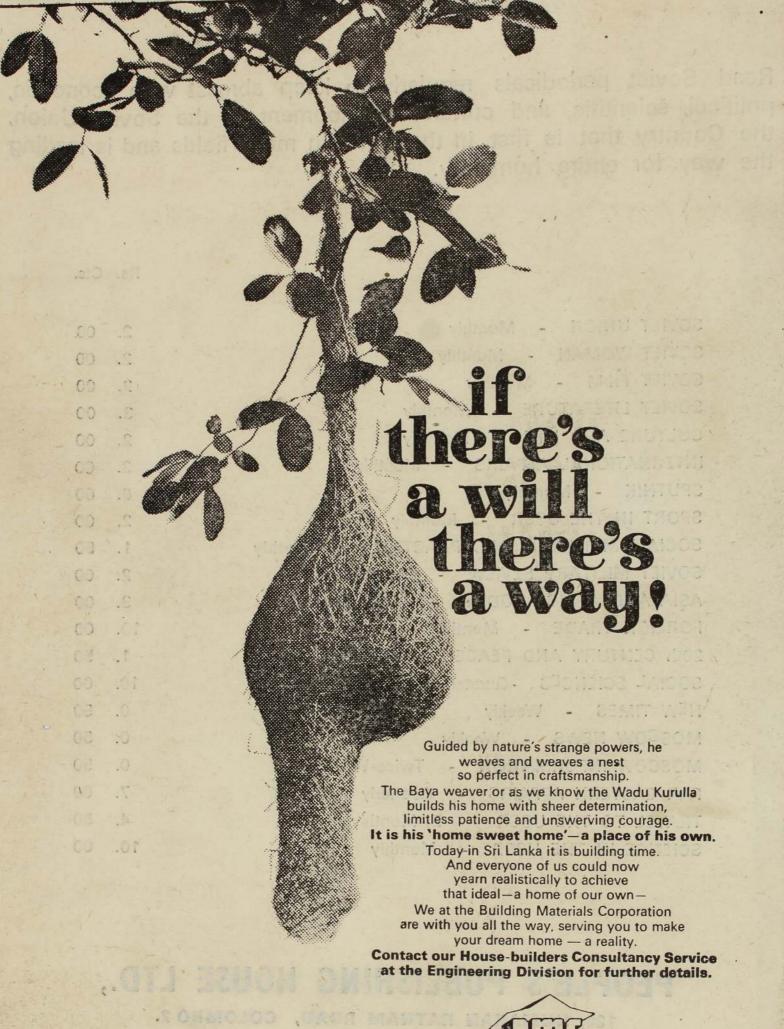
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