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JPRS 81867

28 September 1982

South and East Asia Report

No. 1196

19980917 108



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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28 September 1982

SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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CONTENTS

BURMA

- Burma, FRG Sign Financial Agreement
(THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY, 25 Aug 82) 1

FRENCH POLYNESIA

- French Anti-Extremist Aid to New Caledonia
(Derry Hogue; THE AUSTRALIAN, 26 Jul 82)..... 2

INDIA

- Significance to India of U.S. Arms to PRC Analyzed
(M. S. Venkataramani; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 10, 11 Aug 82) 3

- Rapid Break-Up of Indian Opposition Parties
(THE ISLAND, 17 Aug 82) 7

- Gandhi Scores Marxist Education Policy
(THE STATESMAN, 11 Aug 82) 8

- Reportage on Reaction to Bihar Press Bill
(Various sources, various dates) 9

Editors' Guild Objections
Journalists' Rally, Memorandum
Government Views Stated
'Sister' Bill Summarized
Mishra Reply to Guild
Mishra's Stand Analyzed, by S. Sahay
New Delhi Position Scored, Editorial
'Stifling the Press', Editorial

Briefs

- Ambassadorial Appointments 21

INDONESIA

Briefs	
300,000 East Timorese Deaths	22

MALDIVES

Briefs	
Saudis Open Office in Maldives	23

NEPAL

National Assembly Sees Government Incapacity	
(THE MOTHERLAND, 16 Aug 82)	24
Editorial Calls for Thapa's Resignation	
(Editorial; THE MOTHERLAND, 17 Aug 82)	26
National Assembly Views on Economy	
(THE RISING NEPAL, 17 Aug 82)	27
Call To Meet Family Planning Targets	
(THE RISING NEPAL, 17 Aug 82)	29
Minister Says Food Situation Not Worsening	
(THE RISING NEPAL, 28 Aug 82)	31
Minister Promises Availability of Food	
(THE RISING NEPAL, 23 Aug 82)	32
Editorial Charges Food Crisis Misinformation	
(Editorial; THE MOTHERLAND, 14 Aug 82)	34
Foodgrains To Be Mobilized	
(THE RISING NEPAL, 30 Aug 82)	36
King Orders Foodgrain Supplies	
(THE RISING NEPAL, 28 Aug 82)	39
Depot Rice Sales To Check Price Rise	
(THE RISING NEPAL, 19 Aug 82)	40

PAKISTAN

Local Bodies Report in November	
(DAWN, 18 Aug 82)	42
Safdar Supports Role of the Army in Future Set-Up	
(MORNING NEWS, 1 Sep 82)	43
Japanese Parliamentary Delegation Calls on Safdar	
(MORNING NEWS, 1 Sep 82)	44

IMF Financing Okayed (MORNING NEWS, 1 Sep 82)	45
Increased Japanese Aid for Refugees Assured (THE MUSLIM, 28 Aug 82)	46
British Welfare Specialists in Islamabad (DAWN, 28 Aug 82)	47
NWFP Governor Welcomes Ghaffar's Statement (DAWN, 20 Aug 82)	48
Minister Says Polls Will Be on Adult Franchise Basis (DAWN, 23 Aug 82)	49
Rashid Elected Journalists' Union Chief (DAWN, 23 Aug 82)	50
Export Promotion Zone Incentives Reported (DAWN, 20 Aug 82)	51
Code for Academic Peace Discussed (DAWN, 20 Aug 82)	52
Nine Recruiting Agencies Shut Down (DAWN, 20 Aug 82)	53
Hasan Interviewed, Says Feudal Way of Thinking Hinders Progress (Sibte Hasan Interview; DAWN, 20 Aug 82)	54
Problems of Pakistanis Abroad Discussed (DAWN, 21 Aug 82)	59
NWFP Governor Refutes Rumors About Refugees (DAWN, 23 Aug 82)	60
Extensive Use of Media in Social Reforms Urged (Editorial; MORNING NEWS, 1 Sep 82)	61
Press Convention Planned for December by Editors' Body (MORNING NEWS, 28 Aug 82)	63
Bar Council Amendment Seen as Harmful to Country, Government (Editorial; JASARAT, 17 Jul 82)	65
Zia's Rejection of Islamic Ideology Council Report Criticized (Editorial; JASARAT, 18 Jul 82)	67
Muslim World Warned Against Plots of Superpowers (Editorial; JASARAT, 19 Jul 82)	69

Editors' Council Calls for Lifting All Forms of Censorship (DAWN, 28 Aug 82)	71
Social Reform Drive Widely Hailed (DAWN, 28 Aug 82)	72
Public Accounts Body Reconstituted (DAWN, 28 Aug 82)	73
Extent of Evil of Corruption Analyzed (A. T. Chaudhri; DAWN, 28 Aug 82)	74
Minister Says Government Firm on Corruption (DAWN, 28 Aug 82)	76
Death Sentence for Subversion Being Considered (MORNING NEWS, 28 Aug 82)	77
Minister Reiterates Stand on Islamization (MORNING NEWS, 28 Aug 82)	81
Reform Campaign Strongly Supported (Editorial; MORNING NEWS, 28 Aug 82)	82
Too Numerous Police Officials in Islamabad (THE MUSLIM, 28 Aug 82)	84
Central Superior Service Reorganization Steps (Saeed Qureshi; THE MUSLIM, 28 Aug 82)	85
Steps Urged for Urdu as National Language (DAWN, 23 Aug 82)	87
Teaching of Science in Urdu Recommended (DAWN, 23 Aug 82)	88
Sorrows of Scientists Analyzed (Editorial; THE MUSLIM, 28 Aug 82)	90
Strong Remedies Advocated for Academic Indiscipline (Editorial; DAWN, 23 Aug 82)	92
Commentary on Wheat Price, Electoral Rolls (M. A. Mansui; DAWN, 23 Aug 82)	94
Decision Soon on Airlines in Private Sector (DAWN, 23 Aug 82)	96
Water Supply Plans for Sind Okayed (MORNING NEWS, 1 Sep 82)	97

Rotary Initiating Farm Uplift Project (DAWN, 20 Aug 82)	98
Cotton Policy for 1982-83 Supported (Editorial; DAWN, 28 Aug 82)	99
Plea Voiced To Revise New Cotton Policy (MORNING NEWS, 1 Sep 82)	100
Power Development Plan Outlays (DAWN, 20 Aug 82)	101
Oil Exploration, Self-Sufficiency in Rigs, Drillers Recommended (Editorial; DAWN, 28 Aug 82)	102
Success in Blast Furnace Stabilization Reported (MORNING NEWS, 1 Sep 82)	104
Briefs	
Call To Release Newsmen	105
Indian Leader Meets Zia	105
Adviser in New Delhi	105
Refugees Agony Affects MP	105
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	
Tribal Fighting Rages in PNG (Barry Moody; THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 28 Jul 82)	106
PHILIPPINES	
Army Chief Discusses Enemy Terror Plans (BULLETIN TODAY, 28 Aug 82)	107
Extortion Within MNLF Bared (Mel Parale; PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS, 28 Aug 82)	108
Zamboanga Official Slain (PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS, 28 Aug 82)	109
Foreign Investments in July Reported (PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS, 29 Aug 82)	110
Japanese Aid for Filipino Copper Urged (BULLETIN TODAY, 28 Aug 82)	111
Export Labor Earnings Given (BULLETIN TODAY, 28 Aug 82)	112
Geothermal Power Output Reported (PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS, 31 Aug 82)	113

Foreign Groups Eye Steel Project (Rosario A. Liquicia; PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS, 28 Aug 82)	114
---	-----

SRI LANKA

No Common Candidate From Opposition (Lalith Allahakoon; SUN, 1 Sep 82)	116
Presidential Candidates Weighed (DAILY NEWS, 14 Aug 82)	117
Separatist Campaign Spreading (Jennifer Henricus, Aruna Kulatunga; THE SUN, 18 Aug 82)	120
TULF Charges Presidential Election a Sinhala Affair (DAILY NEWS, 31 Aug 82)	122
Vasu Proposed as NLSP Candidate (THE ISLAND, 30 Aug 82)	123
All Island Team To Pick SLFP (S) Candidate (Richard Silva; THE ISLAND, 31 Aug 82)	124
SLFP Plans To Replace Constitution (D. P. Sirisena; THE ISLAND, 30 Aug 82)	125
Anura Likely SLFP (S) Candidate (THE ISLAND, 30 Aug 82)	126
Columnist Evaluates Opposition Candidates (Arjuna; THE ISLAND, 29 Aug 82)	127
Presidential Elections 'A Red Herring' (THE ISLAND, 22 Aug 82)	129
Sirima Explains Position (DAILY NEWS, 17 Aug 82)	131
Sirima Faction May Run as Independents (THE ISLAND, 3 Sep 82)	132
Sirima Denies Iraqi Support for JVP (DAILY NEWS, 17 Aug 82)	133
SLFP Loyalists Revive SWRD's Party (THE ISLAND, 17 Aug 82)	134
Outlook for UNP Examined (DAILY NEWS, 21 Aug 82)	135
TULF Position Remains Undecided (THE ISLAND, 29 Aug 82)	137

TULF To Have Seven Man Politbureau (SUN, 28 Aug 82)	138
TULF Urged To Boycott Elections (D. B. S. Jeyaraj; THE ISLAND, 3 Sep 82)	139
TULF Will Not Contest Presidential Election (Sinniah Gurunathan; SUN, 30 Aug 82)	140
Kumar Bids for TULF Backing (THE ISLAND, 3 Sep 82)	141
TULF May Oppose UNP (D.B.S. Jeyaraj; THE ISLAND, 19 Aug 82)	142
Better Security Planned for Diplomats (Chris Dharmakirti; SUN, 16 Aug 82)	143
Calm Returns to Galle (Trevine Rodrigo; SUN, 16 Aug 82)	144
President Expresses Concern About Crime (Sirimal Abeyewardene; DAILY NEWS, 17 Aug 82)	145
Police To Take Sterner Action in Jaffna (THE ISLAND, 18 Aug 82)	146
International Counterfeiter Operations (Aruna Kulatunga; SUN, 16 Aug 82)	147
Rewards Posted for 'Tigers' in North (D. B. S. Jeyaraj; THE ISLAND, 17 Aug 82)	148
TULF Calls for End to Anti Terrorist Act (THE ISLAND, 18 Aug 82)	149
Armed Youths Attack Examination Centers (Tyronne Devotta, K. Arasaratnam; SUN, 21 Aug 82)	150
Foreign Trained Terrorist Sought (THE ISLAND, 29 Aug 82)	152
Tamil Terrorists Train in India (D. B. S. Jeyaraj; THE ISLAND, 2 Sep 82)	153
New Terroristic Methods Reported (Norman Palihawadana; THE ISLAND, 19 Aug 82)	154
Editorial Disagrees With Tamil Death Sentences (Editorial; THE ISLAND, 16 Aug 82)	155
Editorial Concerned About Arms Thefts (Editorial; SUN, 28 Aug 82)	157

Exhaustion of Import Reserves Foreseen (THE ISLAND, 17 Aug 82)	159
Developed Nations Refusing Further Aid (THE ISLAND, 30 Aug 82)	160
President To Appoint Economic Monitoring Committee (DAILY NEWS, 2 Sep 82)	161
Columnist Views Economic Situation (C. Rajasingham; THE ISLAND, 21 Aug 82)	162
Malnutrition Is Number One Killer (Lucy Thompson; SUN, 27 Aug 82)	164
Editorial Examines Plight of Plantation Workers (Editorial; THE ISLAND, 14 Aug 82)	167
Lanka Estate Workers Union Backs Colvin (THE ISLAND, 30 Aug 82)	169
Briefs	
Special Police Unit To Counter Terrorist Propaganda	170
Firearms Thieves Sought	170
JVP Leader To Run	171
SLFP (M)-LSSP Hold Talks	171

BURMA, FRG SIGN FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 25 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

RANGOON, 24 Aug—Deputy Minister for Planning & Finance U Aye Ko and Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Burma Dr Helmut Turk signed a Financial Co-operation Agreement for 1982 and 1983 at the Ministry of Planning & Finance meeting hall today.

The agreement provides for capital assistance amounting to DM 107 million (about K 338 million), financial contributions (grants) amounting to DM 9.45 million (about K 30 million), and a commodity loan amounting to DM 20 million (about K 63 million).

The capital loans will be used for the financing of the Yenwe Multipurpose Dam Project (Power component), Phaungdaw Hydro-power Station Project, Cotton Farm Project, Co-operative Oil Mills Project, procurement of Diesel Locomotives and for additional financing required for the on-going projects. The grant funds

will be used for the Rural Water Supply Project and for the preparation of pre-investment studies. The Commodity Loan will be used for the Bawdwin Mine Extension Project and for the procurement of spares and machinery for the on-going projects.

The loans will carry interest at the rate of 0.75 per cent per annum, with a repayment period of 50 years including a grace period of 10 years.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Industry 1 U Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister for Industry 2 U Kyaw Za, Deputy Ministers for Transport & Communications U Sein Ya and U Saw Hla Pru, Deputy Minister for Agriculture & Forests U Kyaw Htain, Deputy Minister for Co-operatives U San Tint, officials of the Departments and Corporations concerned and Commercial Attache of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr Uwe Janitz.—NAB

FRENCH ANTI-EXTREMIST AID TO NEW CALEDONIA

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Derry Hogue].

[Text]

FRENCH security police in New Caledonia have stepped up their investigation into an armed extreme right-wing group opposed to reform or independence for the French Pacific territory.

Extra intelligence officers have been flown in from Paris to help local authorities uncover the extent of a clandestine organisation known as the Movement for Order and Peace, which is believed to have as many as 2000 members including embittered Frenchmen who left Algeria after its bloody fight to gain independence from France 20 years ago.

Pro-independence sources in Noumea said yesterday the MOP initiated last week's violence at the territory's Assembly when a group of anti-independence demonstrators forced their way into the chamber, injured several representatives and smashed windows and furniture.

The sources, who demanded anonymity, said they feared the MOP was preparing to block moves from Paris to return land to the Melanesians.

One source said: "The overwhelming majority of people in New Caledonia don't want a battle here over questions of land reform or eventual independence.

"But we know the MOP is well armed and you can safely speculate that those opposed

to the MOP have taken measures to protect themselves."

New Caledonian authorities have tightened the colony's previously lax firearms laws as a result of the growth of the MOP and the arming by those who fear they may be on an MOP "hit" list.

The next show of strength by anti-independistes is likely to come when the French Government replies to last week's land reform debate in the Assembly. It was this debate which prompted the break-in by a group of 30 demonstrators.

There are likely to be more police at the Assembly tomorrow when it debates other reforms to promote Melanesian culture. Although these reforms are not considered controversial, the debate may provide a spark for extreme anti-independistes seeking fresh elections by claiming the Assembly no longer reflects a majority feeling.

The tenseness in this territory of 140,000 people heightened after the release on \$4200 bail on Friday night of Dominique Canon, 20, who had been held in detention for 10 months accused of the murder last September of Pierre Declercq, a fervent French-born pro-independence leader.

Canon's detention resulted in a 14,000-signature petition demanding his release. He is scheduled to be tried at the end of the year.

SIGNIFICANCE TO INDIA OF U.S. ARMS TO PRC ANALYZED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10, 11 Aug 82

[Article by M. S. Venkataramani]

[10 Aug 82 p 8]

[Text]

The views expressed in the article are the writer's own. As we see it, the reality is far more complex. China has not shown any serious interest in U.S. arms supplies and there are good reasons for it. On its part, the U.S. cannot be and is in fact not insensitive to Japanese and South-East Asian, indeed even Soviet, concerns. But whatever our assessment, the issue deserves to be publicly debated.

In recent months intensive discussions have taken place in our country on various facets of Indo-American relations. Policy planners in Washington may well have been quietly pleased that in the vital area of security concerns, the discussions in India have flowed substantially along familiar channels.

The issue of U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan, especially of F-16 aircraft, emerged as a profoundly important issue in the Indian debate. Wearing the customary blinders that we use during special contingencies, we peered through our home-made binoculars, directing our gaze alternately at Washington and Islamabad to monitor the goings-on relating to the F-16 deal.

American planners had good reason to feel satisfied and even amused over the Indian reaction because they had a gimmick up their sleeve that was to be pulled out and displayed at the most opportune moment. On the eve of the Prime Minister's departure, Washington announced that it was ready to discuss the sale to friendly

India of that very same scourge of the skies, the F-16.

In the midst of our self-created excitement, a quiet announcement made by the Reagan administration a year ago that may have portentous consequences for India and many other countries of Asia, has almost completely been blocked out of our consciousness. Important as it was for the Prime Minister to ascertain Washington's intentions in arming Pakistan, it was far more crucial for our future that she should have sought, obtained and evaluated information on the meaning, scope, magnitude, and implications of actions taken by the Reagan administration in pursuance of its announcement last year. The announcement, it may be recalled, was to the effect that the United States would be willing to consider requests from the People's Republic of China for the purchase of arms.

Realistic Appraisal

We certainly have a vital interest in seeking to live in peace with China. Our sincere friendship for the Chinese people is a fact of history. But our judgments must be made on the basis of a realistic appraisal of the past actions, present motivations, and likely future aspirations of the men who rule China.

We have a long, vulnerable border with China, a border to which China has not in the recent past chosen to accord much respect. Unlike us, China possesses nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. It is the only country of non-European origins to have an arsenal of long-distance ballistic missiles. Its con-

ventional military forces are significantly larger than ours.

In recent months we have had the benefit of reading many interesting expositions on the military capabilities of Pakistan and the dangers that we may face. Not many of our commentators have chosen to refer to the vulnerability of population centres and industrial complexes in India that are within striking range of operational Chinese aircraft and missiles. Are comparable complexes similarly vulnerable to weapons that we now have? Our army chief of staff, in his first radio broadcast after taking charge of his office, made a forthright reference to these issues and to some interesting projects of military significance that the Chinese had under way in nearby Tibet. We have not heard much on these points subsequently, though "dual purpose" U.S. equipment began to be acquired by China early in 1980 and the Reagan administration's readiness to sell arms to China was proclaimed just a year later.

Arms Package

Not only has there been little discussion of possible dangers that should be guarded against, but there has been persistent talk of "normalisation" of relations with China. It is not surprising that in comments on the Prime Minister's visit, official circles in Washington have cited with evident satisfaction the Indian willingness to proceed on the path of normalisation with China.

Washington begins to move towards lifting the embargo on arms sales to China, China develops an interest in normalisation of relations with us. Washington begins to move towards providing Pakistan with an arms package, Pakistan seeks a "no-war" pact with India with all the zeal of a new convert. China, of course, has long been hailed by Pakistan as its most reliable friend. Is it a pure coincidence that an outbreak of sentiments of peace and goodwill towards India has taken place in both Beijing and Islamabad? Or is there a maestro at work, putting on an orchestrated effort at this particular time?

Let us grant that Washington is sincere in desiring that tensions between India and Pakistan on the one hand, and India and China on the other, should be progressively reduced. Washington believes that such a process would, in time, reduce the level of India's "dependence" on the Soviet Union. It regards recent Indian moves to purchase military equipment from the United Kingdom, France and Germany as encouraging developments,

and it seeks to promote the process by indicating its own willingness to consider the sale of arms to India.

Washington planners calculate that the offer of arms to India in the context of Indo-Pakistani normalisation would mute Indian protests over continued provision of arms to Pakistan. They probably believe that acceptance of some arms by India would blunt the edge of criticism and outrage in India when the inevitably larger U.S. programme of military supplies to China gets into stride. If India were to find itself inhibited from organising a major campaign to mobilise world opinion against a military build-up of China with U.S. help, quiet celebrations would be perfectly in order in two capitals — the capital of the most powerful democracy in the world and that of the world's largest non-democracy!

Vested Interest

The tentative steps that China has taken in the direction of normalisation of relations with India are but a minor gambit in the larger objective that it has been pursuing relentlessly. China's objective is to enhance its own security by promoting pressures against the Soviet Union from every conceivable quarter and promoting anti-Sovietism of every sort. China has a deep vested interest in exploiting every opportunity to widen and deepen the cleavages between the United States and the Soviet Union.

China's enthusiastic support for any venture aimed at containing "Soviet expansionism" has earned for it considerable credit among important segments of opinion in the United States, Western Europe and Japan. The United States, in particular, places a high premium on the "shared strategic perceptions" between itself and China and on "parallel courses of action" that the two countries can usefully take. The implications of this appraisal will be discussed in the second part of the article.

If the effect of American actions were to make China overwhelmingly strong militarily and economically during the coming decade or so, the consequences for India and other Asian countries will be most serious indeed. It is certainly not part of Washington's business to alert India concerning such a possibility. Since we have fallen into the habit of reacting with Pavlovian predictability only to Washington's dealings with Pakistan, Washington does take note of the Indian factor as it evolves its policies towards Pakistan. It has not bothered at all to "factor" Indian concerns and

sensitivities into the formulation of its policy towards China. The major responsibility for such a state of affairs should rest on India. We should have recognised the importance of communicating our concerns effectively to the US government, to Congress, and to the American public.

[11 Aug 82 p 8]

[Text]

THE ardent wooing of Beijing by Mr. Richard Nixon and Mr. Henry Kissinger which resulted in the birth of the "China card" has been steadily carried forward by succeeding administrations. The issue of arms supplies to China came to be seriously considered by Washington when the occupant of the White House was a man widely regarded in India as a good friend—Mr. Jimmy Carter. His national security adviser, Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, was the most persistent advocate of the course. He outflanked the secretary of state, Mr. Cyrus Vance, converted the defence secretary, Mr. Harold Brown, to his point of view, and worked hard on the President himself.

After the fall of the Shah and the onset of the hostage crisis in Iran, Mr. Brzezinski's influence on the President increased significantly. When the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan took place, Mr. Brzezinski convinced the nervous President that a major move towards China must be made without further delay. He also urged that at least a packet of "peanuts" should be offered to Pakistan. Interestingly, we in India had programmed ourselves to blow our tops over the "peanuts" while the Carter administration's action in regard to China went largely unnoticed.

Weapon Sales

The U.S. defence secretary arrived in Beijing early in January 1980, the first chief of the Pentagon ever to visit the People's Republic of China. He announced that the U.S. would be willing to sell China "dual purpose" equipment — equipment with both military and civilian application. It was not a complete victory for the Brzezinski line because the sale of "lethal weapons" to China still lay under an embargo. But a big step had been taken in a certain direction and clearly the lifting of the embargo was merely a question of time. But we swallowed the assurances trotted out by Washington that no military alliance with China was in prospect and that there was no question of selling sophisticated arms to China.

Early in June 1980, Mr. Brown assured a visiting Chinese vice-premier that the U.S. would be ready to per-

mit American firms to build factories in China to produce U.S.-designed helicopters and computer equipment. The U.S. and China, he declared, "see the geo-strategic situation in very similar terms in a number of parts of the world, in fact most parts of the world." The U.S. defence secretary warned that if any other country were "to threaten the shared interests of the U.S. and China, we can respond with complementary actions in the field of defence as well as diplomacy."

After its advent to power, the Reagan administration did not waste much time in making its own major move. During a visit to Beijing in June 1981, the then secretary of state, Mr. Alexander Haig, announced almost casually that the U.S. would be willing to consider the sale of arms to China on a case-by-case basis. Having buried the old embargo, Mr. Haig proposed a toast to the Chinese leaders: "We regard China's strength, security, and well-being as fundamental to the global balance that is the basis of our own security." India took in Mr. Haig's pronouncements with the same noteworthy calm as it did earlier Mr. Brown's.

In October 1981 a group of American officials and scholars participated in a "workshop" on the implications of U.S.-China military cooperation sponsored by the senate committee on foreign relations. None of the participants mentioned India as a country that might react strongly to the new policy or one whose views on the subject ought to be heard by Washington. Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the committee, stressed the importance of listening to and taking into account the views of Japan, South Korea, and "friends in Southeast Asia." He mentioned that he had already held informal conversation with representatives of several of those countries. What were our men in Washington doing around that time?

Incidentally, the participants in the "workshop" endorsed the policy of selling arms to China. There were predictable admonitions to the effect that the U.S. should be "extremely wary" in developing extensive military ties with China. Far more significant, as I saw it, was the general sentiment that the policy should be implemented with speed and not watered down or reversed. It was agreed that "refusal to sell any arms to China would likely be seen in Peking as a strik-

ing reversal in American intentions toward the People's Republic of China, carrying serious negative implications for future U.S. relations with China".

Some important elements in the American military hierarchy are in the process of becoming transformed into ardent advocates of expanded arms supplies to China. For instance, the commander-in-chief of the U.S. military forces in the Pacific region (CINCPAC), Admiral Robert L. J. Long, stated in March 1982 that for safeguarding its far-flung interests in the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, the U.S. was "dependent on support from our friends and allies." Among them he chose to make special mention of China. The CINCPAC stated his position in unambiguous language: "I consider it essential to our strategic interests to maintain a friendly relationship with China and I am supportive of taking advantage of our parallel interests. The PRC (China) continues to play a major role in the global power equation as a forceful counterweight to Soviet expansionism and I endorse the provision of selected technology and equipment to China's modernisation."

There has been, very regrettably, little reaction from India to these sombre developments, even as we diminished ourselves by talking *ad nauseum* about the power balance in the subcontinent. We are flattered when Washington gives us a little diploma that describes us as the dominant power in South Asia, and we remain oblivious of the implications of the fact that in the same breath Washington characterises China as a global power with global interests.

Knowhow Level

Only a few weeks ago Mr. Law-

rence Brady, assistant secretary for trade administration, U.S. department of commerce, made an important announcement in Beijing. He said that Washington was prepared, as a matter of routine, to license sales to China of civilian and military equipment of technological levels twice as high as those of items approved under existing guidelines. He told his listeners that Washington would be willing to consider requests from China for items involving even higher levels of technology on a case-by-case basis.

It is my assessment that the United States is now poised to implement on a progressive scale a whole range of actions to promote China's "modernisation," including modernisation of its military forces. Is it not time for us to reflect on the fact that China is the first of several countries with which the U.S. has reached what has come to be described as a "strategic consensus"? Such a consensus in the case of countries like Pakistan, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, and Oman involves arrangements for various kinds of co-operation in specified contingencies. It will be prudent for us to proceed on the assumption that tacit arrangements of a similar nature already exist or are likely to be worked out between the U.S. and China.

It is well to remember that a "strategic consensus" between two major powers in a period of crisis and change may gradually lead to a tacit acknowledgement of mutual spheres of influence. The sharper Washington's perception of China's usefulness in its containment policy becomes, the more amenable will Washington become to accord tacitly, even if somewhat reluctantly, a sphere of influence to its deserving and ambitious partner. This is inherent in the very logic of the situation.

CSO: 4220/7787

RAPID BREAK-UP OF INDIAN OPPOSITION PARTIES

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 17 Aug 82 p 7

[Text] NEW DELHI, Aug. 16 — India's luckless Opposition parties are splitting and breaking up at an amazing speed although they have never been more in need of uniting.

Their fast disintegration into small groups has helped their principal adversary, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who stands unchallenged amid the Opposition ruins despite growing problems in her own ruling Congress (I) Party.

The Opposition Lok Dal Party of former Prime Minister Charran Singh has just split into two. The breakup, the fourth since 1980, has ended its position in parliament as the largest Opposition group.

The crisis in the Lok Dal, a Party with wide support among farmers in North India, came within weeks of an impassioned plea to Opposition parties to unite by Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, who retired last month as the country's President.

In a national broadcast before laying down office, Mr. Reddy called for unity among Opposition parties and said: "An alert Opposition capable at any moment of providing an alternative to the Party in power is the only safeguard against misrule."

Mr. Reddy regretted that no united opposition had emerged in the country even after 35 years of independence.

Fragmentation of political parties has been a rule rather than an exception.

Until the latest split in the Lok

Dal, revolving largely around the 80-year-old Mr. Singh, it had more than 30 members in the 542-seat parliament, down from 42 originally elected under its banner in 1980.

The Party's parliamentary strength has now been cut by nearly half and it has suffered similar setbacks in State Assemblies. The breakaway faction which calls itself the "real" Lok Dal is led by Karpoori Thakur, a former firebrand socialist.

The crisis was touched off last month when Mr. Singh summarily expelled Devi Lal, a powerful member of the Party from Haryana State, on charges of anti-Party activities.

Several senior Party leaders including Mr. Thakur and Party General Secretary Madhu Limaye reacted strongly, saying the dismissal was unfair, and offered their resignations.

In the public debate that followed, with rival leaders calling each other names, Mr. Singh's Party suffered a blow to its prestige.

Only once since independence from Britain in 1947 have political parties forged a united front, and they were richly rewarded for their effort.

That was in 1977 when the non-communist Opposition leaders formed the Janata Party and won the general election on a wave of unprecedented popularity, ending Mrs. Gandhi's 1975-1977 Emergency and during which many Opposition politicians were jailed.

But the Janata Party broke up in over two years because of personality clashes and Mrs. Gandhi returned to power in January 1980.

Since 1980 the Lok Dal has split four times and other Opposition parties have undergone similar crises. There are now 14 Opposition parties in parliament, the largest being the Marxist Communist Party (CPM) with 36 members in the Lower House.

In the past two years Mrs. Gandhi's own popularity has declined, discontent in her Party has grown and open rebellion by her daughter-in-law Maneka—widow of Mrs. Gandhi's younger son Sanjay who was killed in a plane crash two years ago—has added to her problems.

The Opposition, however, has failed to take advantage of this. Apart from the return to power of a marxist front in West Bengal, the Opposition parties failed to break Mrs. Gandhi's grip in state elections last May.

The splintered Opposition now has only 28 months in which to sink their differences before confronting Mrs. Gandhi as a united force in the 1985 national elections.

The prospects look remote. The Statesman newspaper recently said in an editorial: "The Congress (I) may now well conclude that the disarray in the ranks of the opposition is quite beyond redemption."

GANDHI SCORES MARXIST EDUCATION POLICY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Aug 82 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 10.—Mrs Gandhi has said that the Centre is having difficulties with various States, especially the Marxist ones in its effort to revamp the education system, reports PTI.

The Marxist States were giving a purely Marxist education, she said in an interview to Mr John Rowbery, editor of the People, a quarterly magazine published from London.

"People (in Marxist-led West Bengal and Tripura) are learning more about Marx and Lenin than about their own country", Mrs Gandhi said and added that it was a question of persuading people. There was no other way "we can do anything in India", she said.

Mrs Gandhi, who replied to a number of questions on family planning, said the 1981 census had underlined the need for accelerating the family planning programme.

Admitting that the rate of population growth in nine States and three Union Territories during 1971-81 was almost the same as during the previous decade as against lower rate of growth in others, Mrs Gandhi said: "We can ill afford even the increase that has taken place".

On the other hand, the census had shown one encouraging sign, which was that about 37 million births which could have taken place did not, presumably because of the family planning programme. Recent results had been encouraging.

The latest provisional figures showed that in the 10 months till January this year the performance in sterilizations was 80% of the target, Mrs Gandhi said. "One hopeful or encouraging sign is that far more people are interested in it (family planning)—some of the big people as well as

all along down the line", she said.

Mrs Gandhi regretted that the Opposition was all the time trying to exploit even what should be considered a national problem such as family planning.

Recalling Sanjay Gandhi's efforts to make family planning part of the youth movement programme, Mrs Gandhi said: "We want to involve any youth movements who are willing to join in". The Government was not confining it to the Congress Party youth alone. Many voluntary agencies were now showing interest in it.

Asked whether the Government has considered some incentives and disincentives for popularizing the programme, Mrs Gandhi said: "We have to tread very carefully on this ground".

It is because we talked about it earlier that we got into so much trouble. We have to see that no disincentive, however innocent, may be construed as coercion. Of course, last time we were in office there was no coercion but this was built up by our opponents".

Nevertheless, the "Health and Finance Ministers are looking into the possibilities of such approaches", she said and added that the question was how to put them into practice. "We don't have the sort of organization that China has, with a political worker, apart from officials, for each social group".

Replying to a question on the result of implementation of the 20-point programme, Mrs Gandhi said a dent had been made in the spheres of land reforms and rehabilitation of bonded labourers. But there was a setback (in 1977). "Much of the land we had given was taken back by the landlords. Sometimes it was given to other landless".

REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO BIHAR PRESS BILL

Editors Guild Objections

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Aug 82 pp 1, 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, August 10 (PTI)--THE Editors' Guild team today said it would challenge the "draconian" Bihar press bill in the supreme court, and called upon journalists and all others "who value free speech and an open society to fight it."

The three-member team, which visited Patna and had discussions with the Bihar chief minister and made extensive inquiries, concluded that the bill was designed as an instrument to "intimidate and frighten the press."

The team has called on the press to "redouble its coverage of the true state of affairs in Bihar" where, it said, "corruption and maladministration" had reached "enormous proportions."

Journalists in the state should boycott official functions at which ministers seek to project themselves and write truthfully about Bihar, thereby putting to the test the government's protestations that the bill would not be used to muzzle truthful reporting and comments.

The team said in its statements that the chief minister had failed to provide convincing justification for the measure and cited few examples which could be dealt with under existing laws.

It was convinced that the Bihar government had collected "no evidence worth the name to establish the need for the draconian bill that it has hustled through the state legislature," the team said.

Even if some press reports were exciting communalism and casteism as alleged by the government, "this bill is not the one that can, or is even intended to, combat them."

Dr. Jagannath Mishra's government in Bihar is "impelled " to frighten the press for three principal reasons, according to the team. These are: "(A) corruption and maladministration in Bihar have reached such enormous proportions that, even though the press is not very vigilant, even though it is

shy of highlighting cases involving high-ups in the government, with increasing frequency while investigating other matters it stumbles upon and thus prints some material relating to corruption and inefficiency.

"(B) The large section of the press that Dr. Mishra's government had successfully 'managed' has fallen out with him over the past year. The government is thus not able to 'balance' adverse and truthful reports about its corruption and maladministration.

"(C) There are today four major mass movements in Bihar and about a hundred small groups of persons who are working for and among the poor in Bihar. Their activities and what the government does to crush them figure in the press and given the lie to its professions."

Key Words Left Vague

Dealing with some aspects of the bill in support of its conclusion, the team said "key words" in the bill had been left vague and the government, going by the statements of the chief minister, intended to put "an extremely creative and elastic construction on the provisions of the bill."

Secondly, offences under the bill had been made non-bailable so that a person could be detained under the bill for several days in any event.

Thirdly, it was not just the writing and publication of matter that the government deemed as objectionable which would henceforth be offences, the mere possession of "any printed or written document" containing such material would be an offence punishable, as other offences under the bill, with imprisonment up to two to five years.

"This provision will effectively frighten off news agents, retailers and hawkers from handling any publication that they--ignorant or at best ill-informed of the law as they are bound to be--are told the government is liable to find objectionable."

Fourthly, the team said the 'sinister' aspect was that three days before the passage of the bill, the government had pushed through far-reaching amendments to the criminal procedure code so that "from now on, the vital powers to take cognizance of cases, to direct investigations and institute trials will vest with executive magistrates."

The press bill specifically provides that cases under it will be triable by "any magistrate." "The two bills taken together will ensure that cases against the press under the press bill will henceforth be tried, not by judicial magistrates who function under the high court but by executive magistrates who are completely under the control and direction of the Jagannath Mishra government itself."

The three-member team, consisting of Mr. K. Narendra, Mr. K. R. Malkani and Mr. Arun Shourie, was deputed last week to assess the situation and report to the executive committee of the Guild.

Stating that the bill had already succeeded in making pressmen and others apprehensive in Bihar, the team said that once it became an act, many "particularly isolated moffusil correspondent would be frightened into silence. And if the design succeeds in Bihar, it will surely be replicated in other states."

Outlining the steps to deal with the situation, the team has called upon pressmen to strengthen their links with students, teachers and others in Bihar "who are dedicated to an open society so that an effective mass movement can be built to resist and eventually defeat this new legislation."

The team has also suggested boycott of all official functions of the kind at which the state ministers seek to project themselves and handouts about ministers' speeches.

"Only the true newsworthy announcements in them should be reported briefly. The names of ministers should not be reported. Photographs of ministers of the Bihar government should not be carried by the newspapers."

The team has also asked the press outside Bihar to redouble its coverage of the true state of affairs in the state.

As representatives of these outside publications who were stationed in Bihar would be "vulnerable," the team added, these publications should make it a practice to send correspondents located in other centres into Bihar to collect material and file reports.

Once the bill became an Act, the Editors' Guild would itself challenge its validity in the supreme court, the team said.

Meanwhile, it has suggested that arrangements should be made all over Bihar to ensure quick dissemination of information about harassment or arrest of any one under the new law.

Groups of lawyers should be organised in Patna, Ranchi and other places to provide legal assistance to anyone apprehended under the new legislation.

"In the long run, the one effective way to combat the provisions of this bill will be for the press to redouble its coverage of the true state of affairs in Bihar, to show by its deeds that it is not daunted by a black law of this kind."

"We urge editors to ensure that this is done," the team said.

Journalists' Rally, Memorandum

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Aug 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, August 11 (PTI).
THE capital's journalists today held a rally at the Boat Club

in front of the Parliament House to voice their strong resentment and protest against the Bihar press bill.

Carrying placards, the journalists, who included women, shouted slogans against "the black press laws" and the Bihar chief minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra.

Later, the meeting approved a memorandum drafted by the joint action committee against the anti-press laws, which would be handed over to President Zail Singh later.

The call for the rally was given by professional organisations and trade unions, including the Indian Federation of Working Journalists, the National Union of Journalists, the PTI and UNI employees federations and unions of the language news agency.

Terming the Bihar bill as "wholly unjustified, uncalled for and wrongful", the memorandum urged the President to intervene effectively and not to allow the bill to "disgrace the statute book".

'FRIGHTEN PRESS'

The memorandum says that the main purpose of the bill seems to be "to frighten and cripple the press so that it ceases to be a mirror of public opinion and instead become an instru-

ment of covering up public issues illegitimately".

The memorandum which has been signed by leaders of different federations of journalist union says that the fact that some other states had gone ahead with similar laws did not lend any weight to the Bihar bill. It says that an independent press was an integral part of the democratic set-up in the country and this fact had even been accepted by two senior Central ministers, Mr. Vasant Sathe and Mr. R. Venkatraman.

The memorandum said that the journalists refused to be cowed down by such arbitrary measures and that the action committee had called on all journalists throughout the country to continue to discharge their duties "freely and fearlessly, maintaining the highest tradition of the profession".

The memorandum said that if in this process, "If any government which is supposed to promote and not subjugate media, invites a confrontation, we will not be responsible".

Prominent among those who attended the meeting were Mr. Kuldip Nayar, Mr. Hiranmay Karlekar, Resident editor, "Indian Express", Bombay, well-known cartoonist, Mr. Sudhir Dar and Mr. N. Malik, president of NUJ.

Government Views Stated

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Aug 82 p 9

[Excerpt]

NEW DELHI, August 17 (UNI).

THE Indian penal code and the code of criminal procedure (Bihar amendment) bill, 1982, which has come to be known as the Bihar press bill, is currently being examined by the Central government "judiciously."

The government's stated views on the controversial bill are that so far as the amendment of section 292 (insertion of a new section 292-A) of the Indian penal code (Central Act Ex II V of 1860) is concerned, it had advised presidential assent to similar or identical amendments enacted by Tamil Nadu and Orissa and that the Rajya Sabha, too, had passed in 1978 a bill "amending section 292 and 292-A in almost identical words."

The home minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, who intervened in the no-confidence debate in the Lok Sabha yesterday, left no one in doubt that the Central government did not see any conflict between this part of the Bihar bill and the principal Central Indian Penal Code Act of 1860.

The government appears satisfied with the proviso in the amendment relating to the IPC that "it is not scurrilous to express in good faith anything whatever" respecting the conduct of:

— a public servant in the discharge of his public function or respecting his character so far as his character appears in that conduct, or
— any person touching any public question and respecting his character so far as his character appears in that conduct. The explanation to this proviso makes it clear that in deciding whether any person has committed an offence under the new section 292-A, "the court shall have regard" inter alia to the considerations:

— the general character of the person charged, the nature of his business (where relevant), the dominant effect of the matter alleged to be grossly indecent or scurrilous or intended to blackmail and any evidence offered or called by or on behalf of the accused person as to his intention in committing any offence specified (in the new section 292-A).

'Sister' Bill Summarized

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Aug 82 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, Aug. 19--While the provisions of the Bihar Press Bill, titled the "Indian Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure (Bihar Amendment) Act, 1982" have been published, a sister Bill, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Bihar Amendment) Bill, 1982, has not received detailed publicity.

The first Bill, broadly, empowers the authorities to haul up reporters, editors and publishers for publishing what in the view of the executive (ranging from senior officials to junior police officers) is considered scurrilous, indecent and intended to blackmail.

The second Bill, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Bihar Amendment) Bill, 1982, is of equal concern to journalists. Under the amended Bill, it has been sought to be specially provided that executive magistrates should try those hauled up by the authorities for publishing what is considered scurrilous and indecent.

The present Section 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 (Act No. 2 of 1974) reads: "Cognizance of offences by magistrates: (1) Subject to the provisions of this chapter, any magistrate of the first class, and any magistrate of the second class specially empowered in this behalf under sub-section (2) may take cognizance of any offence (A) upon receiving a complaint of facts which constitute such offence, (B) upon a police report of such facts, (C) upon information received from any person other than a police officer, or upon his own knowledge that such offence has been committed.

"(2) The Chief Judicial Magistrate may empower any magistrate of the second class to take cognizance under sub-section (1) of such offences as are within his competence to inquire into or try."

After the proposed amendment under the Bihar Bill, the same section would read as follows: "Cognizance of offence by magistrate: (1) subject to the provisions of this chapter, the District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate or an executive magistrate specially empowered in this behalf under subsection (2) may take cognizance of any offence. (A) upon the complaint of facts which constitutes such offence, (B) upon police report on such facts, (C) upon the information received from any person other than the police officer or upon his own knowledge that such offences have been committed.

"(2) The District Magistrate may empower any executive magistrate to take cognizance of offence under sub-section (1)."

The point to note is that instead of the Chief Judicial Magistrate it would be, if the amendment is accepted and becomes part of the Act, the District Magistrate who would deploy any magistrate to try a case of infringement brought by the executive. The distinction between the executive and the judiciary, in the view of the critics, is thus sought to be erased.

Mishra Reply to Guild

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Aug 82 p 4

[Text] PATNA, Aug 15 (UNI)--Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra yesterday accused the three-member team of the Editors' Guild of "inciting the public and preaching rebellion against the Government".

"What strikes me as most unfortunate is the call of the Guild to students and other sections of people to join their struggle against the Government. Since the bill concerns only the press, there is no justification for its attempt to associate members of other professions with the controversy," the Chief Minister said.

In a nine-page rejoinder to the report of the Editors' Guild team on the Press Bill, Dr Mishra said the Guild had unfortunately totally ignored the factors which had forced the Government to enact this law. "It has not even acknowledged the fact that pressmen are not only accountable to their employers but also to the society they live in", he added.

Dr Mishra said that though his Government believed in the freedom of the press it would not allow people to publish obscene and scurrilous news and vitiate the public life. Government won't tolerate it, he added.

Listing the achievements of his Government during last two years, Dr Mishra regretted that Opposition parties, which believed in the policy of confrontation, were trying to mislead the people. "But I am sure they won't succeed", he remarked.

The Chief Minister appealed to the people to maintain unity to preserve the hard-won freedom under the leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The Chief Minister said the team's claim that the State Government had collected no evidence worth the name to justify the enactment of the bill was not true since there were instances of objectionable writing in journals printed to defame Government, Ministers and known publicmen.

Dr Mishra said the intention of the legislation was never to cover up corruption and inefficiency of Government as "stated by the Guild as one of the motives behind the measure".

"Believe me, I do not take umbrage at adverse reports against the Government provided they are true. Such reports, in fact, enable us to know things which we would otherwise never know", the Chief Minister added.

Dr Mishra said the Government framed the legislation only because the provisions of the existing laws had failed to meet the desired objective.

The Guild's apprehension that the 'key words' in the bill had been deliberately couched in vague terms, was wrong since 'indecent' and 'scurrilous' were not at all vague rather very clear.

Mishra's Stand Analyzed

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Aug 82 p 8

[Article by S. Sahay]

[Text] THE Bihar Chief Minister, Dr Jagannath Mishra, recently made the protestation to some members of the Indian Editors' Guild that, with unswerving faith in God above and Mrs Gandhi on terra firma, he had been serving the people. Clearly, the idea was to impress Mrs Gandhi and the God-fearing people, in that order. But, neither God nor Mrs Gandhi can be fooled easily, even though the people may be for a time. However, one need not spend too much time over what is a personal matter between God and Dr Mishra on the one hand and Mrs Gandhi and Dr Mishra on the other. One would wait for the day of reckoning. All one can say is that a State that was reputed to be the best administered in the country immediately after Independence is, count by count and by common consent, the most mismanaged today.

More relevant is the fact that editors had wanted to know from Dr Mishra whether, in getting two Bills which affected the freedom of the Press passed by the legislature, he had acted within the bounds of the Constitution and the laws, and whether there were not enough laws already to deal with scurrilous journalism. Were not expressions such as "grossly indecent" and "scurrilous" too vague to guide the police and the courts? Had he collected enough data to justify the enactment of a repressive law?

With disarming frankness, Dr Mishra admitted that he was a layman and could not be expected to know the intricacies of the law. As regards data, his answers showed that clearly he had none. His subsequent statements have implied that data may be collected now, after the deed is done

Bitter Truth

Even if one were to accept Dr Mishra's legal innocence, his political innocence, at least on the practical side of it, cannot be easily accepted. Through statements, obviously prepared by his bureaucrats, he has gone on record as saying that the bitter truth is that, among journalists, there are a few who would subserve the national interest to their own or the business interest of their proprietors and that it is not without reason that some newspapers are called the jute Press. He has further said that the strongest reason for the strident chorus of protest against the Bill from all sections of journalists has been the impression among many of them that they are free to write anything and everything, that they are answerable to none and that they enjoy some kind of immunity from the law. He has also said that any concern for the mofussil correspondents has been both unmerited and misplaced. There are, according to him, many part-time correspondents or stringers who have sneaked into the profession just to gain access to high quarters to further purely selfish ends. According to him, it is this brand of correspondents which has resorted to blackmail.

While it is to be conceded that no profession is perfect, that there has been a fall of standards all round, it may be asked whether it is for the Chief Minister of acknowledgedly the most mismanaged and most corrupt State in the country to point an accusing finger at journalists. Blackmail is punishable under the Indian Penal Code, even though the word as such does not occur in it, and yet there has not been a single case of attempted blackmail by a journalist. As against this, the Bihar Legislature has some members with a known criminal past and there is a case in which the Chief Minister himself figures pending before the Supreme Court.

To return to the two Bills, the main clue to their initiation is to be found in the Chief Minister's longish statement (surprisingly read over in less than four minutes, the total time taken to pass the Bill on the IPC) in the State Assembly. Therein he maintained that there had been attacks on the personal character of some public men solely with a view to bringing them down in public estimation. He further said that, unfortunately, few persons had taken the editors to courts because they feared that the court proceedings would provide the writer and the publisher with an opportunity to fling more mud. Dr. Mishra's grudge is demonstrably a personal one and he seems to be out to teach the Press a lesson. What, one may ask, in the present context of political standards of behaviour, is personal or public in a public figure's life? The politicians have themselves made the distinction meaningless. When Government planes or cars are used for personal or family worship, when astrologers determine the timing of a swearing-in ceremony, when there is allegedly a consideration, political or other, for everything done, where is a journalist to draw the line?

Dead Act

Dr Mishra's main argument is that if journalists and others did not object to a similar Tamil Nadu Act in 1960 and an Orissa Act in 1962, why must they now? This is what he has told even the President. It needs to be pointed out that, in the first place, this is a misstatement. When the Orissa Bill was being enacted by Mr Biju Patnaik, because he was engaged in a running feud with the local newspaper, there was vigorous protest both inside and outside the Assembly. In any case, the Orissa Act has been, for all practical purposes, a dead Act. The Madras one was enacted during Mr Kamraj's Chief Ministership, mainly to prevent publication of gruesome details in a divorce case. After the measure was enacted, the newspaper stopped publishing the details and the Act remained on paper only, until it was amended by the present Tamil Nadu regime.

It needs to be further pointed out that the enactment of a law is not an esoteric exercise. Time provides the context. The year 1960 was the Nehru era, By and large politicians' statements could be taken at their face value. After all, the preventive detention legislation was being enacted every year until it was put on the statute book. The main argument--that the measure was never misused--impressed the nation. Can one be sure of any such statement by a present-day politician?

All said and done, the measure will stand or fall on the test of constitutionality. Dr Mishra's own notions of the Constitutional position are pretty hazy. In one document he has stated that "in the U.S. Constitution, which

the gentlemen of the Press must acknowledge is democratic, there is guarantee for individual privacy". It might interest Dr Mishra to know that the American guarantee (Fourth Amendment) of the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses and effects, is against the State and not against the Press. While in the last 100 years the right to privacy has become a public issue, a coherent law has yet to develop.

Dr Mishra maintains that the Indian Constitution guarantees that the State shall not deny equal protection of the laws within the territory and then goes on to ask: "How do we ensure equality of all before law and the equal protection of the law if we allow unrestricted freedom to the powerful media, who by virtue of their power may destroy anybody's reputation or honour by publishing scurrilous writings, baseless news and defamatory insinuations. We are told that the existing laws are sufficient to provide such protection but it is not really so."

To substantiate his argument, who does Dr Mishra quote? Benjamin Franklin, Jefferson and Chief Justice Warren? Does it occur to him that this is wholly irrelevant in the Indian context. Could he not quote Nehru or Ambedkar? Or at least Mrs Gandhi? Perhaps not, because Nehru like Truman, believed that he would rather suffer some indiscreet newspapers rather than impose general restraints.

What does not appear to have struck Dr Mishra is that the Bihar Press Bill is bad precisely because it denies newspapermen equality before the law. Experts hold that Sections 292 (obscenity) and defamation (Section 499) cover more or less the same matters as are covered by Section 292A (the Bihar amendment). Since there are absolutely no guidelines for the Government to invoke any of the provisions against the Press, the implication is clear; the Government may in its discretion and in its subjective satisfaction apply one section against one person and the other section against another, though the fact in both cases may be the same. Thus there being to sets of laws for the same offence, discrimination is writ large on the Bihar Press Bill. It clearly violates Article 14 (equality before law).

Despite Dr Mishra's assertion to the contrary, expressions such as "grossly indecent" or "scurrilous matters" are vague. Consider the definition of the words "scurrilous" It "shall be deemed to include any matter which is likely to be injurious to morality or is calculated to injure a person." Could any word be more vague? The exemption of such expressions, when made in good faith about a public servant regarding the discharge of his public function (and no more) and about any person touching any public function or respecting his character so far as it is relevant to the public question (and no more), hardly helps. And what is grossly indecent? Telling the public that Dr Mishra wears six rings on his fingers, goes to places of worship on a State plane, or consults his astrologers? Are these or are these not pertinent to the office he holds?

Two Lives

Indeed, the Bihar Bill seems to be an attempt to hide from the public gaze the increasingly unethical conduct of Ministers and public servants. They

may freely take bribes, manipulate records, change sides, of course for a consideration, but the Press must not comment on these because it is difficult to draw a line between the Minister's or public servants' private and personal lives. Had there been a law like the Bihar Bill in the U.K., the Profumo affair could never have come to light.

The Bihar Bill clearly offends Article 191 (a)--freedom of speech and expression. This is so because words such as indecent, scurrilous and blackmail being vague, even superior courts would be hard put to find whether or not an offence has been committed. The lot of a journalist in the hands of a policeman can be imagined. It is true that no cognizance, under the new law, can be taken by a court of law, without the sanction of the State Government, but it is not so much the sanction as the earlier terror at the police and magisterial level that the journalists are worried about.

Lastly, experts also hold that the Bihar Bill amending the IPC violates Article 21 (right to life and liberty). Dr Mishra and his advisers would do well to read the Supreme Court judgment in the Maneka Gandhi case. Therein the court has clearly held that no person can be deprived of his life or liberty without a reasonable procedure established by law. And the procedure established by the Bihar Bill is far from reasonable. The key words like "scurrilous" and "blackmail" being vague, the police, even the superior courts, would be hard put to determine whether or not an offence has been committed. To give the power of arrest to the police or magistracy in such a case is to jeopardize a citizen's liberty. The implications of the second bill will be examined later.

The ball is now in the Central court. It is to be hoped that these issues will be examined dispassionately.

New Delhi Position Scored

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Aug 82 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

It would be a mistake to suppose that Mr Jagannath Mishra's infamous measure is the first such attempt to curb Press freedom. Apart from the institutional restraints imposed during the Emergency, newspapers in several States have periodically been under intense pressure, and often also targets of the most vicious forms of physical attack. Mr Antulay's verbal abuse, or the damage done under Mr Gundu Rao's aegis, were manifestations of a continuing phenomenon: the Press, in Bihar as well as in Punjab, Haryana, Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu, has not only

frequently been at the receiving end of all manner of illegal official restrictions (such as withdrawal of advertisements, discontinuance of electricity and deprivation of accreditation facilities) but also been the victim of inspired mob violence. But where the Bihar Chief Minister can claim to have broken almost new ground is in attempting to bestow some semblance of legal respectability on a measure that is plainly intended to conceal the "maladministration, inefficiency and corruption" that is rampant in his State. Orissa and Tamil Nadu, which had both earlier legislated on

similar lines, did not go quite so far; nor did they have as much to hide as the Government in Patna.

If this is to be condemned in the strongest possible terms, no less deplorable is the callousness with which the Centre is trying to shrug off expressions of the deepest concern by journalists, students, trade union workers, lawyers and politicians, including some courageous members of the Congress (I), from all over the country. Mr Balram Jakhar has not done much credit to his high office by persistently refusing demands for a Lok Sabha discussion on a matter of grave national importance: a conference in the Speaker's chamber is no substitute for public debate. The Union Home Minister's astonishing defence is even less plausible. To take just one piece of expedient inconsistency, the Centre has always justified its support for a legally enforceable code of conduct by arguing that the legal mechanism being so cumbersome, victims of slander and libel are effectively denied a remedy from the law courts. Yet Mr K. Venkataraman blandly told M.P.s that there was no need to elicit the Supreme Court's opinion since aggrieved parties (in this case, newspapers and newspapermen who might fall foul of Mr Mishra) can always seek legal redress. In other words, the prescriptive right to free speech is to be abolished; those who claim that unfashionable privilege must henceforth go to enormous

trouble and expense to defend a position that is still guaranteed in the Constitution. And given the Centre's notorious views on the judiciary's social responsibility, it is by no means certain that judges will be allowed to uphold an inherent democratic right above the letter of a motivated and obnoxious law.

But for the Union Home Minister's apologia, it might have been supposed that Mr Mishra had acted in his own wisdom to safeguard his parochial interests. Such aberrations are to be expected from many of the Congress (I)'s regional leaders who are incapable of viewing the basic rights and prerogatives of a parliamentary democracy except in terms of personal security and power. But New Delhi's ready acquiescence suggests that while the Union Government may not yet be prepared to invite obloquy by reimposing curbs, it is not averse to the introduction of such restrictions through the back door and on a regional basis. This reprehensible strategy may even explain why the Centre has taken so little formal notice of the Second Press Commission's report which, if implemented, would, in fact, destroy the freedom still enjoyed by our newspapers. It would appear that New Delhi's tactic is to continue to make soothing noises while the actual dirty work is delegated to some Chief Ministers who have their own local axes to grind.

'Stifling the Press'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Aug 82 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

The Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society has thrown a gauntlet which the government cannot refuse to pick up except at the cost of strengthening the impression that it is out to stifle the press. Such an impression, it is hardly necessary to point out, has existed since the Congress(I) was voted back to power in January 1980 and has been further strengthened since, especially by two developments — the Union government's decision in 1981 to impose a 15 per cent

duty on imported newsprint and the recent Bihar legislation which makes publication, distribution and possession of so-called scurrilous material a cognisable offence. Now the IENS has issued a statement challenging the validity of the government's entire newsprint policy.

It is no secret that most newspapers in the country have been barely managing to survive somehow, that their task has become increasingly difficult in recent years as the cost of machinery, ink and especially newsprint has soared, that newsprint now accounts for as much as around 60 per cent of the cost of production, that newspapers have had to raise prices and that this has put paid to expansion of circulation which by international standards is miserable. It follows that if those in authority genuinely believe that freedom of the press is the life-blood of democratic institutions, they would have done their best to reduce the price of newsprint. They have done nothing of the kind. Indeed, if the IENS is to be taken at its word, they are doing the reverse. According to the IENS, major manufacturers abroad are offering newsprint at Rs. 4,700 to Rs. 4,800 a tonne, while the government-owned State Trading Corporation, taking advantage of its monopoly, is charging newspapers Rs. 6,000 a tonne for the current July-September quarter. It has also raised the buffer stock price from Rs. 7,600 to Rs. 7,905 a tonne. The STC, of course, takes certain costs as bank charges, voyage interest and its own service charges into account. But by refusing to disclose the details to newspaper organisations, it opens itself to the charge that it has a great deal to hide.

Since the report of the Press Commission has not yet been released, it is perhaps not fair to refer to it or the minority report in regard to the import of newsprint. But it is common knowledge that the STC's record has attracted widespread criticism. Therefore, the earlier the present policy of canalising all newsprint imports through it is revised, the better. Newspapers will certainly heave a sigh of relief. The move will also help the government establish its *bona fides*. The IENS has also raised a number of highly pertinent issues regarding the production of newsprint at home and its pricing. As in the case of the STC, the authorities will be evading these issues at the cost of their credibility.

CSO: 4220/7785

INDIA

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS--NEW DELHI, August 17 (PTI)--Mr. Prem Shunker, India's ambassador to Denmark, has been appointed ambassador to Kuwait, it was announced here today. He succeeds Mr. S. J. S Chhatwal. According to the spokesman of the external affairs ministry, Mr. N. P. Jain, ambassador-designate to Mexico, has been concurrently accredited to Guatemala. Mr. Jain is at present India's ambassador to Nepal. Mr. Mohan Lal Trivedi, deputy secretary in the policy planning division of the external affairs ministry, has been appointed ambassador to Mongolia. He succeeds Mr. G. Narayana Rao. [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Aug 82 p 9]

CSO: 4220/7786

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

300,000 EAST TIMORESE DEATHS--Lisbon--According to the Office of Timorese Affairs, a census recently taken by the Indonesian Government revealed the deaths of more than 200,000 East Timorese. In its published communication, the GATIMOR declares that, "As it is well known that according to the latest census, taken by the Portuguese administration in 1974, the Timor population totaled 688,771, the conclusion arrived at is truly dramatic and appalling: in 7 years of war and Indonesian occupation, 200,000 or more Timorese have died or disappeared." The communication emphasizes the advisability of "not forgetting that the Jakarta authorities, since at least 1979, began a Timor repopulation program with Javanese or displaced people from other islands." In this manner, the office continues, the number 300,000 dead or disappeared will be correct "as recorded in a report written by an Indonesian priest who, at the beginning of 1979, traveled from coast to coast for 4 months." The Timorese community demands that it be definitively publicized by the Portuguese Government "which is to blame for the criminal abandonment of Timor," and that the Indonesian Government "make clear before the world how this genocide, which in addition to being revolting, constitutes an outrage of the most elementary human rights, was possible." [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 31 Jul 82 p 14] 8870

CSO: 4742/369

MALDIVES

BRIEFS

SAUDIS OPEN OFFICE IN MALDIVES--The Saudi Arabian authorities have decided to open a Rabita office in the Maldives. The decision to open the office, considered significant for Islamic activities, was announced after the visit by Maldivian President Gayoom to Saudi Arabia to meet King Faud. This was the second visit by the Maldivian President to Saudi Arabia in the last two months. [Colombo THE ISLAND in English 14 Aug 82 p 3]

CSO: 4220/339

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEES GOVERNMENT INCAPACITY

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 16 Aug 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] Member Layul Tamang, participating in the RP Finance Committee discussions on appropriation heads of the Finance, Commerce and Supplies Ministry yesterday, emphasised the need to pay heed to the sentiments expressed by members and implement the suggestions made by them in the house.

Dwelling on the widespread foodgrain shortage in the country Tamang said that if HMG had foodgrain reserves as claimed by the Finance Minister, why was it not being released to ease foodgrain shortage in the capital itself and what was the justification for permitting foodgrain prices to escalate?

Ganeshdutta Lekhak, pointing out that all the 75 districts of the country are facing foodgrain scarcity, said if preventive measures had been initiated in time neither would His Majesty's Government have been burdened with such a problem nor would the people have been affected by the high price rise.

Referring to the speech of the Prime Minister published in newspapers that food crisis would be solved and the existing situation was favourable for industrial development, Pashupati Shamsher Rana said that the statement was divorced from reality and the country faced a crisis situation

His Majesty's Government has done nothing to solve the problem and all that it did were making speeches he added.

He said that not only the price of rice had gone up but all kinds of rice were becoming scarce in Kathmandu market. He added that Birguaj, which was supposed to be the granary of the country, was without rice going by the report published. To say that the price rise would be arrested in the circumstances could only make one laugh, he added

Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani charged that the present government was for the rich, the politicians subservient to the government, smugglers, neo-feudals and neo-ranas.

Dr. Lohani said that going by the estimate made by the Bureau of Statistics the population of the country would increase by about six hundred thousand people by the end of the current plan period and added that the growth rate

should therefore be revised from four per cent to 6.1 percent. For this provision six billion rupees should be made in the budget estimates, he added.

He said even after one year of the dissolution of the rice exporting companies no meeting of the share holders was held so far to endorse the decision.

He alleged that the act of dissolving the companies was an illegal act of the government and then questioned the legitimacy of the government itself which indulged in illegal practice.

Padam Sunder Lawati said that no discussion was yet held on the food crisis though a resolution on the subject had already been moved nor was any reply given about the matter

He insisted that discussion should be held on the resolution though some of the newspapers serving the interest of the government had started writing that discussion on the resolution could not be held.

The member said that the economic programmes were in the pockets of the Prime Minister and full freedom was given to smugglers subjecting the people to rising price, uncontrolled price and the like.

The member also alleged that the Prime Minister had resorted to intimate some of the members after voting was held on the amendment on some laws of the land and added that the Prime Minister took pride in the fact that he enjoyed the majority support of the house.

He then threw a challenge to the Prime Minister to hold secret voting and said that the Prime Minister in the circumstances would come to know whether he enjoyed the majority support of the house.

CSO: 4220/336

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR THAPA'S RESIGNATION

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 17 Aug 82 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text] While the price of rice has gone up astronomically, besides becoming scarce, Prime Minister Thapa has asserted that the government headed by him would not let the food-shortage occur. Comfortably perched on the high office, Thapa does not seem to have been aware of the hardships which the people are facing because of the sky-rocketing prices of every conceivable essential consumer goods. Life for the middle class, lower middle class and the poor including the poorest has become unlivable. The situation has worsened to such an extent that one cannot purchase enough of food even if one has the vastly inflated money. And Thapa without being ashamed of his failure to carry out his responsibility seems to be in no mood to recognise the problem and dismisses it as an artificial phenomenon. Thapa should know that the country is without food and whatever little there was has already been hoarded or exported. Many people are starving and many more will be facing the problem. He would do well to admit his non-performance and quit the post he is not capable of holding.

CSO: 4220/336

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VIEWS ON ECONOMY

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 17 Aug 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Kathmandu, Aug. 16:

A close analysis of the national economy reveals that the people's plight has not improved, said R.P. member Karna Prasad Hyuju who opened the debate yesterday on the appropriations concerning the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce and Supplies.

The member argued that the present state of the national economy could be attributed to the fact that the means of production were individually controlled and unless there was a collective control over them, exploitation would not cease.

The country's economy should be self-sustaining, Mr. Hyuju said, warning dependence on external assistance and loans would eventually turn out to be too costly for the nation.

He said the government had only imported palm oil and rape seed in total disregard of their damaging effect on the health of the

general public and asked when the administration was incapable of supplying food to the people of Bhaktapur, which is so near to the capital, what of the people in the remote mountainous regions of the country.

The spate of corruption in a place like Nepal Bank proves beyond doubt the inefficiency of the government, he claimed and said that the practice of double taxing in the sale and purchase of house or land in the urban sector should be reconsidered.

Taking the floor after Bhaktapur's representative, Mr. Buddhi Man Tamang, emphasising the need to further strengthen the machinery meant to control revenue leakage in the country, said the customs teams sent to various places on occasions must be active and dedicated to the job assigned to them.

The budget says that half of the land revenue

raised will be left to the district itself but it is not clear whether the same principle will be applied to the arrears, he said, adding that the land revenue collection teams be given fifteen days in addition to normal number of days to arrive at the place designated and that all corrupt employees be strongly dealt with. The practice of transferring the corrupt employees from one district to another does not make sense, he added.

Mr. Tamang said two persons died of starvation in Dhading district and since the present administration had not been able to get on top of the food crisis, it should resign.

CSO: 4220/336

CALL TO MEET FAMILY PLANNING TARGETS

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 17 Aug 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Lalitpur, Aug. 16:

Minister for Health, Panchayat and Local Development Nava Raj Subedi has called upon all to help achieve the target of sterilizing 65 thousand couples in the country this year no matter however tough effort may be necessary to attain that goal, reports RSS.

Minister Subedi was speaking as chief guest at the concluding function of the family planning officers national conference at the central auditorium of the Ex-Servicemen's Organisation here yesterday.

The present state of population explosion was a matter of concern not only to family planning workers but also to educated segment of the society as a whole, Mr. Subedi pointed out.

If the doctors available in the country are not sufficient to achieve that goal we should bring in doctors from abroad, he

opined.

He said that the goal of national development would be inconceivable if we failed to control population growth.

Stating that if arrangement could be made for providing a week's wage to couples doing manual work sterilization campaign would

be successful Minister Subedi said but an attempt made in that direction could not materialise for lack of donors.

Minister Subedi said that His Majesty's Government was considering giving permanent status to the employees of Nepal Family Planning, Maternity and Child Health Project.

Stressing that maternity and child welfare services should be as effective as family planning serviced, he also underlined the need to make primary health facilities extensive and easily available.

Assistant Minister for Health Somnath Bastola

said, now that the conference had been held the condition such as unavailability of doctors and apparatuses at family planning camps should not recur.

Speaking from the chair Rastriya Panchayat social committee chairman Mrs Kamal Shaha expressed the confidence that the outcome of the conference would go a long way in making maternity and child welfare services effective.

She demanded that the employees of the project should be given permanent status.

On the occasion vice-chairman of Nepal Family Planning Association Omkar Prasad Gauchan expressed the confidence that participation of representatives from fifteen branches of the association would bring greater coordination in the family planning work.

Director-General of the Department of health Services Dr. Narmada Lal

Maskey said that as the target of sterilizing 65 thousand couples was set with the cooperation of all the institutions associated in that field it would be fulfilled with their cooperation.

Nepal Family Planning Maternity and Child Health Project chief Dr. Badri Raj Pande said that the target set with joint effort would be fulfilled with the joint cooperation of all the units concerned.

Ghanashyam Giri of Nepal Family Planning Association said that people who would go sterilisation operation should be provided with Rs. 100 each as an incentive.

Participant Shrikumar Lamichhane said that necessary equipment should reach service camps before it would become operational.

Another participant Shri Sovien Bahadur Adhikari said that provision of permanent status to the employees of the project would greatly encourage them in their work.

MINISTER SAYS FOOD SITUATION NOT WORSENING

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Supplies Minister Dr Y.P. Pant has said that the food situation is definitely not worsening and HMG is moving as per policy to deal with it.

Responding to serious questions about food shortage raised by some members at the Rastriya Panchayat zero hour Thursday, Dr Pant said those responsible for doing wrong in connection with foodgrains are being dealt with and will be dealt with in future whether they are big or small.

Complaining that while the criticism is that nothing is being done, the steps actually taken are also criticized, he gave assurance that HMG is keen to take action against those, big or small, responsible for wrongdoing.

The food problem is being tackled on a war footing and will continue to be tackled, he said.

Stating that money allocated for the district panchayats last year but not released would be released, he said, and when he began to give details about foodgrain sent to the districts which had requested it Chairman Marich Man Singh ordered that the details be tabled. (RSS)

CSO: 4220/343

MINISTER PROMISES AVAILABILITY OF FOOD

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 23 Aug 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Kathmandu, Aug. 22:

Finance and Commerce and Supply Minister Dr. Yadav Prasad Pant has said that His Majesty's Government will not lag behind in supplying the foodgrains essential for the common people and added that such problems will be tackled on a war footing, reports RSS.

The minister said this while delivering a statement at the Rastriya Panchayat today after a resolution calling for discussion on the serious and regrettable food problem and inflation tabled by Lokendra Bahadur Chand and seconded by Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani.

The minister also said that His Majesty's Government had made arrangements for supply of foodgrains by any means and as and when it was in short supply, and added: It would do the same if and when such a situation would arise.

The costs no matter how high, will ever be calculated, he said.

His Majesty's Government, taking into consideration the possibility of food crisis owing to adverse weather conditions, has formed a high-level central foodgrains arrangement committee as well as five central level sub-committees concerning law and order, health, agriculture, and transportation, apart from food arrangement coordination committee in zones and food arrangement committees in the districts.

His Majesty's Government has also made arrangements for mobilising one hundred thousand metric

tons of foodgrains for a period of six months, he said.

Immediate measures have already been taken within the framework of a specific policy in view of the possibility of the food crisis, he said and added under the measures efforts have been initiated toward lending support to agriculture production in those areas of the Terai where crops have not been affected yet.

Likewise, efforts would be made to maximise the production of winter crops, to firmly implement the policy of banning foodgrains,

streamlining distribution system, setting up a buffer stock fund and mobilizing external assistance, Dr. Pant noted further.

A landlocked country having open borders cannot remain unaffected by the development of neighbouring areas, he said and noted summer crops of the countries of the neighbourhood, which depended on Monsoon too have been adversely affected. The year has not been propitious for countries like India, Bangladesh, Burma and Pakistan, he said.

Steps have already been taken to control the unanticipated hike in the price of rice in the Capital and that rice was being made available to the people at Rs. 5/50 per kilo through eleven new depots in the valley since August 16.

Normally 40 to 45 districts of the Kingdom have been traditionally experiencing deficit in foodgrains owing to geographical causes and that on the whole the foodgrains problem was one of distribution, the Minister for Finance and Commerce and Supplies said and added on its part HMG has always been overcoming the problem.

On the price rise, he said though the foodgrains have suddenly become

expensive in some parts of the Kingdom thus causing hardship to the people the rise was however not indicative of continuing inflation.

The crisis has also emanated from hoarding by the businessmen as well as from the tendency of keeping stock by the people themselves fearing its shortage in the future, he said and noted some undesirable elements were seen making efforts to exploit the situation for undue benefit. His Majesty's Government was firmly committed to eliminate such elements, Dr. Pant asserted.

Earlier speaking at the meeting this morning RP member Lokendra Bahadur Chand has said that to understand the gravity of the impact of famine and escalating price line on life on the common people in the country today an effort should be made to put ourselves in the place of those who have to wage a struggle for a handful of grain.

Mr. Chand appealed to the House to hold discussions on the proposal tabled by him and said that in consideration of the prestige of the House although he personally deplored the changes made in the proposal, the proposal has been presented to the House for discussions.

Pointing out that the price rise and spectre of famine facing the country

today was not a sudden phenomenon but indications about it had been noticed last year Mr. Chand said it is because His Majesty's Government ignored the signs that the present situation has come about.

He wanted to know who gave the permission to export rice out of the country in spite of indications that the country was likely to face foodgrain shortages.

Remarking that foodgrain prices had soared by 35 to 40 percent since the presentation of the budget Mr. Chand said under these circumstances the people are facing the plight of having to live by breathing air only but even this has been effected by the environment and become polluted.

Pointing out that it was ridiculous to imagine that nine shops opened in Kathmandu would resolve the foodgrain problems of the kingdom, he said that such a solution was also ridiculous in the extenuating circumstances facing the country.

Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani who seconded the proposal charged that His Majesty's Government was playing with the interests of the people as it had not made foodgrain provisions for the people in time although information about the adverse weather condition had been received three months before.

EDITORIAL CHARGES FOOD CRISIS MISINFORMATION

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 14 Aug 82 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text]

Who is one to believe, the Finance Minister or the people's representatives, about the food crisis facing the country? While the former says that the problem is not as grave as it is made out to be, the representatives have long been clamouring for government's help to cope with the shortages in their districts. As if this was not enough, deputations from various districts continue to pour in to the capital to seek immediate help and reports have it that some towns of the Terai-Nepal's breadbasket have no rice right now. The only logical conclusion can therefore be that one of the two is trying to mislead the people.

Supposing the crisis is serious enough, it can be said in all fairness that the government is expecting the people to die. The Finance Minister's assertion that the government is prepared to face the consequences will not save the people. He knows too well that the vagaries of nature, limited transportation facilities and the existing supply and distribution system render the task of providing foodgrains to the people in time difficult. So a large number of the people will have perished

when the government's "buffer stock" and external assistance actually reach the people. This will be so even if the government acted promptly.

The saddest part of the story however is that the government does not act. For example, the people today face an unprecedented price spiral. The Finance Minister knows it, attributes the rise to "speculative behaviour of suppliers and traders," but does little to tame them. When the government treats the woe of the people of the capital with such a sense of apathy, can it be expected to mitigate the hardship of those living in far-fetched areas expeditiously ?

CSO: 4220/336

FOODGRAINS TO BE MOBILIZED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 30 Aug 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] A total of one million and 4,365 metric tons of foodgrains made available from internal as well as external sources would be mobilised in the scarcity areas in the next six months.

According to a press release published by His Majesty's Government here Sunday, arrangement of 12,975 metric tons of foodgrains would be made for the Eastern Development Region, 36,935 metric tons for Central Development Region, 16,300 metric tons for Western Development Region, 9,505 metric tons for Mid-Western Development Region and 7,800 metric tons for the Far Western Development Region. Stock of 21,650 metric tons would be kept at various collection centres of the Terai for mobilising in the needy areas.

Noting that 12 collection centres and 16 relay centres have been set up for countrywide distribution of the foodgrains, it says, foodgrains would be sent to the relay centres from collection centres by trucks and carried on the back thereafter to the scarcity areas.

Arrangement will also be made for airlifting foodgrains to remote districts of the Karnali and Seti zones as well as other remote hilly areas as required. Sales depot will be opened at the headquarters of every district and additional depots at other places of the district.

The press release says that the quantity of foodgrains to be required for various districts for the forthcoming Dasain have been ascertained and it will be sent to the districts before the festival.

Arrangements have also been made under which irrigation projects would release water in full capacity, maximum mobilisation of tube wells would be sought and irrigation facilities extended through pumps with a view to supporting the current paddy crops.

The committee formed under the chairmanship of district panchayat presidents have been activised to make arrangement for local level canals and a grant of 4.3 million rupees have been provided to various districts for the same.

Stating that as damage of paddy crop was certain and that it was necessary for a plan to compensate to some extent the press release says that teams of experts have been dispatched to various areas to formulate detailed programme on the basis of feasibility. By and large, according to the programme, to be launched in the next few months the production target of 6,52,000 metric tons of winter foodgrain of the current fiscal year will be increased by an additional ten percent. There is also a programme to increase pulse production by 5000 metric tons, oil seeds production by 3000 metric tons and potato and sweet potato production by one hundred thousand metric tons.

For increasing purchasing power in foodgrain deficit areas provisions will be made to provide employment to the people in construction, transport, local development, irrigation, power generation and drinking water projects and provisions will be made to carry out the above mentioned projects in parts in order to ensure that the people will be provided with employment, the press release says.

The shortage of foodgrain, besides making the people to lack necessary nutritious food, will also make them eat various inedible things which will increase diseases. Therefore for the control of the possible diseases and epidemics apart from establishing depots and sub-depots in various development regions arrangements for medicine and mobile teams of doctors will also be made. Provisions will also be made to immediately take such mobile teams to the necessary places the press release says.

Necessary provisions have also been made for the control of making undue profit, black-marketting of foodgrains during the foodgrain shortage, to stop anti-social and other elements from taking advantage of the situation and indulging in irresponsible acts and also to ensure against those in position from wavering from their duties which would adversely affect the law and order situation of the country, the press release adds.

To continuously remain informed about the foodgrain situation and provide proper supervision for the provisions which would be made as necessary, the various means of communications of the various of His Majesty's Government in various districts of the Kingdom would be maintained in working condition and they would be fully mobilised in a coordinated manner, it is stated.

The press release continues that the active cooperation of all the panchas, class organisation members, businessmen, social workers and all others is expected in carrying out the provisions for the solution to the foodgrain problem.

Noting that rainfall in the Kingdom was satisfactory until March-April 1982 except in the Eastern Development Region because of the periodic eastern Monsoon, it said the rains expected from mid-April to mid-June last, however, turned out to be less except in the Far Western Development Region.

Monsoon which should have started from mid-June was not up to the expectation. It started from late July last and is however, expected to end by the first or second week of September.

Because of insufficient rains the foodgrains production is expected to fall short of the target by four million and 413 thousand metric tons. While the production of maize is estimated to fall by 28 percent, the Bhadaiya paddy by 20 percent. The principal paddy crop is sure to fall this year as compared to the last year.

A 19-member central foodgrains arrangement committee headed by Defense and Industry Minister Balaram Ghartimagar has been formed with a view to resolving the problem in its entirety and in a planned and coordinated manner.

Likewise, five sub-committees concerning law and order, agriculture, health, transportation and financial aspects of the problems too have been formed.

In addition, zonal foodgrains arrangement coordination committees have been formed under the chairmanship of zonal commissioners and district foodgrains arrangement committees under the chairmanship of district panchayat presidents. The district committees will include RP members or members. (RSS)

CSO: 4220/352

KING ORDERS FOODGRAIN SUPPLIES

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] As the current rains, the crop situation and the problems arising therefrom and their solutions have featured in the Rastriya Panchayat causing grave anxiety for the man in the street, His Majesty the King, summoned Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa on Friday to brief him on the subject together with a plan the government is going to launch soon to meet the food situation.

On completion of the briefing on the details of the plan and programme, His Majesty the King showed deep concern about the food situation in the country and asked the government to be fully responsive to the obligations it owed to the people. In conformity with this spirit, His Majesty also asked them to make arrangements to supply the minimum requirement of food grains to the people in all the affected areas. His Majesty has also expressed the hope that cooperation will be forthcoming from panchas, businessmen and people from all walks of life in helping to alleviate the food shortages which may occur.

Also present in addition to the Prime Minister were the Chairman of the Rastriya Panchayat, and the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee, the Council of Ministers, the Vice-Chairman and members of the Planning Commission, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Development Committee of the Rastriya Panchayat and senior officials of his Majesty's Government.

CSO: 4220/352

DEPOT RICE SALES TO CHECK PRICE RISE

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 19 Aug 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 18--In a bid to check the rocketing prices of essential commodities, specially that of rice, Nepal Food Corporation today sold mansuri, aruwa coarse and boiled rice through eleven sales depots and its dealers in the Kathmandu Valley. Six of such depots have been opened at different places in Kathmandu, four in Lalitpur and one in Bhaktapur. Four more depots will be opened in the Valley soon.

This, officials claim, is designed to check the rise in price of rice, which has in the past few day increased in an uncontrolled fashion and ensure the availability of sufficient quantities of the same for public distribution.

Traders who create artificial scarcity of essential commodities like rice, have been clearly told by the government to be honest in their business or face due penalty, they say.

The depots which were opened only yesterday were launched as a "crash programme" which will streamline the distribution of rice, official sources say.

Going by indications available to this reporter during his visit to some of these depots in Kathmandu this afternoon, distribution of rice was affected smoothly and a depot in Ason had by one this afternoon sold 1,5 tons of mansuri rice alone.

However, a woman waiting for her turn to purchase rice since eight in the morning at a depot in Kathmandu Ganesthan expressed dissatisfaction with the 'poor procedures' of distribution.

Officials in the regional office of Nepal Food Corporation admit, too, that although they had 'sufficient' stocks of rice they had not been able to cope with the rush of customers at their sales depots.

Despite the claim of the NFC officials that they have sufficient stocks with them, consumers waiting since long in the queues, however, were seen worried for they might fail to procure their requirement of rice.

At present a consumer is allowed to purchase only fifteen kilogrammes of rice.

Officials, however, maintain that this form of rationing is necessary to ensure that rice is given only to "genuine" consumers and is not hoarded by those in business. The entire requirement of a "genuine consumer" will be met, they say.

According to the regional office of NFC, the corporation has some 4268 tons of rice in its godowns which is being replenished every day.

In order to ensure the timely procurement of rice, the corporation has already dispatched a team of officials to different parts of the Kingdom for further purchases.

CSO: 4220/336

LOCAL BODIES REPORT IN NOVEMBER

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Aug 82 p 12

[Text]

QUETTA, Aug 17: The national commission on local bodies will submit its report to President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq in November. Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, said this on arrival here this afternoon on a three-day tour of Baluchistan.

He told newsmen a questionnaire had been sent to prominent citizens in the country, intellectuals and others to seek their views on the various issues relating to the working of local bodies.

He said progress in this regard was quite encouraging, and added that the commission would now visit various parts of the country to interview experts on the system of local government, and others who could give useful suggestions to improve local bodies institutions. Interviews would begin from Aug 21 from Karachi, he said.

In reply to a question the Minister said local bodies in Baluchistan

were working satisfactorily, and added that the steps taken by the Provincial Government to strengthen the local bodies system were worth emulating.

He told a questioner that out of the total 54,000 councillors in the country 4,000 were women councillors.

The Minister will preside over the concluding session of the all-Pakistan women councillors' seminar at Ziarat tomorrow.

The three-day seminar remained in session for the second day today, and the participants presented papers on various topics pertaining to the role of women in improving socio-economic conditions in the country.

PPI adds: The Minister said preparations had begun for local bodies elections scheduled for September next year.

He said the pattern of the elections would be the same as the previous ones.

CSO: 4220/340

SAFDAR SUPPORTS ROLE OF THE ARMY IN FUTURE SET-UP

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Sep 82 p 8

[Text]

QUETTA, Aug. 31: The Chairman of the Federal Council, Khawaja Mohammad Safdar, has said he personally believed that the armed forces should be "given a limited role" in the future set-up of the country.

Talking to the newsmen soon on his arrival here this afternoon on a five-day visit to Baluchistan, he said that 35 years history of the country shows that the conditions existed or were created in the country where army's defact role in the affairs of the country had become unavoidable as such we should not close our eyes from the realities, he remarked and added that there was no harm if army was given limited constitutional role in the future set up.

Khawaja Safdar said it was a sorry state of affairs that it has become a common penonmenen in a number of developing countries. Not only that even some of the advanced countries where democracy was flourishing for the last about a thousand years or so were not absolved of it, he remarked and stated even General Mac Arther was thinking on these lines when he was ousted Khawaja Safdar said though such a thing was against the democratic set-up but the realities and conditions obtaining could not be overlooked. There

are divergent views on this issue and the people are expressing their opinion either way he stated.

Khawaja Safdar supported the view expressed by Mr. Altaf Qureshi a seasoned journalist in his pamphlet wherein he suggested formation of a 13-member constitutional committee with President himself as its Chairman and three Chiefs of the Armed Forces, the Chief Justice of Pakistan, and the Chairman of the Federal Council as its members to consider this matter and solve the constitutional crisis, if any, by consensus.

ELECTIONS

The Chairman of the Federal Council, while replying to a question, said that the process of holding the elections in the country had already started and up to date electoral lists are being prepared. He stated that thereafter the work of delimitation of constituencies would be taken in hand. It has become obligatory as the population of the country has increased since last elections, he added.

FC SESSION

Khawaja Mohammad Safdar also said the next session of the Majlis-e-Shoora will be held in Islamabad soon after Eid-ul-Azha.

CSO: 4220/346

JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION CALLS ON SAFDAR

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Sep 82 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD Aug 31. Member of the Japanese House of Councillors (Upper House of the Diet) Mr. Yoshihiko Tsuchiy and Member of Japan's House of Representatives (Lower House) Mr. Saburo Odo currently visiting Pakistan with the entourage accompanying the Japanese Foreign Minister called on the Chairman of Majlis-i-Shoora Kh. Mohammad Safdar here this morning.

The distinguished Parliamentarians remained with the Chairman for some time and discussed matters pertaining to international peace with specific reference to the regional situation and the symbolic economic development made by Japan.

The distinguished guests pointed out that Japan had constitutionally renounced war as an instrument to settle international disputes and it was only by condemning the use of force or threat for resolving international conflicts can we build a structure of peace. The Members said that Japan stood for amity, goodwill and cooperation among

the comity of nations.

They told the Chairman that Pakistan and its people enjoy immense esteem in the hearts of our people.

Reciprocating the feelings Kh. Safdar told the distinguished visitors that Pakistan shared the noble principles and was committed to peaceful solutions of international disputes.

PAK FOREIGN POLICY

The Chairman said that Pakistan's Foreign policy has always been conducted in the spirit of friendship with all and enmity with none in conformity with the principles advocated by Quaid-i-Azam.

The Chairman said that Japan was a model of economic development having taken gigantic economic strides by virtue of a viable economic strategy and Pakistan would emulate its example by benefiting from both Japan's economic assistance and example.

Secretary of the Federal Council Secretariat Mr. Amin-ul-Haq was also present on the occasion.

CSO: 4220/346

IMF FINANCING OKAYED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Sep 82 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug 31: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a purchase equivalent to SDR 180.2 million by the Government of Pakistan, under the compensatory financing facility in respect of an export shortfall, experienced during the 12 months ending in June, 1982, official sources said.

After increasing at an average annual rate of 35 per cent in the two pre-shortfall years, Pakistan's exports earnings declined by 10 per cent in 1981-82. The largest shortfall is accounted for by exports of raw cotton, which fell by 45 per cent followed by rice 24 per cent, carpets and rugs 24 per cent, as well as cotton yarn, leather goods, and cotton textiles.

The shortfall for raw cotton was due to both a drop in world cotton prices and lower export volume, while the shortfall for rice was the result of reduced volume.

Pakistan's quota in the fund is SDR 427.5 million, and its outstanding financial obligations to the fund resulting from past operations and transactions currently total the equivalent of SDR 923.2 million.

CSO: 4220/346

INCREASED JAPANESE AID FOR REFUGEES ASSURED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Aug 82 p 8

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Aug. 27: Abdul Aziz Jitsuo-Inagaki, leader of the visiting Japanese Parliamentary delegation has said that he will report to the Japanese Parliament on his return home about the plight of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and will impress upon the government to step up Japanese relief assistance for them.

Talking to newsmen, at the Kachagarhi Afghan refugee tentage village, after his visit Mr. Abdul Aziz, who is also Chairman of the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for Afghan Refugees said that one of the basic objectives of his current visit to Pakistan was to investigate the needs of the refugees and assess the quantum of assistance Japan could provide to them to mitigate their sufferings. "We will inform our government and people about these requirements with a recommendation to step up supply of relief goods for the Afghan refugees," he added.

He noted that Japan was the second biggest donor to the relief of the Afghan refugees. He however, said the Japanese Foreign Minister was scheduled to visit Pakistan from Aug. 30 and expressed the

that he would also look into the problem, during his discussions with the Pakistani leaders. Mr. Abdul Aziz assured that Japan would continue to do whatever possible to share Pakistan's burden in respect of Afghan refugees.

Asked about the reaction of the Muslim community in Japan to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan Mr. Abdul Aziz said the Japanese people, especially the Muslim community strongly condemned the Soviet action and supported the Afghan people in their struggle for freedom.

"They fully support the 'Jehad' of the Afghan nation," he added. He also expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by Pakistan, for providing shelter and relief to the Afghan refugees. He, however, noted that it was a big problem and was happy to note that the Pakistani authorities were handling it in the best possible way.

The continuing influx of Afghan refugees, he said, demanded liberal assistance for Pakistan.

Earlier, addressing the Afghan refugees, Mr. Abdul Aziz lauded the struggle of the Afghan people for independence and sovereignty of their country and expressed the confidence that they would triumph ultimately. He, however, urged the Afghan people to continue their 'Jehad' as it was

Jehad for glory of Islam and for the entire Muslim World.

The leader of the delegation assured the "Allah-o-Akbar" chanting Afghan refugees that the people of Japan appreciated their just struggle. Every effort would, therefore, be made to solve their problems, with regard to relief, he said adding that the members of the delegation had learnt a great deal from the Provincial Information Minister, Syed Zafar Ali Shah and the Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, about the Afghan refugees and expressed the hope to learn more during their meetings with the representatives of the various international agencies engaged in relief work.

Earlier, an Afghan refugee elder welcomed the Japanese Parliamentary delegation and expressed gratitude for the relief assistance, being provided by Japan.

He also explained the conditions, obtaining in Afghanistan, following Soviet invasion and reiterated determination of the Afghan people to continue their struggle till the withdrawal of foreign troops from their homeland.

The Provincial Information Minister and the Commissioner Afghan refugees, welcome the Japanese delegation on its arrival at the tentage village.

CSO: 4220/347

BRITISH WELFARE SPECIALISTS IN ISLAMABAD

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 p 12

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 27: A team of British specialists has arrived here on a visit to work at the newly established welfare, training and rehabilitation centre for deaf children.

The centre was opened earlier this month by the Social Welfare Wing of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

The British team consists of Dr. K.P. Murphy, Deputy Director, Audiology Unit, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Mrs. B. Inga, Principal of the Sir Winston Churchill School for the Deaf, Dr. G.P. Ivimey of

London University, and Mr. R. Wills, of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The purpose of the visit is to provide professional assistance to the new Centre to help develop it as a model centre for the training and rehabilitation of children. The visit is the first stage of a proposed collaborative programme between the British Government and Government of Pakistan. If successful, it will lead to further visits by specialists in other areas, such as, blindness and mentally and physically handicapped.

CSO: 4220/346

NWFP GOVERNOR WELCOMES GHAFFAR'S STATEMENT

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Aug 82 p 16

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Aug 19: Lt-Gen Fazle Haq, the NWFP Governor, has welcomed the statement of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan published in a section of the Press today in which Ghaffar Khan had offered negotiations with Afghan refugees and Mujahideen leaders of the Afghanistan crisis.

Replying to a question at a meet-the-press reception at the Governor House this evening, Gen Fazle Haq said the Government firmly believed that all problems should be solved through political means as fighting would not solve any problem.

He, however, remarked if it was a sincere offer, it meant some welcome flexibility had occurred in the aged leader.

He added that no one could dare to challenge a Power like the USSR and it was a unique example of the Afghan nation that it been launching a historic struggle against such a big Power.

He agreed with the Khan Ghaffar Khan's concept that war was no solution to all problems, and if ways and means could be found it could be a honourable thing in these circumstances.

He also referred to President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's talks with the late Afghan President Taraki and recent indirect talks with Afghan regime leaders in Geneva under the aegis of United Nations Secretary-General.—PPI

CSO: 4220/340

MINISTER SAYS POLLS WILL BE ON ADULT FRANCHISE BASIS

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p 14

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug 22: Mr. Mahmoud A. Haroon, Federal Interior Minister, has said that President Zia-ul-Haq had emphasised, time and again, that general elections would be held on the basis of adult franchise and the local body institutions would not be used for it.

Talking to newsmen here, he said the Federal Local Government Minister, Mr. Fakhr Imam, had recently made a categorical statement about this.

When asked whether there was a possibility of holding elections before local body elections in September 1983, he said that President Zia-ul-Haq had announced that he would present a blueprint of the future form of government before the nation on or before next Independence Day. Therefore, nothing could be said about the elections till that time, he added.

Electoral rolls

However, Mr. Haroon said that the Election Commission had started holding its meetings, and it was updating the electoral roll under instructions from President.

Replying to a question, he said that the government had nothing to do with the proposal of Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani to hold a round table conference of the politicians next month.

He said that the President was meeting some political leaders individually, off and on, but he had no programme to convene such a conference.

When his attention was drawn to reports about the presence in Pakistan of Salamullah Tippi, who had hijacked a Pakistan Airliner, he said that the government agencies had no evidence of his arrival in the country. These were only rumours. However, he added, the concerned agencies were trying to find out the fact. According to the latest information, he was in Afghanistan, he said.—APP

CSO: 4220/333

RASHID ELECTED JOURNALISTS' UNION CHIEF

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p 12

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Aug. 22: Mr Rashid Siddiqi was elected unopposed President of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (Rashid Siddiqi group) for a third term here today. Other office-bearers who were elected unopposed are: Mr Salahuddin Ahmad (Peshawar) Vice-President, Mr Amjad Qureshi (Bahwalpur) Vice-President, and Mr Mamnoonur Rahman (Karachi) Secretary-General.

Mr Saghir Ahmad (Karachi) and Mr Abdul Haq Awan (Lahore) were elected Senior Assistant Secretary-General and Junior Assistant Secretary-General, respectively. The former secured 32 votes and the latter 21 votes.

Nine members of the FEC elected today are: Mr Amir Awan (Lahore), Mr Maqbool Lodhi (Faisalabad), Mr Mazhar Ahmad (Karachi), Mr Maqbool Kashmiri (Peshawar), Mr Saeed Siddiqui (Multan), Mr Zafeer Nadvi (Lahore), Mr Shamshad Siddiqui (Peshawar), Mohammad Attayyab

(Karachi), and Nasim Shad (Karachi).

Five resolutions were unanimously adopted by the BDM. In the first resolution, the BDM condemned the severe lathicharge on Indian journalists by the police in Patna.

In another resolution the meeting demanded that the Government of Pakistan should end censorship and stop giving Press advice to newspapers.

In a third resolution the BDM demanded that newspaper workers should be given dearness allowance equal to 50 per cent of their basic pay, because the Second Wage Board Award had been rendered ineffective by rising prices.

In the fourth resolution, it demanded that a pension scheme should be started in all newspapers in Pakistan and where this scheme already exists, it should be brought at par with the terms and conditions of Government pension scheme.

CSO: 4220/333

EXPORT PROMOTION ZONE INCENTIVES REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Aug 82 p 7

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug 19: The Government has announced several incentives for investors in the Export Processing Zone, Karachi, with a view to attracting maximum foreign investment, acquiring modern technology, boosting industrial production and promoting export of manufactured goods.

According to official sources, the import of machinery spare parts and raw materials for industrial undertaking in the EPZ and export and re-export of goods have been freely allowed and exempted from all taxes and duties by both Federal and Provincial Government, including municipal taxes.

Moreover, restrictions of the Import Trade Control Act will not be applicable on imports into the EPZ.

Income of the enterprise and of the foreign employees will also be exempted from tax for five years, which may further be extended according to the performance of the enterprise.

After the expiry of the tax holiday period, a concessional rate of tax, which will be one-fourth of the prevalent tax rates, will be levied

for the next five years.

Capital gains, sale of assets and shares will also be exempted from taxes.

According to these sources, any foreign investor, with 100 per cent foreign-owned investment, can make investment in the said EPZ. Hundred per cent non-repatriable investment by non-resident nationals of Pakistan will also be acceptable. Besides, the Government has allowed joint ventures between foreign investors and Pakistani investors with non-repatriable investment.

Being built on 5000 acres of land, 25 industrial units, valued at 136 million dollars, have been sanctioned so far.

Sixty per cent of the physical work has been completed. It, however, will be fully developed by June 1984, as planned by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council.

A number of foreign companies have expressed interest in investing in the EPZ, and the Government is considering their offers.—PPI.

CSO: 4220/340

CODE FOR ACADEMIC PEACE DISCUSSED

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Aug 82 p 10

[Text]

The proposals of the Islamic Jamiat-i-Talaba and the United Students' Movement, on the code of the ethics for promoting academic peace at Karachi University were discussed by the University officials on Thursday.

All members of the 'code of ethics committee' attended the meeting.

Another meeting will be held on Monday to continue the deliberations.

The present University rules pertaining to the disciplinary cases, will be updated keeping in view the proposals put forward by the two students' organisations, it is learnt.

The University has already agreed to authorise the departmental students' advisers to dispose of disciplinary problems in their respective departments. This decision will be implemented after it is approved by the syndicate, it is further learnt.

Meanwhile, the Convenor of the "Ghair Janibdar Talaba Action Committee" of Karachi University, Miss Surriya, has criticised the University administration for not taking any steps for restoring academic peace at the Campus.

In a Press release, she said the students of the University have rejected the 'politics of terror' by fully participating in the signature campaign started by the Action Committee.

CSO: 4220/340

NINE RECRUITING AGENCIES SHUT DOWN

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Aug 82 p 10

[Text]

Nine out of the 11 recruiting agencies visited by Brig. Mohammad Akbar, Director-General of Protectorate of Immigrants and Passports, and officials were found violating the Immigration Ordinance of 1979.

All the nine offices have been sealed and legal action will be taken against the defaulters, Brig. Akbar told newsmen at a Press conference yesterday.

From one agency operating in New Challi, Yousuf Chambers, under the name of Eastern Impex, the Director-General seized eight passports along with a Pakistani who resides in Jeddah and came here to recruit people through illegal means. All his victims were from Dera Ghazi Khan. They were supposed to be recruited for a firm, M/s. Ibrahim Abda Al Masoudi Trading Store, Abha-Mahiyi, Jeddah.

Under the rules, the recruiting agencies are supposed to advertise the jobs and after taking permission from the Protectorate process the selection within 45 days. This was not done in this case.

He said his department was checking travel documents at random at all the international airports viz Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar — to see whether travel documents were in order.

He appealed to the prospective

emigrants to inform the Government if any recruiting agency charged more than the fixed fee of Rs. 2,000, out of which Rs. 1,450 is retained by them and the rest (Rs. 550) goes to the Pakistan Overseas Welfare Fund.

Against the payment of Rs. 250, the emigrants are being insured against death, loss of limbs and physical disability — Rs. 50,000 for death, Rs. 50,000 for losing both hands and legs and Rs. 25,000 for losing one of the limbs.

Uniforms will be introduced for all emigrant workers soon, he said, adding that this would give them the identity.

Following Wednesday's surprise raids, recruiting agencies in Karachi sealed are: Mid East Associates, Pak Engineering (both in West Wharf), Anees in Chartered Bank building, Sajjad Traders, Friendship International and Oriental Traders, Eastern Impex (all having their offices in New Challi) Personnel Services Bureau and Al-Amal, also from New Challi.

After due process of law, their licences will be cancelled, security of Rs. 100,000 will be forfeited, and trial will be held by special courts.

Most of the passports were found lying in their offices in contravention of the procedures and proper record of accounts etc.

CSO: 4220/340

HASAN INTERVIEWED, SAYS FEUDAL WAY OF THINKING HINDERS PROGRESS

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Aug 82 Magazine Supplement pp I, II

[Interview with Mr. Sibte Hasan by Lala Rukh Husain, date and place not given]

[Text]

This is fifth in the series of interviews and articles in Dawn Magazine on the question of the relationship between culture and national development. The question put to Mr. Sibte Hasan was: has Pakistan made any progress during the last 35 years of its existence? If yes, then what were and are the positive points in our culture environment that have aided this progress? If no, then are there any particular aspects of our non-material culture that militate against and hinder progress (it being left to the interviewee/writer to spell out what in his opinion constitutes progress)?

It is one thing to admire your cultural heritage; quite another to worship it. A worshipper is not a critic: he submits to his idol and that deprives him of the possibilities of going forward. "Unfortunately, this is precisely what is happening today," says Syed Sibte Hasan, a well-known intellectual and author of several books on culture and history.

He views the matter in the perspective of what he calls "the typical Pakistani tendency not to talk about our failures; instead, to go on *ad nauseam* about the glories of our past - about Ibn Sina and Al Beiruni, Ibn Arbi and Al Ghazali and other great thinkers, scientists and theologians, musicians and poets, who contributed immensely to our culture. . . " but without making an effort to develop a sense of urge to make our own contribution to what our ancestors did. "I'm afraid all this bragging about our past will not take us forward."

Discussing what progress we have made in the past 35 years of our national existence, he defined progress as "any qualitative change or transformation in a substance, bringing out or making what is potential in that substance."

"Take a piece of stone," he said. "It is a dead material but when man realized its potentialities and use of this material for building houses, carving weapons and statues, - that was progress."

Similarly, he said, it applies to a society as a whole. "When one says a society has progressed or is progressive, it amounts to saying that it has realized or has been realizing or objectifying the potentialities hidden in its body politic."

"But if, instead of this self-realization, we find that society is trying to sort of stratify or freeze or suppress its potentialities, then we will say that it has not progressed, that it is not a progressive society." Putting it more simply he said, "progress means looking forward, not looking backward."

"I don't mean to say that you should not admire your cultural heritage or the contributions that your ancestors made in various spheres. But it is one thing to admire

your heritage and quite another to worship it."

Although in Sibte Hasan's opinion there are several hundred definitions of the word 'culture' he thinks everybody is free to stick to his definition. "For me culture is a sum total of any society's creative activities and the social values which determine the functions of the society."

"Thus you will notice that my concept of culture includes practically every aspect of human life: language, religion, clothes, the food we eat, the way we dress, the house we live in, the products people produce, the means of production and production itself. Traditions, folk-lore, literature — every aspect of man's activities."

He considers both the 'material' and 'non-material' aspects of culture as integrated. "You cannot divide one from the others."

Secondly, culture is "not an act. It is a process that grows or declines according to the physical and social environment of the community itself."

"Unfortunately, this aspect of culture is normally ignored in our discussions. Perhaps because it is considered something very static. . .

"The third point that I would like to make is that for me culture is not an entertainment or a matter of satisfaction which normally people mean when they think of culture." Like music and poetry . . . "as you say the non-material or creative activities. . ."

Human effort

For, Sibte Hasan emphasised, culture is a very very serious human effort and has to be taken seriously. "But, somehow when you talk of culture in our society, people think of only the entertainment aspect. It is meant to satisfy us and not to provoke or activate us and to me the most important function of any living culture is to make people more conscious of their life, its processes and its responsibilities."

In fact, he said, it should energise you and shake you off from the complacency . . . "The general tendency at the moment is to defend the status quo and be apologetic and not criticize the status quo or offer the people a better alternative."

Coming to the question whether we had made any progress Sibte Hasan began by quoting certain instances: One was a newspaper report from the interior of Sind about an

old man who sacrificed his son as he thought that God had instructed him, in his dreams to follow the footsteps of Prophet Abraham.

Then, in Karachi, a married but childless woman, on the advice of her 'pir', killed a neighbour's infant and took a blood bath so that she could have a baby of her own. And, lastly the Indonesian lady Zohra Fona who collected a lot of admirers, Ministers and politicians and gained a lot of publicity by claiming she was carrying a baby in her womb who could be heard reciting the Holy Quran. But when this lady went back to Indonesia, she was arrested for being a cheat and it was discovered that she had a tape-recorder tied round her waist and the credulous people never thought of questioning her claims.

This was not an aberration, he said, but symptomatic of a whole tendency.

"I would say that ours is still a feudal society. Feudalism does not mean just the relationship between the peasant and the landlord. It is a way of life, generating a particular kind of philosophy, beliefs, and it is this which is playing havoc with our society."

"I could go on emulating the injuries that this way of life is inflicting."

The main thing about this way of life that Sibte Hasan pointed out was how it makes people fatalistic and deterministic: "They think that the causes for their calamities lie outside this world and we cannot change or get over them . . . cannot solve our problems. . ."

What was surprising, he said, was that "very intelligent people, who know that there are laws of nature — similarly laws of development of human society yet in times of a crisis — they'll never ponder over the laws."

The rains, for instance: Sibte Hasan elaborated: "everybody today knows the natural causes of this shortfall in rains. But to expect that God would change his own laws of nature if you pray for it is a total ignorance of even your own faith."

This behaviour he attributed to fatalism and determinism which Iqbal was the foremost to condemn and criticize as a product of feudal way of life.

If our people are deterministic in their outlook, if they believe in fate and 'taqdeer', he said, they are so conditioned by their existence: "There is not much scope in the life of our peasant for instance to exer-

cise his free will in his day-to day work."

"He is always exposed to the whims of nature. He cannot bring rains when he wants them, nor can he stop the onslaught of floods or hailstorms or locusts and other insects."

"From the moment he puts seeds in the soil to the moment he stores the crop in the godown, he is at the mercy of natural and social forces that are beyond his control. Moreover, he has no say in the law of the land nor a share in determining the price of his products. For him all orders come from above and he has no alternative but to obey them."

Obedience to authority

Obedience to authorities, both spiritual and temporal, is another distinct characteristic of feudal oriented thought which has deprived us of our confidence in mind and intellect. No questioning, no doubting, no denying the prescribed and total conformity with ancestral creed and belief, in his opinion, played havoc with Western society for almost a thousand and five hundred years and seems to suite our ruling class.

"In the West, any departure from the teachings of sages like Aristotle was considered an unpardonable heresy. In Muslim jurisprudence this type of obedience is called *Taqleed* i.e., 'reverentially blind acceptance of the rules of conduct laid down by leaders in the past'..."

Preoccupation with affairs of the next world and contempt of the present he considers another typical feature of our thinking habits: "Our preachers, philosophers and poets have been more or less unanimous in their condemnation of this world. According to them, this world is an illusion, a temporary abode, a halting station. We should not run after worldly goods because the pursuit of wealth and riches hinders the development of the spirit and spoils our prospects of eternal peace and happiness in the next world. What is more the rich and powerful indulging in worldly pleasures are forgiven this 'folly' for they will suffer for their vagrancies in the next world."

All this he explains is anti-rational and the very reason why rationalism does not progress in our society. "If we cannot think rationally - we cannot act rationally. Look into the children's books - where every effort is made to condition them to beliefs and no effort is made to develop their rational

capacities. To question, to doubt. To ask why and how. They are just told to believe and are expected to obey."

Not this obedience but a sense of defiance and doubt, Sibte Hasan asserts, has always been the basis of progress.

"Think of Moses, Jesus and Prophet Muhammad. If they had followed the traditions of their society what would have happened? Where would Christianity and Islam be It is very surprising that this aspect of religion is never emphasised."

"Ask any maulvi, for instance, if it is permissible to erect permanent structures on graves and he will quietly say no. Yet he dare not openly denounce it and the worshipping of graves and mazars."

This, he said, was dualism. "You teach the theory of evolution yet you believe in the theory of creation. Both cannot be true, because the former cannot be disproved while the latter you dare not deny."

"The time has come when we have to ponder seriously the contradictions from which our society suffers on account of feudal values and thought process. And unless we develop a scientific approach towards things and be rational . . . I'm afraid we will not be able to make much progress."

A scientific outlook, he affirms is not a prerogative of the scientist alone. "Although scientific knowledge helps a lot to develop it - it is not true that if we teach our children various scientific subjects it will make them good rational human beings."

"Our humanities - the non-scientific subjects that are taught in our educational institutes - have to be revised in the light of scientific knowledge. Only then will the dichotomy of the contradiction between the realities of life and our thought process can be removed."

Whatever progress has been made, Sibte Hasan observes, has been unplanned and haphazard. "We are living in an age and world where you cannot help getting new ideas. For instance, you cannot help instal industries, establish medical colleges, universities - this is the demand of the modern age - which we do for the very reason but in a haphazard and whimsical fashion. There is no scientific planning before us to develop society in accordance with its requirements."

Sibte Hasan strongly believes

that unless you create conditions where rational thinking can develop, you cannot expect people to be rational and scientific.

He thinks it is our duty to start a crusade against the feudal way of life, beliefs and superstition.

"The belief in superstition has increased in the same ratio as the modern gadgets. What is condemnable is that a planned effort seems to be going on to see that people do not become rational and scientific minded, - especially the role played by the various media, radio, television and newspapers, in keeping the people in the dark."

"Day in day out a concerted and organized move to discourage people from acquiring new knowledge

As a result, he says, society has become very intolerant of criticism which is a very alarming situation.

"Look at the plays broadcast from the radio and television. The poetry and prose books rewarded. In every field of life an effort to

close our minds and just believe whatever our ancestors did even though conditions have changed drastically.

"Allama Iqbal, Ghalib and Sir Syed Ahmed Khan were exponents of change. You cannot have science and technology and at the same time stick to a medieval mode of thought. Europe had to discard its feudal way of life. Whether we like it or not the same will have to happen here. Reject science and technology and you will be thrown back to the Middle Ages. The choice is yours.

To attempt to segregate the sexes, the emphasis on 'purdah'... the 'chadar', sherwani and shalwar... Sibte Hasan thinks is a misplaced priority on the form instead of the spirit.

"The whole attempt is on the formal side - not the substance of the matter.

"Did the Khalifa wear a sherwani or shalwar? There is no such thing as Islamic dress, food or house.

This effort to identify Islam with certain formalities is actually taking us back. The entire concern is to force people to just formally believe in things--not actually."

Punishment

Religion is for men, not men for religion. Laws too are made for men if they don't serve our purpose, what use do we have for them? Mr. Sibte Hasan refers to the laws which are being eulogised, justified, praised and defended in the name of religion.

"There is nothing Islamic in the old custom of 'eye for eye', 'tooth for tooth' which existed even in the laws of Hammurabi, the Emperor of Babylon in 2000 BC."

"None of our jurists stop to think why this law was enforced. . . . Crime was considered an act of the individual and the courts had to pronounce judgement there and then for they had not prisons. If a man stole--they cut his hand. A couple did wrong--stoned them. It had nothing to do with religion. Every such society had these pun because they had no modern facilities. They never thought of the social conditions which lead to crime.

"For three hundred various offences, including perjury, the offence was death. Today there is no crime for which the death sentence is pronounced.

"Any society which lives under the shadow of fear will never progress."

"Did Islam create a sense of fear during the days of the Holy Prophet? On the contrary, it gave hope both in this world and for the other. It taught how to live a better life. It gave a sense of brotherhood — 'ummah' and a sense of democracy. That spirit has been lost and instead of the spirit and substance of Islam we are chasing the form."

CSO: 4220/340

PROBLEMS OF PAKISTANIS ABROAD DISCUSSED

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Aug 82 p 4

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 20: The problems of the Pakistanis living in Europe, America and other countries of the Western world relate to their language, culture, religious education, employment, national identity, and general welfare, and could only be solved through collective efforts while the Government should encourage the establishment of social and cultural organisations of the Pakistanis in important centres.

These recommendations were made by the three-day National Convention on "Ways and means of improving conditions of migrant workers as regards education and respect for cultural identity", which concluded here yesterday. The convention was arranged by the Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, on the request of the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO.

Brig (Retd) Mohammad Akbar, Managing Director, Overseas Employment Corporation, presided over the last session.

Describing legal protection and employment as the important problems of the Pakistanis in the Middle East countries, it urged upon the Government to adopt suitable measures in this connection. It recommended that the families of overseas Pakistanis, living in Pakistan, should also be provided educational, medical and legal facilities.

The convention also recommended to set up centres in different parts of the country to provide suitable education and training to the children of the Pakistani working in various countries of the West.—
PPI

NWFP GOVERNOR REFUTES RUMORS ABOUT REFUGEES

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Aug 20: The NWFP Governor, Lt-Gen Fazle Haq, has repudiated propaganda launched by certain elements against the Afghan refugees taking shelter in Pakistan and particularly in NWFP.

While briefing the journalists at Governor's House, he said, to refuse shelter to the Afghan refugees was a clear denial of the ideology of Pakistan as they were our brethren in faith.

He said people of NWFP were reviving the character of Ansar-i-Madina and the refugees coming in from Afghanistan had proved in turn to be good "Muhajireen" following the path of "Muhajireen-i-Mecca."

He lashed out at the rumormongers and appealed the journalist community to educate public opinion on bright lines about the facts and figures they come

to know here.

He said if these refugees had bad intentions as was being propagated, an untold misery could have erupted for the people and Government of Pakistan.

Instead, he claimed, in the last four years, only 50 to 60 cases have been registered in which Afghan refugees were directly or indirectly involved.

In fact, the Provincial Governor claimed, we are blessed with God's blessings in many ways because of these Afghan refugees may it be in law and order situation, availability of essential commodities or international reputation.

He said a big organisation comprising of about 10,000 personnel of various categories were running the administration of Afghan refugees in as many as 282 camps spreading in 17 district and tribal areas adjoining NWFP.

CSO: 4220/333

EXTENSIVE USE OF MEDIA IN SOCIAL REFORMS URGED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Sep 82 p 4

[Editorial: "The Media and Social Reforms"]

[Text] ALL the major reformist movements, it is said, draw their inspirational strength from the total dedication of the much-too-involved crusaders and over-committed thinkers who possess as much sociological foresight as they have historical perception. Besides, all the societies have to go through a process of growth continuity only to move forward towards a discernible future based on the meaning of their past and purpose of their present. The Islah-e-Muashra call given by President Zia-ul-Haq recently is an expression of deep concern and deliberate thinking wherein religious and moral values have been linked meaningfully with the materialistic code of committed living. The call is also an attempt to arrest the prevailing decadence and degeneration which is already plaguing the society. It is an effort to provide specific direction to the collective existence of the nation. It is not merely wishful thinking or fabrication of a sweet dream. The Islah-e-Muashra call is a manifesto, a practical guideline and a concrete step to set things right, to put the derailed social structure on the rails. It envisages practical measures to shape a society where right should be acknowledged and wrong should not go unpunished. In this context the remarks of Raja Zafarul Haq, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, become more significant when he observed that TV, a medium of mass communication, could make a positive contribution to fostering national integration and cultural cohesion through information and entertainment. The medium is to be deployed to carry this message of moral rearmament with all the force and effectiveness at its command. In fact, this is where technology is pressed into service to bring about an ideological change. Perhaps, also the metamorphosis of the national character. It is where technicians and artistes at the TV centre could reshape our society for the rest of this century and beyond. They would provide the redefinition of our national identity, rediscovering for us the personal and cultural mores which are part and parcel of our collective psyche.

Under the new challenges there is no room for insipid TV, for our aim should be to attract rather than detract. TV has to be catchy to hit the target rather than being boring to defeat the very purpose of this massive exercise. Hence the very imaginative

handling and exploitation of the TV medium is the need of the moment. And it can only be achieved through a dynamic approach. Bureaucratic red-tapism should avoid meddling with the creative presentations of the producers and script writers. TV cameras should go out in the field registering the reactions of the people, capturing the responsiveness of the audience. It should desist from showing all the provincial Governors and all the Federal Ministers all the time in news bulletins, special reports or documentaries. In doing so the TV is achieving negative results. Instead of popularising the faces, TV is creating an allergy, losing by creditability and earning indifference in the process. Overdoing of ministerial projection and bureaucratic achievements would perhaps, please the high-ups but would hardly win the confidence of the public, which is so vital for making the reformist movement a real success.

Thus, before undertaking the assigned task, the TV must improve its own image. For the medium is as forceful as it is fragile. One can simply switch off the TV if it taxes the patience too much. At that moment, all the efforts are wasted. So the producer has to be aware of that thin line which separates popular from the unpopular and the hit from the flop. It really costs nothing to lose TV audience, but it costs a lot more than mere finances to retain the audience. Once its goodwill is destroyed and credibility damaged, it would take real hard work and sufficiently long period for rehabilitation. Thus the recent assignment of Islah-e-Muashra through mass communication media, which naturally include TV, should be approached cautiously, expertly and professionally. With all its audio-visual richness, the TV has to be very subtle and should be able to say things without sounding pedantic and verbose, a tendency which is destroying the impact of our programmes. The TV programmes are "overtalkative" with a lot of wordage. Where visuals are forceful words are just not required. Realising the dangers of these shortcomings, the Information Minister has urged the functionaries of the PTV to put in more efforts to improve the quality of programmes [word illegible] make them more effective and presentable. And one can understand the note of urgency in his appeal because he is pressing into service this medium of mass communication to achieve results on the higher plane. Transformation of the nation is awaited.

CSO: 4220/346

PRESS CONVENTION PLANNED FOR DECEMBER BY EDITORS' BODY

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 28 Aug 82 p 8

[Text] LAHORE, Aug. 27--The Standing Committee of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors which met here today decided to hold a CPNE Press convention in December next which would be named as the "Quaid-i-Azam Press Convention".

The meeting which was presided over by CPNE President, Mr Inquilab Matri, approved a report of the convenor of the Press convention sub-committee of the CPNE, Mr Mahmudul Aziz, in this connection and decided to invite all CPNE members as delegates besides 20 other delegates from amongst eminent journalists and former editors and 10 observers from the official Press media including radio and television.

The meeting considered at length the invitation received from the Editors Guild of India inviting a delegation of CPNE to hold talks on bilateral relations and decided to accept the invitation in principle. It directed the President of the CPNE to take necessary steps for the formation of the delegation and its visit to India.

The Standing Committee meeting, while discussing the subject of Government-Press relations heard a report from its President, Mr Inquilab Matri on the talks so far held with various Government officials. The meeting felt that the dialogue be pursued further and directed the President of the CPNE to lead a delegation of the CPNE to submit before the President of Pakistan and officials of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry the view point and demands of the organisation for early action.

The Standing Committee also decided to extend the time-limit for the submission of the report by the constitution sub-committee by its convenor, Mr Iqbal Zuberi, till the next meeting of the Standing Committee. Members of the CPNE were requested to send their proposed amendments to the constitution to General Secretary Mujibur Rahman Shami, at Lahore at the earliest.

The meeting, was attended by Syed Fasih Iqbal, Vice-president, Mr Mujibur Rahman Shami, Secretary-General, Mr Mahmudul Aziz, Joint Secretary, Mr Haroon Saad, Treasurer, Mr Majid Nizami, Editor Nawa-i-Waqt, Mr Mustafa Sadiq, Editor, Wifaq, Mir Shakilur Rahman, Editor, Jang Mr G. M. Naqqash, Editor, Pakistan Times, Mr Iqbal Zuberi, Editor, Mashriq, Mr Jamil Athar Editor, Tijarat, Mr

M. Shafaat, Editor, Maghribi Pakistan, Syeq Mohammad Siddiq Shah, Editor, Al-falah, Syed Mohammad Hassan Gilani, Editor, Aljamiat, Mr Anwer Farooqui. Editor Aghaz, Mr Gulzar Ahmed Nasum Editor, Siyadat, Mr Nasikh Salfi, Editor, Saadat, Mr Waliullah Auhaad, Editor Kaayanat, Mr Abdul Samad Wani, Editor, Kasheer and Brigadier (retd) Abdur Rahman Siddiqui, Editor, Defence Journal.

The members were later entertained to lunch by Mr Mujibur Rahman Shami CPNE General Secretary--APP.

Censorship

PPI adds: The Standing Committee of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors reiterated here today in a unanimously adopted resolution its demand that pre-censorship on periodicals in the country should be lifted without further delay. It also declared that the lifting of all forms of censorship by the Government would meet our long standing demand for completely free Press and help the Press in performing its assigned role.

The meeting called for the promulgation of the code of ethics and the constitution of the Press bench simultaneously with the withdrawal of the Press and Publications Ordinance. The meeting authorised the President of the CPNE, Mr Inqilab Matri, to initiate a dialogue with the Government in pursuit of the above objectives.

The resolution unanimously adopted as one of the subjects by the CPNE Standing Committee is as follows.

"This meeting of the CPNE Standing Committee hereby reiterates its demand that pre-censorship on periodicals in the country should be lifted without further delay, particularly when the pre-censorship on dailies has been withdrawn.

This meeting of the CPNE Standing Committee is of the considered opinion that the lifting of all forms of censorship would meet our long standing demand for a completely free Press and would help it in performing its assigned role. It would also remove the present discrimination between dailies and periodicals.

"The meeting reiterates the demand of the CPNE that the Government should implement the agreement reached with the CPNE for the withdrawal of the Press and Publications Ordinance and the promulgation of the agreed code of ethics along with the constitution of the Press bench.

This meeting also authorises the President of the CPNE to take up this matter and initiate a meaningful dialogue with the Government on the subject."

"The Standing Committee meeting also approved the holding of the CPNE Press convention in December this year and decided to name it as the "Quaid-i-Azam Press Convention" under the auspices of the CPNE. The meeting approved the report of the Convenor of the Press Convention Sub-Committee of the CPNE, Mr Mahmudul Aziz, and agreed that all members of the CPNE be invited as delegates as also 25 other delegates from eminent journalists and former editors besides 10 observers from the official Press media including radio and television."

BAR COUNCIL AMENDMENT SEEN AS HARMFUL TO COUNTRY, GOVERNMENT

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 17 Jul 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Amendment in Bar Council Act"]

[Text] The president has issued an ordinance under which various amendments have been made to the Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Act of 1973. Most of these amendments are of a technical nature and were probably recommended by the Pakistan Bar Council itself. One amendment, however, is of a political nature as it is based on political necessity. Under this amendment, bar associations and bar councils are barred from becoming involved in political activities, directly or indirectly. The object of this restriction, it is said, is to maintain an atmosphere whereby these institutions can devote their full attention and time to professional matters.

The bar associations and bar councils constitute a sensible and conscientious sector of the country. In their meetings, professional matters are raised for review. At times, however, a voice in favor of the restoration of democracy and of basic human rights is also heard. Besides, political leaders are also invited to address their meetings. This gives the lawyers an opportunity to become acquainted with the viewpoints of political leaders. At times, certain individuals, to whom all other avenues of expression have been closed, also share the platform. People have taken advantage of this facility during every era. At times, this has contributed to healthy and long-lasting effects on national politics. The lawyers were the forerunners among those who openly opposed the former government. When all the channels of freedom of speech were closed, the bar associations and bar councils provided stable platforms for the political leaders and the lawyers themselves.

At present, political activities in the country are banned. Meetings and processions are prohibited. Nevertheless, in the meetings of the bar associations and bar councils, political matters are sometimes discussed. The task of the lawyers is not only to fight cases; they also play a significant role by explaining and clarifying the laws of the country. With a hold on constitutional problems, an expert on law and the constitution can explain much better when and what sort of law and constitution and political system would be appropriate for the country. The legal profession

is quite different from the medical and teaching profession. Doctors and teachers can be told to stick to the responsibilities of their profession only and avoid engaging in political activities, but it is utterly wrong and improper to tell a legal adviser or an expert on constitutional matters to totally avoid talking about politics.

In our opinion, the above-mentioned amendment to the Bar Council Act by the current government is improper and inappropriate. It is wrong from the technical and from the logical point of view. The frustration caused by barring all opportunities for freedom of speech can create a critical situation, and its consequences may prove harmful to the current regime itself.

The public and political circles will take this amendment to mean that the present government is either afraid of opposition from the lawyers or is scared of political leaders sharing the lawyers' platform from time to time. When governments are bound by such fears and are bent on weakening stable institutions and traditions, it is harmful for the government, the country and the people.

9779

CSO: 4203/165

ZIA'S REJECTION OF ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY COUNCIL REPORT CRITICIZED

Karachk JASARAT in Urdu 18 Jul 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Let President Present His Solid Political Structure"]

[Text] Commenting on the rejection of the Islamic Ideology Council's report on the political structure, the defunct Jamiat-e-Islami's deputy, Amir Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, said that for almost a week there had been a rumor that the announcement about the future political system would be made on 'Id al-Fitr, or 14 August. The president's statement, however, disclosed that there was still plenty of time for that. Maulana said that the formation of a rough draft alone for the recommendations had taken 5 years and it would take another 10 years to make them solid.

The president has returned this report to the Islamic Ideology Council saying that there was nothing worthwhile in it. Probably the president is not in a hurry. The earnest opinion of the people who foresee the harm caused by blocking the political process, however, is that it is essential to put the country on the path of some permanent political system now.

The current situation is dependent solely on the duration of power of one individual. Whenever and wherever there is a break in this continuity, all the steps taken during this 5-year era will come to nothing, since they have no seal of endorsement by any elected parliament or the backing or public opinion. It is essential, therefore, that some sort of system having the authority of endorsement be established so that any positive and valuable work done during the past 5 years is preserved and there is some clear way out for the future.

From a political viewpoint, this question is indeed essential. Those who promised to put the country on the path of democracy within 90 days have not even been able to define the guidelines of some political system during these 5 years. If this speed of action is maintained, then the country would indeed require many a decade to acquire a political process. Another question is: What does the president expect from the Islamic Ideology Council? In response to whatever he asked, the Islamic Ideology Council, according to the knowledge and wisdom of its experts and scholars,

provided him with the fundamental principles. After all, what is meant by not having anything solid in them? It seems that there is some political concept in the president's mind that he deems "solid." The Islamic Ideology Council's recommendations do not reflect the president's concept. Therefore, he declared them unproductive. It would be preferred if the president would spell out what he has in mind. In this way, we might soon reach his goal. It will be extremely difficult for the president to have the Islamic Ideology Council sing his song.

9779

CSO: 4203/165

PAKISTAN

MUSLIM WORLD WARNED AGAINST PLOTS OF SUPERPOWERS

Karachk JASARAT in Urdu 19 Jul 82 p 3

[Editorial: "From Wakhan to Lebanon"]

[Text] One of India's influential newspapers, the HINDUSTAN TIMES, in a dispatch from its London correspondent, says that taking advantage of the critical situation in Lebanon and the renewed war between Iran and Iraq, the Soviet Union is trying in Afghanistan to occupy the Wakhan strip joining the frontiers of China and Pakistan. This mountainous, narrow strip of land separates Soviet Central Asia from Azad Kashmir and on the other side is joined with Chinese Central Asia. With the occupation of the Wakhan region, the Soviet Union would extend from one side directly to the frontiers of Pakistan or, as the HINDUSTAN TIMES put it, the subcontinent, and from the other side it would directly touch the borders of China in this region. To take complete control of Wakhan, during the past few weeks the Soviet Union has been undertaking large scale military activities in the Panj Shir Province of Afghanistan. Besides fresh contingents from Soviet Central Asia, a large number of helicopter gunships were also delivered there. This province, controlled until now by the freedom fighters, lies between Wakhan and Kabul.

America, on the other hand, is busy trying to gain complete control over Lebanon and the surrounding area through its stooge, Israel. The Palestinian freedom fighters barred the trap set by America to gain complete control over the Middle East. For their elimination, therefore, Israel has been given full freedom of action. Undoubtedly, the devastating attacks on the Palestinian settlements were all waged not only with the approval but with the active involvement and support of America. According to Yasir Arafat, the attacks were not from Israel but from America.

Renewal of the war between Iran and Iraq during the same period is not a sudden and unrelated incident. It is well known now that the Soviet Union favors Iran's attack on Iraq and is ready to give every possible aid to Iran in this regard, while America has speeded up its war activities in the surrounding areas with the pretext of this war. It has one eye on Lebanon and the other on the Gulf region. America feels that the defeat of Iraq by Iran would be harmful to its interests in this region. It is

essential therefore, that America take an interest in this war and take steps to protect its interests in the area.

In short, from Wakhan to Lebanon, conspiracies, intrigues and constant aggressive attacks by the two superpowers, America and the Soviet Union, against the entire Muslim world continue with full force and intensity. The Soviet Union's latest dreadful weapons are being used in Afghanistan, while America's cluster bombs are being showered on the unarmed Palestinians in Lebanon.

In both places, the targets of these deadly weapons are Muslims. And in the war between Iran and Iraq, no matter who wins or loses, the Muslims and the Muslim community will suffer. It seems that through a combined conspiracy, both of the superpowers have made this region their target. Without stopping each other, they intend to achieve their objectives in their respective spheres of interest with full savagery and barbarism. This is the worst bloodshed in history wherein the nations made the target of aggression can neither defend themselves nor obtain aid from any other nation. The Muslim community's bad luck is that they alone are the target of this worst bloodshed. The Muslim world, as one community, will have to think seriously how it should safeguard itself through mutual understanding from the common anti-Muslim attitude and from the grip of the two superpowers and what steps it should take to preserve its existence and integrity. If only the Muslim leaders would put their heads together and with an awareness of the seriousness of the current situation, meet their obligations.

9779

CSO: 4203/165

EDITORS' COUNCIL CALLS FOR LIFTING ALL FORMS OF CENSORSHIP

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 pp 1, 9

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug 27: The Standing Committee of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors reiterated here today, in a unanimously adopted resolution, its demand that pre-censorship on periodicals in the country should be lifted without further delay. It also declared that the lifting of all forms of censorship by the Government would meet "our long-standing demand for a completely free Press and help the Press in performing its assigned role."

The meeting called for the promulgation of the Code of Ethics and the constitution of the Press Bench simultaneously with the withdrawal of the Press and Publications Ordinance.

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The resolution is as follows:

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"This meeting of the CPNE

Standing Committee is of the considered opinion that the lifting of all forms of censorship would meet our long-standing demand for a completely free Press and would help it in performing its assigned role. It would also remove the present discrimination between dailies and periodicals.

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"This meeting also authorises the President of the CPNE to take up this matter and initiate a meaningful dialogue with the Government on the subject."

Press convention

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and agreed that all members of the CPNE be invited as delegates as also 25 other delegates from eminent journalists and former editors, besides 10 observers from the official Press media, including Radio and Television.

The meeting then considered at length the invitation received from the Editors' Guild of India inviting a delegation of the CPNE to hold talks on bilateral relations, and decided to accept the invitation in principle. It directed the President of the CPNE to take necessary steps for the formation of a delegation and its visit to India.

Govt-Press ties

The meeting, while discussing the subject of Government-Press relations, heard a report from Mr Matri on the talks so far held with various Government officials. The meeting felt that the dialogue be pursued more vigorously, and directed the President of the CPNE to lead a delegation of the CPNE to submit before President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq and officials of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry the viewpoint and demands of the organisation for early action.—PPI

SOCIAL REFORM DRIVE WIDELY HAILED

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 p 4

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27: The Government's decision to wage a 'Jehad' to stamp out corruption, bribery, narcotics smuggling and other social evils from the society was widely hailed by the leaders belonging to various walks of life in the Federal Capital.

They urged the people to respond positively to the call of President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq for the reformation of society and join hands with the Government to purge the society from the social evils.

Maulana Mohammad Abdullah, Khatib Markazi Jamia Masjid, appreciating the Government's decision to register cases under "Hudood Ordinance" said that only Islamic Laws could eliminate social evils from the society.

In a statement, he said that the

Government had done well to take the step but added that the true spirit of Islamic punishments should be reflected in the implementation of "Islamic laws are equal for the rich and the poor and there should be no discrimination," he said.

He described Government's decision as "right step at the right time." He urged the Government to make a comprehensive programme for the enforcement of Islamic laws in the country in toto.

Christians

Mr N.M. Khokhar, President, Pakistan Christian Association, welcomed Government's decision to launch 'Islah-i-Muashira' campaign and urged the people to rise to the occasion and rid the society of the social evils.

In a statement, Mr Khokhar said

determined efforts are required to clean the society from corruption, bribery, smuggling and other evils. He said that anti-social elements should be dealt with with an iron hand.

Mr. Inayat Kibriya, President, "Daira", a literary organisation hailed the Government's decision to launch a crusade for purging the society of the social evils.

Mr. Inayat Kibriya said Islam enjoins upon its followers to work for the welfare of the society. "The real welfare cannot be achieved till the society gets rid of the social evils", he said, adding that the intellectuals and writers can play an important role to accomplish this task. He called upon the literary and cultural organisations to play their role in furthering this gigantic mission.—APP

CSO: 4220/345

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS BODY RECONSTITUTED

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 p 12

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27: President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq has constituted a Public Accounts Committee for examining the appropriation and other accounts of the Government of Pakistan and reports of the Auditor General, says a notification issued here yesterday by the Ministry of Finance (Finance Division).

The Committee consists of: Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Minister for Finance, Commerce and Coordination: (ex-officio Chairman); and Mr A.G.N. Kazi, Governor, State Bank of Pakistan; Mian Zakaur Rehman (Punjab), Member, Federal Council; Syed Saeed Hasan (Sind), Member, Federal Council; Nawabzada Azmat Ali Khan (NWFP), Member, Federal Council; Mir Jam Ghulam Qadir Khan of Lasbela (Baluchistan), Member, Federal Council; Mr M.H. Zuberi, former Secretary to the Government of Pakistan; Mr Abdul Qadir, former Chairman, Railway Board; Mr Yusuf Bhai Mian, Chartered Accountant; as members.

In scrutinising the appropriation and other accounts of the Government and the reports of the Auditor

General thereon, it shall be the duty of the Committee to satisfy itself:

(A) That the moneys shown in the accounts as having been disbursed were legally available for, and applicable to, the service or purpose to which they have been applied or charged;

(B) That the expenditure conforms to the authority which governs it; and

(C) That every re-appropriation has been made in accordance with the provisions made in this behalf under the rules framed by the Ministry of Finance.

It shall also be the duty of the Committee:

(A) To examine the statement of accounts showing the income and expenditure of State corporations, trading and manufacturing schemes, concerns and projects together with the balance-sheets and statements of profit and loss accounts which the President may have required to be prepared or are prepared under the provisions of the statutory rules regulating the financing of a particular corporation, trading or manufacturing scheme or concern or project and the report of the Auditor-General thereon;

(B) To examine the statement of accounts showing the income and expenditure of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies the audit of which may be conducted by the Auditor General either under the directions of the President or under an Act of Pakistan; and

(C) To consider the report of the Auditor-General in case where the President may have required him to conduct the audit of any receipts or to examine the accounts of stores and stocks.

If any money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the authorised grant or appropriation for that purpose, the Committee shall examine with reference to the facts of each case the circumstances leading to such an excess and make such recommendations as it may deem fit.

The Federal Council Secretariat will function as the Secretariat of the Public Accounts Committee.

The quorum to constitute a sitting of the Committee shall be three.

This notification supersedes three notifications issued on March 25, July 26, and October 14, 1978. — APP.

EXTENT OF EVIL OF CORRUPTION ANALYZED

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 p 7

[Article by A.T. Chaudhri: "Corruption: A Way of Life"]

[Text]

THE moral decadence of our society, which is becoming a veritable sinkhole of corruption, was brought into sharp focus by the recent high-powered inter-Provincial conference on social reform, but one doubts if all dimensions of this problem, vertical and horizontal, have been thoroughly discussed or drastic remedies prescribed for a malady grown so desperate.

Cynics are of the view that by dedicating the coming year to the eradication of social evils, the government is employing diversionary tactics and trying to sidetrack the public demand for a democratic structure of polity, but this is an uncharitable view of the issue at stake. The way the top echelons of the government are being involved in the process of social reform and geared to play an activist role, fixing priorities and targets, clearly indicates that there is a concerted endeavour to attack evils which are eating through the vitals of society right in the midst of Islamisation.

On top of the crowded agenda of social reform is the plan to wage an all-out war against rampant corruption which has lately touched a new high. Corruption however, is not an isolated phenomenon. It has become a way of life since it is multi-dimensional and multi-faceted — political, administrative, economic

and social. Nor is it an entirely new phenomenon, since it is partly a legacy of foreign tutelage, the British Raj, during which it was said in a jesting, rather jocular, mood: "corruption greases the wheels of the machinery of government".

The British had their worst spell of corruption in the days of black-browed Walpole. (So had the Americans in the age of Webster when the faceless folk earned a lot of slush). But the problem did not assume serious proportions in the colonial era, though on the eve of Independence — to be more specific during World War II — scarcity of essential consumer goods and government control of rationing, as also the scamper of prices, had provided a mild spurt to corruption.

After independence

It was after Independence that the initial spell of righteousness gradually faded away and the race for acquisition of evacuee property and the interaction between politics, business, feudalism and administration led to a proliferation of corrupt practices and a rise in the ranks of corrupt individuals with an insatiable craze for land grab, real estate, power and influence.

Before long the industrial hierarchy emerged on the national scene and it changed the traditional varieties of corruption — in the shape of money — and introduced an element of sophistication in the illicit business of give-and-

take. The permit-licence-contract trichotomy paved the way for a new alliance among the top industrialists, bureaucrats and politicians. Those holding power and wielding influence set up new businesses in new areas on a mutually advantageous basis. (During the Ayub era over 80 per cent of the MNAs were beneficiaries of government contracts).

In course of time, vertical corruption became horizontal. Spreading downward from Ministries and departments of public works, police, customs, taxation and revenue — to say nothing of the giant autonomous corporation which were empires within empires — it flowed into courts, universities, education centres, hospitals, banks, railways, small business houses, political organisations and even trade unions. Citizens could not have rail or air reservation, get admission for children in schools and colleges, secure hospital beds, or procure life saving drugs, without greasing a palm or two.

Black money

A stage has now been reached where the country has begun to float on a sea of corruption and the worship of Mammon has become the order of the day. People with enough money often manage to slip through the law's net. Those who are perched in seats of power can defy the anti-corruption squads with impunity, which in turn are worldly-wise and only catch the small fry to remain in business. A number of commissions and committees were set up in the past to prevent corruption but the weeds of flesh continue to choke the flowers of spirit.

What has aggravated the situation is the role of accumulated black money in economic life. It

makes smuggling, hoarding, black-marketing and monopolistic pricing a roaring business. It is easily whitened through investment in real estate. (Huge black funds have been sunk into luxury mansions in posh localities and that with an eye on speculative bonanza.) In fact a parallel economy is being run and nothing is done to check the malaise of black money economy.

Then, the inflow of foreign remittances — a mixed blessing — for consumption, rather than production, purposes, the chronic shortages and scarcities and artificial rise in prices — all this has made the rates of corruption astronomical.

The question is: what could be done to control the hydra-headed monster of corruption? It has been suggested in a section of the Press that the noose of Martial Law should be tightened round the neck of corrupt elements and exemplary punishment meted out to them. But this would be treating with a strong hand the visible symptoms of a deep-seated malady, rather than the malady itself which is a cancerous growth in the body-politic. What is needed is not executive action but an organised effort, a comprehensive package-plan within an institutional framework to root out all aspects of corruption, political, administrative, economic and social, among others.

Some measures

To deal with the problem of corruption, rather than with corrupt individuals some radical measures deserve to be considered. For example.

a) A rational ceiling should be placed on the acquisition of urban and rural property to reduce the existence of islands of fabulous wealth in the wastelands of grind-

ing poverty; this would be wholly in keeping with the progressive spirit of an Islamic polity;

b) Extravagant habits of wasteful consumption some families spend over Rs.50,000 a month should be curbed under legislation to discourage ostentatious living which has a demoralising effect on the common man; here the example of Algeria could be emulated;

c) Black money savings and the real estate bought with them should be unearthed and properly taxed and the soaring prices of lands and buildings and rising rents controlled;

d) The term, "luxury" goods, should be redefined and their import, notably of cars, banned, as a demand was made in the Majlis-i-Shoora, sometime ago;

e) National austerity should be enforced at all levels and the administrative and business elites should be subjected to a measure of public scrutiny for this purpose;

f) A foolproof scheme should be devised to ensure that permits and licences are not disbursed on a partisan basis or by way of patronage;

g) The cumbersome administrative procedures in courts and offices should be drastically simplified to eliminate delay in the disposal of cases which often breeds corruption;

h) The political culture should be changed under the new political order to make elections cheap and more genuine and to enable politicians with a different orientation to emerge on top of the ladder of public representation;

i) Last but not least, the Press should be left free to expose the black sheep in politics, business and administration to purge public life of corruption.

MINISTER SAYS GOVERNMENT FIRM ON CORRUPTION

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 p 12

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug 27: Mr Mahmoud A. Haroon, Federal Interior Minister, today reiterated the Government's determination to implement Islamic system and weed out bribery, corruption and nepotism from the country.

Addressing a function here today the Interior Minister said, every obstacle in the way of these objectives would be removed.

He attacked the elements who, he said, were trying to grab power and were not paying any consideration to the circumstances the country was passing through. The situation is very critical and anything may take place anytime, he warned. He called upon the nation to make concerted efforts for safeguarding the solidarity and integrity of the country. As for the Government, he said, every effort would be made to make Pakistan a true Islamic welfare State.

The Interior Minister also referred to the Jihad, launched a couple of days back for uprooting the crimes and social evils in the society, and added that it was the first time that any Government had taken

such a bold step.

The Interior Minister said, the drug traffickers were playing with the lives of the people and that the Government would not tolerate them. Death sentence, proposed for such culprits, would definitely help in eliminating this evil, he added.

The Minister also cast detailed light on the Pakistan Movement and the agonies and hardships the Muslims were facing in the pre-partition days.

Mr Elahi Bux Soomro, Federal Minister for Industries, said security of Pakistan and implementation of Islamic system therein were the two objectives before this Government and would be achieved at any cost. He said, all the comforts and facilities the Pakistanis were enjoying today were by dint of this country and that anyone who says the country gave him nothing was either telling a lie or was an ill-informed person.

He asked the people to strengthen their link with Islam and supplement the Government's efforts in the implementation of Islamic System.

CSO: 4220/345

DEATH SENTENCE FOR SUBVERSION BEING CONSIDERED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 28 Aug 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] FEDERAL INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER RAJA ZAFARUL HAQ SAID HERE YESTERDAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING TO AWARD DEATH SENTENCE TO THE SABOTEURS WHO GET TRAINING ABROAD AND ENTER INTO COUNTRY TO CARRY OUT THE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN PAKISTAN.

He said that so far 90 per cent saboteurs have been nabbed and the remaining 10 per cent would be soon arrested.

Delivering his presidential speech at the concluding session of Sind Istehkam-i-Pakistan Convention here last night, Raja Saheb said special measures were being considered for the speedy trial of saboteurs instead of routine judicial system.

He also paid tributes to the people who pinpoint such elements and help the Government in arresting them. The Minister further stated in fact those people who were pinpointing the saboteurs were doing a great service to the nation and proving their sense of patriotism, he added.

Raja Saheb said that the people of Pakistan should thank Almighty Allah that they have got a sincere leader like President General Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq, who is making concerted efforts to enforce Nizam-i-Islam in the country.

He said that Nizam-i-Islam could not be introduced in Pakistan without the cooperation and availing the capabilities of entire nation.

The Minister further said that as a result of imposition of martial laws, the country could also have got a leadership not different from General Yahya Khan, who not had only bad character but was also responsible for dividing the country into two. But the Minister added that the Almighty Allah has fortunately blessed the people of Pakistan with a God-fearing and sincere leadership of President Zia-ul-Haq, who visits the Holy Ka'aba and Roza-i-Rasooli where he weeps and prays for Almighty's guidance. He said the President wants to eliminate corruption and the curse of bribery from the government departments.

The Minister said that if Pakistan is strengthened all the four provinces Sind, Punjab, Baluchistan and NWFP are strengthened.

He said that some foreign propaganda is voicing that Pakistan is on the brink of danger and trying to make the country weaker but, the Minister said, the unity of the masses will thwart all such anti-state designs and will make the country strong and prosperous.

He said that the previous so-called elected government did injustice to the masses in the past and particularly with the people of Baluchistan. The previous regime made the brother to fight with his own brother, insulted the women, lowered the status of teachers and brutally manhandled students community whenever they demanded for the acceptance of their rights.

The Minister further said that the previous regime implicated the leaders of a political party in a conspiracy case and their case was tried in a tribunal in Hyderabad. While on the contrary the present regime not only released them with honour but sent them to their homes in special planes.

He said that due to undemocratic attitude of the past regime, a good number of Baluchistan people were compelled to leave their homes. The present regime created such a atmosphere in Baluchistan that those who had crossed the border came back and were compensated by the present Government, the Minister added.

Warning

Agencies add: Raja Zafarul Haq warned that attempts were still being made to prevent Pakistan from becoming an ideological state. These efforts, he added had foreign backing. He said that pamphlets and other subversive literature, printed outside the country, were being smuggled into the country money was being distributed and saboteurs trained abroad were entering into Pakistan to carry out subversive activities in Pakistan:

Raja Zafarul Haq regretted that the politicians who lacked sincerity had not learnt any lesson from the history during the past 35 years. He also lamented the role played by the Ulema and said instead of supplementing and guiding Government efforts to introduce Islamic laws in the society: they preferred to indulge in politics. He suggested that the Ulema should have helped the Federal Shariat Court with their suggestions. The Ulema should take advantage of the present congenial atmosphere for the introduction of Islamic pattern of life in Pakistan. They; he added: should have assisted the Government in prevailing upon the people to support interest-free banking in the country.

He said that both politicians and their fellow Ulema were criticising all those actions which were not being taken by themselves or with which they were not associated. They should act above political expediencies and come out openly in support of Government efforts to introduce Islamic system he added.

He also said that the people of Pakistan should realize that those who were doing really good work to bring the country closer to its destiny should not be asked to get elected first.

He said that the Government was embarking on a long term plan to weed out malpractices and corruption from the body-politic. He said that those found indulging in corruption and malpractices would be tried under Martial Law regulations.

Islamic Laws

Raja Zafarul Haq said that President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq had also issued instructions to the authorities in all the four provinces that preference should be given to the application of Islamic laws in such cases where civil and criminal laws and Martial Laws were also equally applicable. This, he said, was done with a view to take practical steps to achieve the objectives for which Pakistan was created.

He said that Pakistan could not depend on others for its own defence and future. The people of Pakistan had now taken upon themselves to defend the country with their own resource. They were not prepared to lose their freedom and accept foreign domination. He also said that Pakistan could only exist and flourish as a stronger nation only if it preserved its identity and maintain its Islamic character.

Raja Zafarul Haq said that as a result of proper planning, sincerity of purpose and hard work put in by the farmers, the country had attained food autarky. It was now in a position to export foodgrains, he added. Similarly, cement, ghee, sugar and other commodities of daily use were now freely available in the open market.

As against this, Raja Zafarul Haq said, the previous regime had ruined the economy of the country by its wrong policies. Its leadership openly flouted with the laws of God Almighty and took pride in openly supporting drinking and gambling. He said the laws of nature are inscrutable. It was easy for some people to escape accountability by persons but it was not possible for men to escape accountability by God Almighty he added.

The Minister lauded the organisers efforts to hold the convention and said it truly reflected the unity of the people living in Sind. He said that Sind had always championed the cause of Islam and Pakistan. He hoped that province of Sind would set an example for other provinces.

Earlier, Mr. Zahoorul Hasan Bhopali, central leader of the council, announced the names of the new elected office-bearers of the Sind council. Pir Ayub Jan Sarhandi and Hafiz Mohammad Taqi were declared provincial chief and General Secretary respectively.

Declaration

Meanwhile a declaration of the convention resolved to give every sacrifice for the defence of the country. It said there was no hatred among any section of the population and a new era of unity and cooperation had begun.

It extended complete support to the Government to consolidate national integrity and for the enforcement of Nizam-i-Mustafa.

The declaration urged the Government that time had come for evolving a strong and viable political system in the country reflecting the wishes and aspirations of the people and in conformity with Islamic ideology.

The delegates appeals to the Muslim world to accept the proposal of President Zia-ul-Haq for joint defence among Islamic states to face the current situation and in order to create a strong Islamic bloc.

Later a Mushaira was held under the chairmanship of Sind Information Minister Syed Ahad Yousuf in which promivell as from India participated

CSO: 4220/347

MINISTER REITERATES STAND ON ISLAMIZATION

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 28 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug 27: Mr Mahmud A. Haroon, Federal Interior Minister, today reiterated the Government's determination to implement Islamic system and weed out bribery, corruption and nepotism from the country.

Addressing a function here today the Interior Minister said every obstacle in the way of these objectives would be removed.

He attacked the elements who he said, were trying to grab power and were not paying any consideration to the circumstances the country was passing through. The situation is very critical and anything may take place anytime, he warned. He called upon the nation to make concerted efforts for safeguarding the solidarity and integrity of the country. As for the Government, he said, every effort would be made to make Pakistan a true Islamic welfare state.

The Interior Minister also referred to the Jihad, launched a couple of days back, for uprooting the crimes and social evils in the society and added that it was the first time that any

Government had taken such a bold step.

EVIL

The Interior Minister said the drug traffickers were playing with the lives of the people and that the Government would not tolerate them. Death sentence, proposed for such culprits, would definitely help in eliminating this evil, he added.

The Minister also cast detailed light on the movement of Pakistan and the agonies and hardships the Muslims were facing in the pre-partition days.

Mr Elahi Bux Soomro, Federal Minister for Industries, said security of Pakistan and implementation of Islamic system therein were the two objectives before this Government and would be achieved at any cost. He said all the comforts and facilities the Pakistanis were enjoying today were by dint of this country and that anyone who says the country gave him nothing was either telling a lie or was an ill-informed person.

He asked the people to strengthen their link with Islam and supplement that Government's efforts in its implementation.—PPI

CSO: 4220/347

REFORM CAMPAIGN STRONGLY SUPPORTED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 28 Aug 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Reforming the Society"]

[Text] AFTER giving momentum to the Islamisation process of the social order by reshaping and redefining the existing laws and enactments in accordance with the dictates of the Sharia and the Sunnah, the Government in its attempt to be more practical and purposeful established Shariat Courts which could dispense Islamic justice for the satisfaction of all concerned. Then came changes in the pattern of Islamic economic system. By rejecting and renouncing the institution of interest-based economy, the Government substituted interest with the concept of profit-and-loss sharing in banking, industrial investment under Modarba financing, plantation of Zakat system under Zakat Fund and introduction of housing loans without interest. Our defence forces were duly strengthened and modernised to guarantee the safety of the national frontiers and our foreign policies won for us lot more friends than we ever had. We learnt to live in the perspective of international realities as obtaining in the tumultuous world of today. All these accumulated efforts, during the last five years, helped the Government establish a social infrastructure which could gear itself up to face and sustain the rigors of Jihad launched against the social evils which are as much a curse as they are a menace, hampering the healthy national growth. The social framework, thus created, is now ready to wage a war against the sins and the sinner, wrongs and the wrong doers. It certainly is an appropriate moment to create a piety oriented society which could learn to respect the decent values of life and protect its Islamic character in letter and spirit. It is going to be a period of reformation and regeneration, an attempt to resurrect a society which seems to have lost its moral and religious moorings.

At a momentous Inter-Provincial Conference held recently under the chairmanship of President Zia-ul-Haq it was decided to set up several committees for launching Islah-e-Muashra campaign and waging Jihad for bringing about Islamic social reforms in the society. The Committees would submit long and short-term recommendations for Jihad against corruption, bribery, illicit traffic of narcotics, illegal acquisition of property and spurious drugs and for bringing about Islamic moral order. The four major committees set up by the Conference include: Committee for Social Reform, Deregulation Committee, Committee dealing with Justice and the Committee Relating to the Rules of Efficiency and

Discipline. The Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting will head the Committee on Reformation of Society. He will recommend to the Government short and long-term suggestion within three weeks.

Since the recommendations and suggestions are being worked out, we can take this opportunity to re-emphasise the significance of mass communication media which is the direct concern of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and how best we can utilise the newspapers, Radio, TV, placards, posters, slides, filmstrips, cinema vans, plays and puppets. It has to be an all-pronged strategy to achieve the results on such a mass scale where almost the entire nation is involved because the social evils have not confined their rot to one or two sectors, but the cancerous growth has gone much deep destroying the very fabric and core of our social order. The very first thing about the mass media is their credibility, power to win confidence, making the audience involved, stimulating and provoking them to make them interested, winning over their sympathy for the cause and finally establishing a two-way dialogue to evoke response while fighting their indifference. The impact of the media can only be judged from the feedbacks and their constant evaluation. The mass media should bring about a people-participation climate where reactors are welcomed and superimposition of the bureaucratic will is avoided. All these subtle publicity and propaganda calls for an appropriate information technology. It has to be low-cost methodology.

Newspapers are confined to our literate population only. And cost-wise too, they are way beyond the pockets of most of the people. TV, with its visual punch, is restricted to towns and high price and high annual fee are the major handicaps, tagged to it. Both have limited reach. Radio could well be a poor man's medium. It has the magic of person-to-person touch where word of mouth could promote the strong wave-length of communication. Its demands are the least and could certainly serve well in the rural areas. Fighting the corruption, bribery, adulteration, narcotic trade and trafficking etc through mass media could be more fruitful if the cultural background of target area, its languages, preferences and prejudices are taken into consideration before any coordinated plan is chalked out, because such differences do exist in the totality of our national fabric. The people who have accepted the evils like bribery take it as a necessary adjunct to their daily life, a necessary must which under normal circumstances has to be compromised with. These people, should be made aware of their rights and should be encouraged to take up a stand to eradicate this evil practice. In fact, the Jihad has to be won on the peoples front. Here the people are pitted against the corrupt bureaucracy, corrupt trade and business, wrong ambitions and unhealthy traditions. This fight has as much a personal and individualistic bearing as it has regional and national implication. For, an individual is a part of the society and a society is the collective expression of so many individuals comprising it. Thus we are to get ready for one-man crusade, for all-men crusade. For an individual is part of the whole and whole is the sum of the parts. Let us herald the rebirth of a new society.

CSO: 4220/347

TOO NUMEROUS POLICE OFFICIALS IN ISLAMABAD

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Aug 82 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 27: The capital of Pakistan perhaps is the only city where every family has the protection of one police official whether in uniform or in plain clothes, according to a survey conducted by this correspondent.

The concerned circles of the view that the police force in Islamabad, which is also a district headquarters, is heavily staffed as compared to its area and population. To strengthen their argument, they say that as a general practice Inspector General of Police is appointed in a province aided by two DIGs. But Islamabad not only has an I.G. but also an Additional Inspector General besides four Superintendents of Police and five DSPs.

It may be added that nine different police agencies are operating in Islamabad. They include Regular Police Force (Executive), Criminal Investigating Agency (CIA), Criminal Investigating Department (CID), Special Branch (Provincial), Federal Investigating Agency, (FIA) Federal Reserve Police, Police Mobile Units, Traffic Police and Intelligence Bureau.

Moreover, there are a Frontier Constabulary and Rangers for guarding diplomatic missions and residences of important personalities like ministers and heads of different embassies. They are also posted at several important buildings like telephone and telegraph exchanges, radio and television stations and main cross-

ings.

A senior police official informed your correspondent that there are 18 police mobile units mainly responsible for night patrolling. He said that it was surprising that 18 vehicles duly filled with wireless system and a control station were required to patrol an area like Islamabad.

He confirmed that numerous complaints had been made by public regarding highhandedness of these mobile units. These units, he said, may make personal search of the people in the late night hours and ask them to establish their identity. The official said some foreigners as well as local citizens have expressed their dislike for these regulations.

It may also be added that as far as the regular police force is concerned, it has 2,700 police foot-constables, 90 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 65 Sub-Inspectors, 20 Inspectors, five Deputy Superintendents and one Prosecuting Deputy Superintendent of Police. And according to an estimate, the number of permanent residents in Islamabad, is one lakh and an average family consists of seven members. According to another estimate, the police strength including all other police agencies operating in the capital is nearly 13,000 which leads to this idea that every single family is protected by a police official.

When a prominent public figure was asked to comment on the situation, he said that even with such a heavily over-staffed police force the crime rate was on the rise in the city.

CENTRAL SUPERIOR SERVICE REORGANIZATION STEPS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Aug 82 p 8

[Article by Saeed Qureshi]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 27: As a first step towards reorganisation of the Central Superior Services, the Establishment Division is understood to have stopped direct recruitment of Section Officers through competitive examination. One evidence of this decision is provided by dropping the Office Management Group from this year's list of successful service groups announced recently.

The Section Officers Scheme commonly known as the Office Management Group will however remain intact but it will comprise only promotees whose strength according to available statistics stands in the vicinity of 700 against a strength of 200 of regular officers.

The move to drop direct recruitment of Sections Officers is said to have never been discussed or approved by the Federal Cabinet.

The scrapping of direct recruitment of the Section Officers is taken as a follow-up action of the Anwarul Haq Report which upheld and recommended the ascendancy of the District Management Group and its being free to move to other services.

The crucial decision that will revive the service structure prevailing at the time of Partition is reported to be the result of a long power tussle between the District Management Group and the Office Management Group dating back to 1958 when the late Ayub Khan introduced, the Section Officers' Scheme on the style of the American system to cut down red-tapism and expedite work.

The system, which was reviewed by various committees, subsequently underwent changes to be brought into harmony with the changing conditions. The "Mussarat Hussain Zubairi Committee", set up in 1966, recommended delegation of more powers to Section Officers for efficacious office business. The recommendations were partially implemented by the Finance Ministry but a major snag of giving seven jumps to the lower staff to reach grade 17 could not be removed. It was argued by the critics of the scheme that the lower staff by virtue of its background and lack of training could not deliver goods as Section Officers. They backed their argument by citing the rampant deterioration that has set in the office work.

The Cornelius Report suggested that Section Officers should be exposed to field work. It supported the Zubairi Report's recommendation of retention of Section Officers in the ratio of 25 from promotees and 75 from the direct recruits. The recommendation is said, to have constantly been thwarted by a powerful group of superior officers in the Establishment Division which reportedly always inverted this ratio. This resulted always in the overwhelming strength of the promotees who are said to be the main stumbling block in the way of promotions and direct recruitment of the Section Officers.

According to well-informed sources the District Management Group also did not want to see the members of the OMG in the field fearing their exclusive dominance and powers being shared by the latter.

The Zubairi and Cornelius

Reports had suggested sending of the Sections Officers to the provinces as Assistant Commissioners, Development Officers and in other cadres. Former Production Minister Lt. Gen. Ghulam Hassan sent a powerful note to the President recommending provincialisation of the Office Management Group and reorganisation of the District Management Group. He argued that under the prevailing set-up the District Management Group that was selected by the Federal Government but served through out their career with the provinces was breeding indiscipline.

CSO: 4220/347

STEPS URGED FOR URDU AS NATIONAL LANGUAGE

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p

[Text]

The educationists the world over agree that the most effective method of teaching a child is through his mother tongue. It is, however, unfortunate that even after 35 years of freedom, we have not succeeded in introducing the national language in all aspects of life.

In any society unity and integrity is not possible until there is a common lingual link. Even for an effective enforcement of law, it is essential that the administration, judiciary and the people should be inter-connected by one language.

The laws should be framed in a language that can be understood by the people so that they could express their opinion about them.

No doubt the government has taken certain far-reaching steps to introduce Urdu in all sectors of life and is putting emphasis on imparting education in it. The official interest has encouraged some other institutions to make worthwhile advancement in this respect. Still a lot remains to be done. It is a fact that official efforts to adopt Urdu are not being implemented with the required zeal.

Official patronage and interest has helped Urdu to gradually attain a place, but the progress in this regard is too slow. The implementation of Urdu should be speeded up and instructions to make it the medium of instruction should be carried out. This work cannot be done overnight, but any additional delay in this would be contrary to national prestige and progress.

—Hurriyet, Karachi Aug 17.

TEACHING OF SCIENCE IN URDU RECOMMENDED

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p 4

[Text]

The national symposium on the role of universities in improving the scientific education and research, which was held in Karachi on Aug 11 and 12, has recommended that proper steps be taken to speed up the adoption of national language, Urdu, as medium of instruction so that science could be popularised and better scientific manpower could be produced within the country.

It also suggested that the funding agencies, like Pakistan Science Foundation, University Grants Commission, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, be strengthened financially so that adequate funds could be allocated for research projects of universities and other research organisations.

The other recommendations are that the Pakistan Science Foundation, the major agency which deals with contract research, can play a very effective role in the promotion of scientific research. It is recommended that the budget of this organisation may progressively be increased to the tune of 5 crore rupees per annum within three years.

It is recommended that library facilities in the universities be improved in respect of storage, retrieval and transfer of information. They should be provided not only with books and scientific journals but with adequate duplicating facilities and be provided with proper links with other libraries in the country and abroad. Besides, the existing laboratory facilities in universities be improved and additional funds be granted to universities for this purpose.

Repair workshop

It also suggested that instrument repair workshop with adequate manpower and equipment be established in all universities or at least in provincial capitals so that sophisticated equipment could be kept in operational condition.

Yet another recommendation is that properly qualified and trained technical staff be appointed to look after the sophisticated equipments. The service structure of technical staff be modified to attract qualified manpower and adequate incentives and proper arrangements be made for in-service training of technical staff of universities and research organisations.

It is recommended that separate ministries of Science and technology is created in each province.

Scientists engaged in research work should be given special facilities and emoluments commensurate with their merit, status and research output irrespective of their standing and seniority in their profession. Seniority alone may earn routine annual increments but outstanding merit and work must be acknowledged separately. It is high time that patronage is extended to scientists of repute and they should be considered for civil awards and pride of performance like people of repute of other walks of life.

Active research groups may be identified in various universities and they should be provided with incentive financial assistance and scientific infrastructure so that they can produce quality research.

Collaboration

University teaching departments and research organisations may be encouraged for collaborative research project with foreign universities and research institutions of repute. This collaborative research of our scientists with their counterparts in advanced countries enable the local scientists to keep abreast with the march of time in various disciplines of science and technology.

The scientists and teachers may be allowed consultancy counselling and contract research from industrial and commercial units. Necessary rules may therefore, be framed for this purpose.

It is recommended that superannuation age of teachers be extended upto 65 years and the teachers may be re-employed after the age of superannuation.

University teachers engaged in research be encouraged to participate in international moots. It is therefore, recommended that necessary facilities (financial assistance) be extended to teachers attending international conference meetings, seminars symposia and courses. The procedure for obtaining no objection certificates be simplified and adequate measures be adopted for the timely and speedy processing of such cases. It is also recommended that the embargo on

receiving invitations directly from foreign institutions and scientific organisations by university teachers and scientists may henceforth be removed.

Deterioration of academic standards has been partly attributed to the student politics in universities. Every effort should therefore, be made to minimise this to a limit so that it does not influence the academic peace and the quality of education of our universities. The growing indiscipline and a complete disregard of authority prevailing in various universities must be checked and proper measures be adopted for the restoration of peace and discipline amongst the student community.

The number and the amount of scholarships for M.Phil., Ph.D. and post-doctoral research may be increased progressively with a view to train manpower commensurate with our national requirements. It also recommended that besides fellowships additional funds must be allocated to those who engage themselves in M.Phil., Ph.D. and post-doctoral research programmes.

Proper measures be adopted for strengthening and promotion of science education in the schools and colleges.

CSO: 4220/333

SORROWS OF SCIENTISTS ANALYZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Aug 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Sorrows of the Scientists"]

[Text]

IF the two-day national symposium on the role of universities in improving science education and research has not come up with radical new suggestions it is not surprising. Recommendations of similar groups of scientists in the past have not been implemented nor the basic handicaps which stand in the way of quality of science education in the universities eliminated nor the facilities essential for proper research provided. So the symposium has largely repeated the kind of suggestions made by scientific groups earlier and in the same spirit of sorrow to despair. But they have come up with one major new demand: creation of ministries of science and technology in the four provinces. Undoubtedly setting up such departments in the provinces can give a fillip to science education and research in the provinces. But what really matters is not mere duplication of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology at the provincial level but the overall amount spent by them. Undoubtedly, the expenditure by the Ministry of Science and Technology and research organizations under it is increasing. The expenditure on the ministry has jumped from Rs. three million in 1980-81 to Rs. 9.8 million in the current year. Similarly the expenditure on scientific research and survey has risen from Rs. 40 million in 1980-81 to Rs. 72 million in the current financial year. And the expenditure on Atomic Energy Commission has increased from Rs. 125 million in 1980-81 to Rs. 150 million in the current financial year. Although, together they make a total of Rs. 263 million, that is a far cry from the one per cent of the Gross National Product that should properly be spent on higher science education and research, which is Rs. 3,150 million. What we are spending now is less than even one-tenth of one per cent of the GNP.

Inevitably, science education and research are in a very bad way in Pakistan. Students seeking higher education are preferring other subjects to science and research. They are too happy to go for business management courses or try to become Chartered accountants in view of the better financial rewards and social status that go with them. And quite a number of students who studied science have gone abroad. As a result, good science teachers are hard to get and the quality of science education has suffered a great deal. Proper science libraries are

not available in the country and the scientists have stressed that there is not even a single complete library in the whole country with the requisite books, journals etc. No better is the state of the research laboratories in the universities and elsewhere. Most of them are grossly deficient in vital equipment, and much of what is available has broken down as they were handled by non-qualified and non-trained technical staff. Qualified persons are not available to repair the equipment. Hence the scientists have come up with the suggestion for the setting up of a workshop for the purpose at least in each of the provincial capitals. If scientific research is suffering for want of such basic facilities there has been too little of industrial application of the fruits of research already done in Pakistan. While industries do not conduct their own research they are not making use of the research already done by institutions like the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The gap in Pakistan is, therefore, two-fold and can seriously handicap its economic growth.

The recommendation of the scientists that "proper steps should be taken to speed up the adoption of the national language as the medium of instruction so that science could be popularised and better scientific manpower be produced within the country" is debatable. If some regard this as a concession more to national sentiment than to the need for sound scientific research in Pakistan they may not be wrong. On the one side the scientists have deplored the non-availability of foreign scientific journals and other publications as well as stressed the need for the universities and research organizations to have collaboration arrangements with foreign universities and research institutes of repute, and on the other hand they want the scientists to switch over to Urdu quickly. For such collaboration to be a success Pakistani scientists and science students will have to be strong in English and other western languages instead of going all out to acquire proficiency in Urdu. The scientists are right in demanding that those engaged in research and development should be given special facilities and emoluments commensurate with their research output, and not merely according to their grades. Similarly, their achievements must be recognised through the proper civil and pride of performance awards. Scientists working in government departments should also be enabled to become consultants to industrial and commercial houses. Clearly, a new approach to science and scientific research is called for. Dr. Abdus Salam and Dr. I.H. Usmani have been stressing this on each one of their visits. More money has to be allotted for scientific research and the scientists have to be given a new status. If we are not prepared for that we will be conducting ourselves in a very unscientific manner and retarding our economic progress in this scientific age with its swirling technological revolution.

STRONG REMEDIES ADVOCATED FOR ACADEMIC INDISCIPLINE

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p 7

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE disciplinary action taken by the Punjab University authorities against fifteen students who are alleged to have indulged in "gross misbehaviour" in the examination halls points to the declining standards of academic discipline. It is not very clear from the report what is the precise nature of the charges that have been levelled against the students who have been debarred from appearing for the remaining papers. But the incidence of rowdiness and resort to unfair means in examinations is not confined to the Punjab University alone. It has been on the increase in institutions of higher education all over the country. Only recently it was reported that medical students in Karachi openly cheated in their final professional examination on the basis of which they will qualify as doctors. Examination malpractices and misbehaviour in examination centres should not be made light of because they debase whatever is left of good education in the country.

So far the authorities have failed to take serious notice of this state of affairs. Apart from resorting to ad hoc measures, such as the one taken by the Punjab University, education authorities have made no concerted effort to pinpoint the causes of examination malpractices and adopt measures to root them out. In December last year, the Governor of Sind had announced that a high-powered commission was being set up to check examination malpractices and it was to submit its report within three months. We do not know if this commission was ever appointed and if so, whether a report was in fact prepared. In case it was, there has to be a good explanation for not making it public.

Cheating in examination is symptomatic of the corruption and dishonesty which have come to characterise our society. Examination malpractices also point to the underlying malaise in our education system which has witnessed an all-round decline in

idealism and discipline. Although students who resort to unfair means cannot be condoned, the authorities, too, cannot be absolved of their responsibility in the matter. At the institutional level there is no effort to enforce strict discipline in the academic schedules, the conduct of examinations and the declaration of results. If this laxity tends to filter down to the students, it is not entirely surprising. Equally distressing is the failure of our academics at the individual level to set high standards of honesty and discipline themselves. It is obvious that without the encouragement, if not the active connivance, of the educationists, be they the examiners, invigilators or the officials of the examination departments, no candidate can cheat and get away with it. The teachers either leak question papers, allow the students to copy in the examination hall or indulge in irregularities in the marking of scripts. It is regrettable that some members of the teaching profession should have stooped so low as to compromise their integrity, and the fairplay demanded of them as teachers. It is important that teachers who fail to check examination malpractices are also penalised. But ad hoc measures would not do. Planned efforts are needed to streamline the examination system and enforce greater discipline and honesty in the conduct of examinations.

COMMENTARY ON WHEAT PRICE, ELECTORAL ROLLS

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p 7

[Islamabad Diary column by M. A. Mansui: "Confusion in a Dark Street--and in the Air"]

[Excerpts]

THERE were strong indications here, last week, that the procurement price of wheat is going to be raised from the next crop in order to provide incentive to the grower. The matter is being reviewed by the Federal Agricultural Price Commission, keeping in view the general price level, rise in the cost of production and the international wheat price and supply position. The present support price of wheat — Rs. 58 per maund — was fixed in 1980.

The country has acquired self-sufficiency in wheat and has recently signed an agreement for its export to Iran. This will be the first ever export of wheat by this country — something to celebrate, perhaps.

We are living in a world of rumours and conjectures. We know only as much as we are told. The rest of the picture is a grey area of hearsay and speculation.

Last week, for instance, we were told that the Government had appointed Federal Education Minister Mohammad Ali Khan Hoti as the Rector of the Islamic University, Islamabad. Simultaneously, Dr. Muhammad Bin Sa'ad Ar-Rashid, Professor of Shariah, Umal

Qura University, Mecca, was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University. Until such time as Dr. Muhammad Bin Sa'ad Ar-Rashid takes over, the duties of the Vice-Chancellor would be performed by the Chairman of the University Grants Commission and Adviser to the President on Higher Education, Dr. Muhammad Afzal.

Until these changes were announced, Mr. A.K. Brohi was the Rector of the Islamic University. Dr. N.A. Baloch was its Vice-Chancellor. Why Mr. Brohi was removed and why Mr. Hoti has been installed in his place is not known. In the absence of any official explanation, one can only speculate on the possible reasons.

Electoral rolls

Or, take the meetings of the Election Commission which were held here last week. We were told that these meetings were convened to update the electoral rolls. We should have easily reached the conclusion, on the basis of conjecture, that the updated rolls might be needed for the local bodies elections which are scheduled to be held in September next year. But, there were some people who were inclined to believe that the Election Commission meetings and the updating of the electoral rolls indicated the possibility of a snap general elections, on a non-party basis and without letting the contestants have any time for electioneering. There is no basis for linking the EC

meetings with such a possibility. But neither is there any good basis for dismissing it as wholly implausible. The missing element in all this is hard information. One simply does not know.

The latest statement of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, after his return from Kabul last week, inviting the Afghan Mujahideen leaders in Pakistan for talks with him for a possible reconciliation between them and the ruling junta in Afghanistan, had no apparent link with the Pakistan Government's policy on Afghanistan. But the recent visits of the NWFP Governor to Ghaffar Khan and Begum Nasim Wali Khan in the hospital were widely noted and discussed with keen interest.

CSO: 4220/333

DECISION SOON ON AIRLINES IN PRIVATE SECTOR

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p 4

[Text]

MUZAFFARABAD, Aug 22: Dr. Mahbubul Haq, Deputy Chairman of the Pakistan Planning Commission, has said Azad Kashmir will be airlinked with Pakistan during the next five years.

Addressing a dinner hosted in his honour by the Chairman, District Council, Mr. Mumtaz Abbasi, here on Friday, Mr. Mahbubul Haq said proposals are also under consideration for establishing an airlines in a private sector. The decision to this effect, he added, would be taken within three or four months.

Regarding the sixth five-year development plan, being prepared in Pakistan, he said the next plan will be welfare-oriented and every care would be taken to fulfil the essential needs of the society. The Councillors, he said, have had a very vital role to play under the new programme.

Dr. Mahbubul Haq said President Zia-ul-Haq was very keen for the uplift of the less-developed areas adding the new initiatives taken by the Government injected fresh enthusiasm among the people for collective welfare task.

The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission also visited some field projects and praised the quality of work and devotion of the elected representatives. He praised the economic achievements made in various fields in Azad Kashmir. -

CSO: 4220/333

WATER SUPPLY PLANS FOR SIND OKAYED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

Seventynine new water supply and sewerage schemes were recommended to the Government of Sind at a meeting held at the new Sind Secretariat, here yesterday. Mr M. Salman Farooqui, Sind Secretary for Housing, Town Planning and Local Government Department, presided.

The meeting was attended among others by the chairmen of Divisional and District Co-ordination Committees and officers of Planning and Development and Local Government Department Sind.

These schemes recommended to be undertaken during 1982-83 on the directives of the Sind Governor, Lt-Gen. S. M. Abbasi, will benefit about one million rural and urban population of Sind.

The meeting assigned priorities to the original selection made at the gross-root level, by recommending an average of two urban and four to five rural water supply and sewerage schemes from each district of the province, excluding the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad. The 79 schemes recommended yesterday include, 54 water supply and 25 sewerage schemes.

CSO: 4220/346

ROTARY INITIATING FARM UPLIFT PROJECT

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Aug 82 p 12

[Text]

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS, Aug 19: Rotary International is initiating an agricultural development project in Pakistan through its Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Programme. Rotarians in both Iowa and Pakistan are working on the project which is being administered by the Rotary Club of Waverly and the Self-Help Foundation, both of Iowa, U.S.A.

Funded by a U.S. \$447,000 Rotary Foundation grant, the five-year project provides for the local production and maintenance of small tractors and training farmers to use them in order to increase crop yields on farms of less than 25 acres in northern Pakistan.

In addition to increasing farm production, the project is designed to provide local industrial employment and increased income.

Tractors will be sold at cost, with

loans provided by Pakistani banks and guaranteed by the government. In 1987, the project control will be transferred to the Khud Kafeel Foundation in Lahore.

Funded by grants of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, the 3-H Programme is designed to improve health, alleviate hunger and enhance human development as a means of furthering international understanding.

In other projects designed to alleviate hunger, the 3-H Programme is co-sponsoring nutritional education in the rural provinces of Srisaket and Ubon, Thailand; a nutrition project to combat urban hunger in barrios in Guatemala City; and a water development project in the Dacca district of Bangladesh. In addition, the programme is conducting major immunisation campaigns in Bolivia, Haiti, southern India and the Philippines.

CSO: 4220/340

COTTON POLICY FOR 1982-83 SUPPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Cotton Policy for 1982-83"]

[Text]

THE textile industry has heaved a sigh of relief with the announcement that last season's minimum support prices of lint cotton will be maintained for the next 1982-83 crops. The new policy has been formulated after due consultation with the representatives of the parties concerned. Prices of raw cotton had assumed special importance lately and the issue was agitating the minds of the textile manufacturers, in particular yarn spinners. They were complaining about the continuous rise in lint cotton prices over the past several years. Last year, the problem of lint cotton prices in the domestic market assumed urgency against the backdrop of the recession in

the international cotton market. By not increasing prices of lint cotton for the next season, the Government has borne in mind the need for safeguarding the competitiveness of our yarn.

The decision to maintain the existing roles of the Cotton Export Corporation and the private sector in the cotton trade will continue to be a source of strength to the cotton sub-sector. However, the problem of ensuring an adequate supply of good quality cotton towards the end of the season should be reviewed jointly by the CEC and the private sector. The latter should try to improve liquidity from its own sources, instead of leaning too heavily on bank credit,

so that it can lift its full requirements in time. The existing minimum price support policy has proved highly rewarding to growers who have responded favourably, thus bringing about an easy supply position. This should take care of the needs of the textile industry, provided it mobilises the resources it requires to secure its supplies. The Government has taken a deep interest in the revival of the textile industry. The CEC, on its part, has played an effective role in disposing of our exportable surplus. And, we are sure it will bear in mind the genuine demands of the domestic textile industry and the need for meeting it on terms and conditions which are in mutual interest.

PLEA VOICED TO REVISE NEW COTTON POLICY

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

Khawaja Mohammad Masood, Chairman of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners' Association, stated that the Central Executive Committee of the Association discussed in detail the cotton policy of 1982-83 and came to the conclusion that the policy "is apt to cause economic ruination of the cotton industry".

In a Press statement issued here yesterday, he said: "We wholeheartedly support the laudable intentions of the Government to ameliorate the lot of cotton growers by increasing the price of 'Kappas' every year, but we earnestly request the Government to consider the genuine difficulties of the ginners also. The Government increased the price of Kappas last year by Rs. 10 per 40 kgs. or Rs. 30 per 40 kgs. lint (ginned cotton). Instead of increasing Rs. 30 in the cotton lint price, only Rs. 6 was added and thus, the cotton ginners were deprived of a sum of Rs. 24. However, that shortfall was covered by the increase in the price of cottonseed during last year, thus the ginners were

remimbursed to some extent. This year also the rate of Kappas has been increased by Rs. 5 per 40 kgs. but this increase has not been passed on in sale price of lint cotton.

"Under the directive of the President of Pakistan, Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, the Ministry of Industries held a meeting at Karachi on Aug 15 1982, and after thoroughly examining the details of various components of ginning and pressing expenses, came to a conclusion that Rs. 111.83 per maund of lint should be the ginning expenses for 1982-83. According to the price of cotton lint fixed by the Government under the new cotton policy with the above ginning expenses, the price of cotton seed arrives at Rs. 90 per maund as against Rs. 75 at present. The Government should therefore ensure cottonseed rate at Rs. 90 per maund".

Khawaja Masood emphatically suggested that the cotton policy should be revised to save the ginning industry from ruination.

CSO: 4220/346

POWER DEVELOPMENT PLAN OUTLAYS

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Aug 82 p 6

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug 19: WAPDA Chairman Maj.-Gen. Dr. Ghulam Safdar Butt has said that during the current financial year, Rs. 1,110 million had been earmarked for schemes pertaining to power generation in the country.

He said schemes included the Tarbela hydel power generation scheme comprising four new units of 175 megawatts capacity each on tunnel No. 2 of Tarbela.

He said that after reviewing the potential of Tarbela hydel power station, a decision had been taken to instal two unit, Nos. 9 and 10, on tunnel No. 2.

The contract for civil work etc. had been awarded and work had been started. This project would be completed in July, 1985.

The WAPDA Chairman said that after due consideration of water availability, the WAPDA consultant, who was entrusted with the task of preparing feasibility study for power development on tunnel No. 3, had recommended installation of four units of 406 megawatts, each.

The estimated amount to be spent on the project was Rs. 500 crore in foreign exchange to be pro-

vided by a loan giving agency, while another Rs. 500 crore would be in local currency, to be arranged by WAPDA. The project would be completed by 1988.

He said that in order to meet the fast growing demand for power in Baluchistan, a scheme was in hand to instal another 25 megawatts gas turbine at Quetta increasing the total generation capacity of Quetta, thermal power station to 73 megawatts. An agreement had been signed between the Governments of Pakistan and Japan in March last for an amount of two billion yen for financing the foreign exchange cost of the project. The unit was scheduled to be commissioned in March, 1984.

The Chairman said that combined cycle power station, Guddu, would be completed in two phases: 300/400 mw gas turbines were to be installed at Guddu during the first phase and 150/200 mw steam turbines to be added, with heat recovery boilers, during the second phase. The first phase would be completed by January 1985, and the second by February 1987.—PPI

CSO: 4220/340

OIL EXPLORATION, SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN RIGS, DRILLERS RECOMMENDED

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Aspects of Oil Exploration"]

[Text]

PAKISTAN has initiated a fresh, determined drive for oil exploration in order to augment domestic oil production. Encouraged by the rich find at Khaskheli, the Oil and Gas Development Corporation has invited international offers for oil exploration in eight specified structures as joint ventures. Of these, three are located in Sind, at Sann, Lakhra and Ranpethani; two in Punjab, at Darya Khan and Darya Khan 'B'; and three in NWFP, at Domanda, Shakardara and Nandrakki. It is for the first time that OGDC has done preparatory work on such a scale before inviting foreign companies to undertake exploration. Extensive geological and geophysical surveys have been completed and the necessary data and information have been compiled and put together for the benefit of interested parties which may find it easier to make bids and start exploratory work in the shortest possible time. This is likely to lead to rapid acceleration of oil exploration in the country.

Since independence, a total of 114 wells have been drilled, the average coming to three wells per year. This is very disappointing progress keeping in view the fact that Pakistan possesses a very large 'sedimentary' area and needs to drill at least ten wells per year. The exorbitant price of imported oil, consuming about half of the export earnings, have necessitated an intensive drive to explore new sites and produce more oil to meet domestic needs. The Khaskheli oilfield is an exciting find, indicating more deposits in Lower Indus which can be drilled for at costs cheaper than in the north. It has created international interest and is likely to spur foreign investment in oil exploration in Pakistan.

There is general confidence in the potential of oil deposits — one reason why so many of the leading companies of the world are participating in the oil search here. The World Bank and Asian Development Bank have also pro-

vided finance to OGDC for oil exploration and consequent development, which is a welcome addition to the capital available for this purpose. However, the OGDC Chairman revealed recently in an interview that the terms of financing include hiring of rigs and foreign drillers. This is a trend which should be discouraged. A German rig was hired for two wells at Adhi, where OGDC is a 50 per cent partner, and returned after use. At Pirkoh, the terms of the ADB loan stipulate that OGDC will drill three wells and get another three wells drilled by foreigners. The other two Pakistani-based companies also are reportedly going to hire rigs. This is a policy shift with a bearing on the future of the national oil industry. According to some reports, not only might hiring of rigs cost more than outright purchase, but the country will lose an opportunity to build up its own physical assets. The advantage of buying rigs is

that once purchased they can be used for extended periods as is being done already. Moreover, operation by Pakistani drillers and technicians provides an important opportunity to train manpower in this highly technical field.

Another argument in favour of having our own rigs and equipment and employing Pakistani manpower is their availability even in times of crisis, whereas foreign hands and hired equipment are generally withdrawn on such occasions. We have had these bitter experiences in the past regarding vital projects in other fields. Hiring of rigs and foreign drillers may be considered only when unavoidable. Otherwise, the old policy of Pakistani companies purchasing rigs and equipment and employing Pakistani drillers should be brought back and enforced in the long-term interest of the country.

CSO: 4220/345

SUCCESS IN BLAST FURNACE STABILIZATION REPORTED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

Stabilization of blast furnace within three months of commissioning is a rare occurrence in the world of steel industry and has certainly no parallel in the technological annals of developing countries. But we in Pakistan Steel have done it.

This was stated by Mr Haq Nawaz Akhtar, Chairman of Pakistan Steel, at the function held in the Iron Making Plant to celebrate the first anniversary of the blast furnace.

Mr Akhtar said that by the grace of God, the dedicated engineers, metallurgists and workers of Pakistan Steel had succeeded in creating history: they had not only stabilized the blast furnace in an amazingly short a million tons of conversion grade pig iron equivalent within time but had produced over half one year, thus outstanding the rated capacity of the plant.

This was an achievement which every Pakistani could be rightly proud of, he added.

Mr Akhtar urged the young engineers and workers to keep up the momentum and commission the steel making plant and billet mill during this year so that Pakistan could enter the steel age in 1982.

SOVIET CHIEF ENGINEER LANDS EFFORTS

Dr. E. Z. Freidenzone, Soviet chief engineer operations, who

also spoke on the occasion, said he admired the dedicated efforts of the young Pakistani engineers in learning steel technology. He said that the performance of the blast furnace during the last one year has been superb, and churning out over half a million tons of good quality pig iron was indeed an achievement.

But the most valuable gain to Pakistan during the past year, said Dr. Freidenzone, had been in terms of experience and specialization. A cadre of metallurgists with some experience and specialization had emerged and, in due course, could be relied upon to run the steel works independently, he added.

Earlier, presenting the address of welcome to the chief guest, Mr Ali Akhtar Khan, operational Head of the Iron Making plant, reviewed the performance of the blast furnace since it went on stream. He said that the annual rated capacity of the blast furnace was 5,50,000 tons of conversion grade pig iron but during the past 12 months it had produced 5,80,000 tons. He said that the teething troubles of the blast furnace were successfully tackled by Pakistani metallurgists under the guidance of Soviet specialists.

During the past one year, he added, our metallurgists and workers had gained considerable experience and confidence in running the blast furnace.

CSO: 4220/346

BRIEFS

CALL TO RELEASE NEWSMEN--Mr. Minhaj Barna, Chairman, All Pakistan Newspaper Employees Confederation (APNEC), has criticised the arrest and detention of Mr. Amin Mughal, Asstt. Editor, the Weekly "Viewpoint", and the Correspondent of Hilal-e-Pakistan in Lahore, Mr. Ehsanullah Khan, by the Punjab Government. Demanding their immediate release, Mr. Barna expressed "concern over the reports that the two newsmen were being kept under conditions in disregard of legal requirements", says a Press release. He also expressed concern over the continued detention of Mr. Irshad Rao, Mr. Zamir Ali Shah, Mr. Nisar Channa, former President, Hyderabad Press Club, Mr. Nisar Baladi, Correspondent Hilal-e-Pakistan and Mr. Sohail Sangi of Sind News by the Sind Government. In particular, he drew the attention of the Sind Governor towards the declining health of Mr. Rao and requested him to order his release forthwith. [Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p 8]

INDIAN LEADER MEETS ZIA--RAWALPINDI, Aug 22--President of Bombay Congress (I) Party, Mr. Morli S. Deora, currently on a four-day visit to Pakistan, called on the President, General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq at the COAS House here this evening. He remained with the President for some time and discussed with him matters of common interest. [Karachi DAWN in English 23 Aug 82 p 14]

ADVISER IN NEW DELHI--New Delhi, Aug 27--Pakistan Presidential Adviser on Business Coordination and Internal Trade, Sheikh Ishrat Ali, arrived here this evening on a nine-day goodwill and study tour. Talking to newsmen at the Delhi airport Sheikh Ishrat Ali said he would study India's public distribution system. Pakistan has freshly established business coordination and internal trade cell in the Commerce Ministry and he had already visited several countries in the Far East, including Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong and similarly he would study Indian public distribution system so that Pakistan could benefit from the experience of this country as well.--APP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 p 1]

REFUGEES AGONY AFFECTS MP--Peshawar, Aug 27--Mr Kanuu Satoh, member of a Japanese parliamentary delegation currently touring Pakistan today, fainted at the Afghan surgical hospital here in the face of moving spectacle of agony and misery of the innocent Afghan people. Mr Kanju Satoh, who accompanied Mr Abdul Aziz Itsuo Inagaki, leader of the delegation on a round of the hospital could not bear the sight of bleeding Afghans with chopped off legs and arms, and charred bodies coming to the hospital for treatment from across the border. He fainted and collapsed. Doctors' team, looking after the Afghan refugees, administered treatment to the Japanese parliamentarian and revived his semiconsciousness after some time. The delegation's visit to the Afghan refugee tentage village was consequently delayed.--APP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 82 p 12]

TRIBAL FIGHTING RAGES IN PNG

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 28 Jul 82 p 13

[Article by Barry Moody]

[Text]

PORT MORESBY, Tuesday. — Police here estimate that at least 200 people were killed in Highlands tribal fighting last year, and 1,000 injured.

In one province, Enga, there were 45 clashes involving 69 deaths and 200 serious injuries.

Officials are also seriously concerned by the economic and social damage caused by these battles. The victorious clan often destroys the vegetable gardens and coffee trees of the losers, wrecking their main source of cash and making them dependent on outside food aid for many months.

The battles can involve from 50 to 3,000 tribesmen and last from a few days to several months. One

feud has been continuing sporadically since 1973, a police spokesman said.

Officials are also concerned at an increase in casualties since tribesmen begun using steel axes and spears instead of stone and wooden weapons.

Chief Superintendent Leo Dion, the Highlands police chief, said there had been a comparative lull in tribal fighting in the first six months of this year.

Then two months ago paramilitary police shot dead two warriors, then 10 officers were attacked and two wounded by a group of clansmen armed with axes, bows and spears.

Some of the tribal conflicts are sparked, as they have been for centuries, by disputes over land — under heavy pressure because of the dense population — pigs and women. But others involved dis-

putes over the general elections result.

The Primary Industry Minister, Mr Paul Torato, has called for a state of emergency in the Highlands, or the drafting in of troops, after dozens of tribal battles and outbreaks of violence in which three officials were hacked to death, since the election results became known.

Mobile squads of tough riot police are the main weapon against tribal fighting.

The squads, armed with batons, tear gas, automatic rifles and shotguns, are highly efficient in quelling the fighting once they reach a trouble spot. "When the warriors see my men they go for their lives," Superintendent Dion said.

But much of the Highlands is so remote and far from roads that it

can take police two days to reach a trouble spot. The warriors have taken to fighting on inaccessible jungle ridges to delay police intervention, and also lie face down when police try to photograph them from helicopters.

Officials and police say they have had some success in intervening to neutralise land disputes and in educating local leaders about the evil consequences of fighting.

But they face a long, uphill battle. The conflicts are an integral part of Highlands society and the traditional method of solving disputes. Highlanders believe someone must be responsible for any misfortune so another clan might be arbitrarily blamed for a natural death in a village.

"Fighting is just a way of living to them," Superintendent Dion said.

ARMY CHIEF DISCUSSES ENEMY TERROR PLANS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Aug 82 pp 1, 10

[Text]

Gen. Fabian C. Ver, Armed Forces chief of staff, said yesterday that communist terrorists led by renegade priest Rev. Zacarias Agatep plan to launch terroristic activities in Salcedo, Ilocos Sur during the birthday of President Marcos on Sept. 11.

Ver, who is concurrent director-general of the National Intelligence Security Authority (NISA), also said the terrorists' plan includes similar disturbances to coincide with the observance of Thanksgiving Day on Sept. 21.

The AFP chief made the disclosure after declassifying intelligence reports and captured subversive documents which indicated that the subversives would mount a con-

certed mass action and terroristic activities next month.

Ver ordered the military to take precautionary measures to counteract the confirmed plan of subversives to conduct nationwide strikes, bombings and liquidations, including attacking of military installations next month.

President Marcos had earlier warned of a plot by subversives and certain elements in the political opposition, labor leaders and the Moro National Liberation Front to hold a nationwide strike next month.

In his order to all military commanders, Ver said that the government cannot take chances and directed them to take all pre-

cautionary security measures to avert any possible attempts by subversives.

Ver assured that the military is on top of the situation and is monitoring continuously the matter.

Since the subversive plot was uncovered, government security agents had arrested labor leader Felixberto Olalia, Sr., head of the "Kilusang Mayo Uno" and Crispin Beltran, KMU vice chairman.

Olalia was charged with inciting to sedition and rebellion for allegedly fomenting unrest and disorder among the country's labor force to paralyze the economy and disrupt national security.

EXTORTION WITHIN MNLF BARED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by Mel Parale]

[Text]

DATU PIANG, Maguindanao — Five top commanders of the Moro National Liberation Front who surrendered here recently to the government exposed yesterday widescale extortion by MNLF leaders among their followers, reportedly setting off new wave of defections to the government.

The MNLF commanders identified as Commanders Dimasalang, Dante, Torres, Bobby, and Guevarra — gathered the accounts of several MNLF supporters who came from the hills to seek help for their safe return to their villages to start a new life.

* * *

THE MNLF commanders predicted the collapse of the MNLF mass base with the "exodus" of MNLF followers to government fold.

The MNLF followers told military authorities that they have discovered they have been made "milking cows" by their leaders.

Brig. Gen. Jose Magno Jr., Cemcom commanding general, told Maj. Gen. Josephus Ramas, army commanding general, that the six MNLF commanders seeking to defect to the government gave similar reasons for the mass defection of MNLF members and supporters.

Ramas, who came to the region to assess the performance of battalion

commanders, ordered a background check on the MNLF defectors "to make sure that they really mean peace."

* * *

MAGNO identified the six MNLF commanders seeking to surrender as Commanders "Iskak," "Duma," "Tony," "Alex," "Victor," and "Nobbie".

Iskak and Tony are members of the MNLF general staff force responsible for plotting strategies for surprise attacks against government forces, Magno told Ramas.

Under them are 43 armed followers and 42 unarmed reserves who could split into at least 16 strike groups for ambush operations. These MNLF strike teams have also reportedly decided to defect en masse with their commanders.

* * *

THE DEFECTORS presented certain demands, notably:

- Setting up of resettlement area for all of them.
- Grant of small capital to start a new life.
- Scholarship grant for some of them and their relatives who are qualified.
- Grant of presidential amnesty.
- Integration into the army if feasible.
- Extension of the KKK program to the proposed resettlement area.

ZAMBOANGA OFFICIAL SLAIN

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Aug. 27 -- Two unidentified gunmen shot dead at 1 p.m. today the president of Zamboanga City's association of 92 barangay councils a few meters from the gate of the City Hall complex at Pettit barracks.

Alex Jimlani, 40, who was also barangay captain of Zone 2 City Proper, was shot in the head. Three caliber .45 shells were recovered at the scene.

Jimlani had just attended the peace and order council meeting at the City Hall with top city officials, including commanders of the southern sector police command, the Zamboanga PC-INP district command, and the Zamboanga

internal defense command, and was waiting for a ride home when shot.

MAJ. Damning Uugga Jr., Southern sector police chief, had left the area minutes earlier and rushed backed when he heard the shots.

Col. Servando Lara, internal defense commander, was just several meters from the scene when the two men in maong pants shot Jimlani.

Lara gave chase on foot, but the two gunmen lost themselves among the hundreds of students of the nearby city high school and shoppers and traders of the barter market, all located within 100 meters from the city government complex.

Witnesses said the two men waited for Jimlani. (PNA)

CSO: 4220/342

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN JULY REPORTED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 29 Aug 82 p 10

[Text]

FOREIGN investors pumped in almost P6 million in domestic companies last month, posting a favorable increase of slightly over 50 percent compared to the foreign capital infusion of P1.1 million last June, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said yesterday.

Last month's registration of local companies with foreign equity included 45 corporations and eight partnerships.

SEC said the corporations had subscribed capital of P29.1 million of which P12.8 million is paid-up. Combined investments in paid-up equity of both corporations and partnerships totalled P14 million of which P5.9 million is foreign owned.

Of the total foreign investment, P5.5 million were pumped into corporations and the remaining went to partnerships.

BY SECTORAL distribution, the bulk or 91.8 percent of

foreign investment went to both the agricultural and service sectors. The industrial sector, which used to get the lion's share of foreign contributions, this time got only P4.4 million or 8.2 percent of the "pie."

The Asian investors led all other foreign nationals in equity contribution with P2.4 million channelled to the agricultural sector alone.

Following are the Americans with P.7 million, the Chinese with P.6 million, and the Japanese and British with P.5 million each. All the others contributed less than P.5 million.

SEC said it has licensed only two regional headquarters of multinational companies last month, namely the Carrian Travel Services, Ltd., a Hongkong-based travel firm; and ISA/Babcock Breeders, Inc., a poultry breeding company from the United States.

CSO: 4220/342

JAPANESE AID FOR FILIPPINO COPPER URGED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Aug 82 p 36

[Text]

Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo stressed yesterday the need for concessional loans from Japan to assist the copper industry and the integrated steel mill projects of the Philippines.

In talks held at the Foreign Ministry with Japanese Ambassador Hideho Tanaka to whom he handed a formal RP note, Romulo expressed the apprehension that persistently high interest rates abroad coupled with sharp drops in world prices of exports such as copper, sugar and coconut oil could worsen the trade deficit with Japan this year.

The trade deficit of the Philippines in 1981 amounted to \$243.6 million and the coun-

try's exports to Japan during the first half of this year dropped by 10 per cent below the comparable level for 1981.

"The trade liberalization measures adopted by Japan in May 1982 are not likely to alleviate this worsening deficit," he said, "because the liberalization moves have largely favored industrialized economies rather than the developing countries."

The foreign minister said that Japan should consider extending a \$125 million special concessional loan to assist the Philippines underwrite the cost of subsidizing the difference between the world market price for copper and the break-even price to keep RP copper

mines operating.

Special credits amounting to P150 million were also sought for the infrastructure components of the integrated steel mill projects of the Philippines.

Romulo also pointed to the need to extend duty-free treatment to RP-made cartons used for bananas being exported to Japan just as Japanese made cartons entering the country are presently extended duty-free treatment.

On aviation matters, he reiterated the Philippine request for full traffic rights in favor of Philippine Airlines between Manila and points in the US and Canada via Japan, with initially four wide-body frequencies weekly.

EXPORT LABOR EARNINGS GIVEN

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Aug 82 pp 1, 12

[Text]

The manpower export industry, now a vital cog of the Philippine economy, realized US\$3,147.9 million in the last six and a half years, according to the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE).

The Labor Statistics Service reported to Labor Minister Blas F. Ople that the sum represented the portion of the earnings of overseas Filipino workers sent to their families under the MOLE dollar remittance program.

Filipino contract workers, mostly in the Middle East countries, accounted for the bulk of the remittances, contributing \$3,017.3 million while registered emigrants sent in \$130.6 million, MOLE statistics showed.

The six and a half year period ended in mid-1981, the LSS said.

Of the \$3,147.9 million, a total of \$772.3 million was remitted by seamen.

Workers recruited by private agencies sent home \$1,725.3 million, while those sent abroad under government-to-government arrangements remitted \$519.7 million.

The export of Filipino manpower, which is one of the country's top dollar earners, is promoted and regulated by the MOLE, through the newly created Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, headed by Administrator Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Ople said the government is stepping up the pace of its campaign for more markets for Filipino workers not only by improving their quality but also by actively looking for potential employers abroad.

During the period, the number of overseas employment contracts processed by the labor ministry totaled 823,245. In 1981, processed contracts

reached 266,243. It is expected to exceed 300,000 this year.

A total of 47,835 contracts were approved in 1976; 70,375 in 1977; 88,241 in 1978; 137,337 in 1979 and 213,214 in 1980.

Of the total 823,245 contracts, 349,772 were for production process workers, transport equipment operators, and laborers. The National Seamen Board processed 256,914 overseas contracts.

Service workers, on the other hand, numbered 92,886; professional, technical and related workers, 90,801; clerical workers, 19,030; administrative, executive and managerial workers, 9,118; agricultural, animal husbandry, forestry workers, and fishermen, 3,329; and sales workers, 1,395.

GEOTHERMAL POWER OUTPUT REPORTED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 31 Aug 82 p 90

[Text]

POWER generation from geothermal sources has surpassed, for the first time, the combined power output of hydro-electric plants.

The ministry energy said, geothermal power output as of the middle of this year has increased to 3.05 million barrels worth while hydropower generation went up to 2.98 million barrels of oil equivalent.

Geothermal production went up 26 percent largely due to the recent addition of Tiwi Units 5 and 6 as well as higher generation levels raising the Tiwi field's output by 74.5 percent compared to the first semester last year.

On the other hand, hydropower generation went up by 7.9 percent from the combined increased output of Angat (48.4 percent), Agus VI (5.5 percent), Binga (11.4 percent) and Agus II (8.5 percent). Also included was new power output from the first unit of Kalayaan pumped storage system which was placed on-stream last May.

Total installed capacity of electric generating plants, mainly from geothermal and hydropower, went up by 367.2 megawatts from last year's level to 4,914.2 megawatts at mid-year.

As a result of increased output from indigenous sources, the share of oil-based generation was reduced from 67.9 percent to 60.1 percent

for the comparative first semester.

* * *

OTHER highlights of the Ministry report showed domestic oil production almost doubling from 699.3 thousand barrels as of June 1981 to 1.354 million barrels at mid-year

1982, largely due to start of production at the Cadlao oilfield since August last year.

Coal usage dipped by 2.8 percent due to reduced needs of Universal Cement on account of boiler tube problems and due to Biophil's increased use of bagasse and coconut shell to supplement coal use.

The use of bagasse as fuel went up by 11.6 percent while the share of other non-conventional resources showed a substantial decline, mainly due to the pilot use of coconut oil as diesel extender during the first semester last year. Cocodiesel will be marketed nationwide starting tomorrow, September 11.

The share of domestic resources went up from 10.5 million barrels or 23.9 percent of total energy usage for the first semester of 1981 to 12.37 million barrels or 27.5 percent last mid-year.

Oil imports consequently dropped from 33.46 to 32.64 million barrels for the comparative first semester, resulting in savings of 816,000 barrels so far this year.

FOREIGN GROUPS EYE STEEL PROJECT

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Aug 82 pp 10, 9

[Article by Rosario A. Liquicia]

[Excerpt]

FOUR foreign groups have expressed interest in bidding for the supply and installation of machinery and equipment for the steel-making facilities of the \$800-million integrated steel mill project while seven groups plan to bid for the rolling mill plant, the third phase of the steel project.

The Board of Investments (BOI) announced yesterday the interested bidders even as it said that bids for the two projects will be submitted before the end of the year.

Project proposals submitted by the four consortia bidding for the iron-making

facilities (the first phase) are now being evaluated by the BOI.

Two of these groups — Davy McKee Corp. of England and Marubeni Corp. of Japan — are also interested in bidding for the steel-making facilities, as well as the rolling mill project.

THE two consortia whose bids are now being evaluated are Thyssen Rheinstahl Technik GmBh of West Germany, together with Allis Chalmers of the US; and Lurgi Chemieund Huttentechnik also of West Germany with Voest Alpine of Austria.

The integrated steel project, one of the country's 11 major industrial projects, involves the upgrading of the existing facilities of the state-owned National Steel Corp. in Iligan.

The steel complex will have three separate units--the iron-making plant, the steel-making plant and the rolling mills.

Interested in bidding for the supply and installation of steel-making facilities (aside from Marubeni and Davy McKee) are Mannesmann Demag Huttentechnik of West Germany; Italimpiante of Italy together with Ing Leone Tagliaferri.

The groups interested in the hot mill complex (of the rolling mills plant) include Schloemann Siemag AG of West Germany; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan; Italimpianti; Mannesmann Demag Metall Verformung also of West Germany; and Davy McKee.

CSO: 4220/342

NO COMMON CANDIDATE FROM OPPOSITION

Colombo SUN in English 1 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by Lalith Allahakoon]

[Text] A hexangular contest at the forthcoming Presidential elections became imminent yesterday with moves by opposition political parties to field a common candidate ending up in failure.

Besides President J. R. Jayewardene on behalf of the United National Party, others who are now certain to be in the fray are Dr. Colvin R. de Silva (LSSP), Maithripala Senanayake (SLFP--M), Rohana Wijeweera (JVP) and Kumar Ponnambalam (ACTC).

Dr. de Silva told 'SUN' yesterday he would be contesting the Presidential elections. All Ceylon Tamil Congress candidate Mr. Ponnambalam said: "I am contesting in this elections as a matter of principle but I don't have any intention of winning". Mr. Senanayake also confirmed he was the Freedom Party's nominee and said his was the first candidature to be announced. The JVP's hierarchy has already endorsed Mr. Wijeweera's nomination.

The country's major opposition political grouping, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's Freedom Party appears to be sharply divided over its nominee for the poll. Despite a previous party decision to nominate Hector Kobbekaduwa, a former Cabinet Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike, party sources said, will summon an emergency meeting of the Samastha Lanka Karaka Sabhawa (All Island Working Committee) this week.

Party sources said Mrs. Bandaranaike was strongly in favour of the candidature of her son Anura. A formidable section including Mr. Bandaranaike's brother-in-law are strongly opposed to this move.

Already hectic behind the scene campaigning is going on both in favour of Mr. Bandaranaike and Mr. Kobbekaduwa.

CSO: 4220/360

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WEIGHED

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 14 Aug 82 p 6

[Text]

All is now set for the presidential election — all, that is save a formal proclamation announcing the holding of the election and the date.

President J.R. Jayewardene has himself declared that it will be "soon". His announcement has been thereafter fleshed by the Department of Elections, gearing itself for an "any - time - now" poll.

The sifting and sieving among nearly 300,000 public servants eligible for election duty is now on. So the 100 million rupee question rippling through the island is: "When will it be?"

President Jayewardene, we understand, gave answer to the question when Ministers quizzed him about it. He asserted in reply that no date could be fixed till the battle of the amendments now being fought in the arena of court was over.

He maintained that the law must take its course and the government would neither trespass on the law nor flick it aside. So the nation will have to wait.

Meanwhile, knowledgeable sources claim that the President's horoscope shows his unassailability after October 5 (some say 15) when Saturn will give way to Jupiter. But

whether the President himself is influenced by the planets and their course, is another matter.

However, the pundits argue that the election will be around mid - October, 18th or 19th being the two dates favoured. That is, astrologically.

Realistically, the election will be held, as the President told his Ministers last Wednesday, only after judgment is delivered regarding amendments to the constitution.

Assuming it will be by the end of August and giving time for the proclamation, nominations and other election technicalities, it is now virtually certain that October will be the election month. Speculatively October 18th or 19th could well be P - day or Presidential Day.

"Insider" goes one step further to predict that if the President wins handsomely, a general election will be hot on the heels of the presidential election.

Opposition scene

While speculation keeps mounting throughout the country as to who will be the "common candidate" of the opposition parties for the presidential election,

the possibility of a compromise selection is not yet in sight.

The LSSP has already nominated its candidate — Dr Colvin R. de Silva — and is at present engaged in the exercise of having his name accepted as the "common candidate."

Dr de Silva's political record, his ability and standing in the country are known. His credentials for candidature are not in question.

However, the credibility and acceptability of his party are. Aside the improbability of an LSSP candidate winning the presidential election, can the party make even an impact at such a contest. In the last general election all left candidates were defeated.

The conditions for a "common candidate" demanded by the different opposition parties are no bone of contention. Nothing that cannot and will not be conceded has been demanded. The bone of contention is who the individual should be and from which party he should emerge.

Naturally the SLFP(S) wants one of its men as the "common candidate." But it is itself in a dilemma as to who should be picked.

With the exit of Mr

Maithripala Senanayake and company, the party's performance has been a series of squabbles, mainly in the struggle to capture power. Consequently, no recognised leader has emerged as yet to act as caretaker till Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike's civic rights are restored.

First is was the squabble for the presidency of the party with Mrs Bandaranaike continuing in office. Now, more urgently, it is the squabble for a presidential candidate.

A section of the party supports Mr Hector Kobbekaduwa as an alternative to Mr Anura Bandaranaike, who failed to find adequate support. At the last politbureau meeting of the SLFP Mr Laksman Jayakoddy proposed the name of Anura Bandaranaike but could not find a seconder and Mr T.B. Ilangaratne left the meeting.

Mr Bandaranaike, however, is still the favourite of the "throne."

Another section has now started thinking more sombrely of Mr Ilangaratne, a stalwart of the party since its inception and whose greatest virtue has been that he has stuck loyally beside the Bandaranaiques through triumph and disaster.

In the 1956 general election Mr Kobbekaduwa was only a counting agent for an SLFP candidate. He contested and lost in 1960 and 1965. He entered Parliament only in 1970, winning the Yatinuwara seat, and became a Minister.

Mr Ilangaratne's political performance is more impressive and for a far longer period. In 1947 he was president of the General Clerical Service Union and led one of the biggest strikes of government clerks.

In the same year he contested the Kandy seat as

an independent and was narrowly defeated by the late Mr George E. de Silva, a seasoned politician and Minister of Health at that time.

At the by-election of 1948, following the unseating of Mr de Silva, on an election petition, Mr Ilangaratne won and entered Parliament for the first time.

He has been in out of Parliament since then, representing Hewaheta and Kolonnawa. He has held powerful portfolios in all SLFP governments of both Mr and Mrs Bandaranaike.

In the course of his ministerial career Mr Ilangaratne has been responsible for introducing radical legislation on behalf of his government.

As Minister of Labour, Housing and Social Services in 1956, he introduced the Employees Provident Fund. As Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping he nationalised insurance and oil and set up the Insurance Corporation and the Petroleum Corporation. It was he who introduced in Parliament the Bill for the inauguration of the People's Bank, which was the brain-child of Philip Gunewardena.

In the 1970 government, as Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, he set up the State Trading Corporation to handle the internal wholesale distribution of food and other essentials.

In addition to his performance as a cabinet minister, he has proved his worth to the SLFP on numerous occasions. During periods of crisis and decision he was on almost every committee to negotiate and decide.

He was in the forefront of talks during the drafting of the common program between the SLFP and the United Left Front. He helped to resolve many

differences that arose among the parties during the coalition government.

Mr Ilangaratne's opponents, however, will surely raise the cry that whenever the SLFP was rejected at the polls, the blunders of the departments under his stewardship were of significance.

The mess in the co-operative sector, long, frustrating queues and trade misdemeanours are claimed squarely to be his responsibility.

He was however, popular with the left and acceptable to them. At the by-election in Kolonnawa when the LSSP claimed the seat for its nominee, Mrs Vivienne Goonewardene, and the SLFP refused to give way, Mr Ilangaratne emerged as the compromise candidate and won with the fullest backing of the left.

In the current circumstances, too, when the LSSP wants Dr Colvin R. de Silva as the "common candidate" and the SLFP is very unlikely to concede, a compromise candidate may well be the answer.

There are problems within the SLFP itself concerning the selection of Mr Kobbekaduwa as its candidate. It is very unlikely that the LSSP and other opposition parties will also agree to such a choice.

Mr Ilangaratne, on the other hand, at present Number Two in the party, a Bandaranaike loyalist throughout, a known social thinker and sympathiser of the left, can hardly be rejected by even a warring left.

TULF

The TULF has decided it will have nothing to do with the presidential stakes. Its immediate problem, however, is nominating a TULFer to replace the late Mr T. Thirunavakarasu,

Vaddukodai MP, who died recently.

In the running are Dr Neelan Tiruchelvam, son of the former legal luminary and Minister, the late M. Tiruchelvam, S.C. Chandrahasan, militant son of the late pacifist Tamil leader S.J.V. Chelvanayakam, and DDC chairman S. Nadarajah. In view of the tussle, a compromise candidate, Mrs Thirunavakarasu, widow of the former MP, is being projected by the Vaddukodai voters.

Dr Neelan, the acknowledged think - tank of the TULF, is odds - on favourite. A moderate, he has favour with the top and middle layers of the community, who really are pressing for his nomination. But Chandrahasan, who was deeply involved - legally - in the Tamil extremists case in Tamilnadu, has considerable support among the militants.

The party awaits the return of leader A. Amirthalingam, who flew back to Madras after attending the Vaddukodai MP's funeral. He along with TULF president M. Sivasithamparam and the party politbureau will make their choice on his return.

Thondaman

Opposition parties unsure of the minorities - the TULF now no longer operates with them and the Muslims are traditionally with the UNP - have started wooing CWC chief S. Thondaman.

The opposition courting was touched off, reportedly, by rebel rank and filers in the CWC camp, who are not so determined to follow their leader, Minister Thondaman's, choice, the UNP.

But the Minister, reputed to use an iron hand within the velvet glove, has so far succeeded in holding them back. He referred them to his speech made to Colombo Central UNPers on July 25 at the invitation of Prime Minister R. Premadasa. He told his audience in that speech that he was with the UNP because he had faith in President J.R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister R. Premadasa.

He revealed that he had risked life and property when he joined hands with the UNP in its satyagraha against the SLFP in the pre - 1977 days. He was therefore sure that his people were now in safe hands. He had even asked

the government for compensation for riot victims.

Incidentally, Minister Thondaman repeated his request for compensation for victims of race riots on the estates. President Jayewardene has told the Minister to discuss the matter with him. But it is pointed out that compensation to all riot victims will be a very expensive business.

Muslims

Two leaders of the Muslim community will be named to meet President Jayewardene next week and seek a once - and - for - all protection plan for the Muslims.

At recent meetings of Muslim groups, who met, party regardless, to discuss the Galle incidents, cuttings of news items about the flare - up which appeared in the Middle East papers were circulated. "It is not Arab unity or Muslim unity that these incidents are forging," said a speaker "It is Islamic unity."

But almost without exception tributes were paid to the President, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hammed for their prompt action in quelling the riots.

SEPARATIST CAMPAIGN SPREADING

Colombo THE SUN in English 18 Aug 82 pp 1, 2

[Article by Jennifer Henricus and Aruna Kulatunga]

[Text] A tea promotion campaign which the government suspects is a guise to raise funds for a separatist movement in Sri Lanka has now spread from Australia to New Zealand.

Using erroneous data, a radical group has been responsible for a media war, which several members of the tea trade we spoke to feared may tarnish Sri Lanka's image.

The sole objective of their exercise, the sponsors claim, is to do "something about the imbalance" and to obtain "one percent of the New Zealand tea market by importing and selling tea packed in Sri Lanka".

"Tea days" promoted by them in many cities in New Zealand has been graced by various VIPs. In Wellington, New Zealand's Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Cooper lauded one such event.

In other towns, mayors and other senior citizens not only took part, but also made front page news in their local newspapers.

The proceeds from the exercise New Zealanders have been made to believe, would go to the tea workers.

We found no such remittance being made, nor is any recognised organisation representing the interests of the Australian and New Zealand based groups. To many officials in Colombo, what was being done to the monies raked in from the campaign is still a mystery.

In Colombo, we learnt that full investigations have got underway to unravel the mystery. Till such time this is over a leading tea export houses have been told not to make tea shipments to Australia.

Oliver Fernando, Chairman Sri Lanka Tea Board and Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation Industries told 'SUN', "We are very concerned about this propaganda in Australia and New Zealand and doing our best to stem it."

Pointing out that a full inquiry was underway, Mr. Fernando said "What concerns us most is the subversive overtones of the propaganda, which is deliberately communal. We fear that this may be an attempt to create anti-Sri Lanka feeling in these two countries where thousands of Sri Lankans have made their home.

CSO: 4220/338

TULF CHARGES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION A SINHALA AFFAIR

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 31 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] The TULF is not interested in the presidential election because it will be a poll to elect a person who will rule the Sinhala people in a Sinhala country, TULF President, M. Sivasithamparam, told a meeting here on Saturday

"The Tamils have no interest in the election of a Sinhala ruler" he said.

The TULF President who was speaking at a rally following the party's general council meeting here urged Tamils to preserve their unity at all costs. Without unity, the aim of a separate Tamil eelam would be only a dream, he said

Opposition leader, A. Amirthalingam accused some Tamils of misguiding their youth and causing disunity within the community. He alleged that the newspaper started by the late Mr. Chelvanayakam to unite the Tamils is now being used to destroy Tamil unity.

The interests of their unity demanded that this destruction must end he said.

He defended the dialogue that TULF leaders had with the government, saying that when Tamils were harassed they had no alternative but to complain to the president of the country. In these dialogues they were mindful of the TULF's eventual objective.

The party was still seeking a Tamil eelam. Three million people were massacred during the independence struggle in Bangladesh. A similar sacrifice could not be made here because there would then be no Tamils left to form an eelam.

"It is therefore the desire of the TULF to ensure the safety of the Tamils while fighting for eelam. For this unity is essential" he said.

It was easy to use militant language, he said, but the safety of the community must be the first consideration. He had talks with Chief Minister, M. G. Ramachandran in Madras about the Tamil youths taken into custody there.

No details of these talks were revealed.

Trincomalee MP, R. Sampanthan presided over the rally. Several TULF MPs and the chairmen of the Jaffna and Batticaloa DDCs also spoke.

CSO: 4220/360

VASU PROPOSED AS NLSP CANDIDATE

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 30 Aug 82 p 2

[Text]

Dr. Colvin R. De Silva is not an able and proper leader to be nominated as a 'common Candidate' for the Presidential Election therefore we would nominate Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, the leader of our Party to contest the forthcoming Presidential Election said Mr. Wickramabahu Wickramaratne, Secretary of the Nava Lanka Samasamaja Party addressing a public meeting held at Bombuwala in Kalutara District recently.

Mr. W. Alfred Perera presided at the meeting.

Mr. Wickramaratne, further stated that Mr. Ronnie de Mel, the Minister of Finance and Planning had mortgaged the country to foreign countries by obtaining foreign aid running to million of rupees.

He is going round the world looking for money as he is unable to bridge the gap in the next budget, amounting to Rs. 5,000 millions. Even Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike is unable to run the government and that is why she is saying that if the S.L.F.P. comes into power she would give the essential goods on subsidise rates. This would never occur Mr. Wickramaratne added.

For the last five years President J. R. Jayewardene has not solved any of the problems of the country and he simply destroyed public funds. Bribery and corruption is rampant among the MP's, Ministers' and government officials but no action has been taken. The cost of living is soaring but no solution has been offered Mr. Wickramaratne stated.

Mr. Adwin, T. D. Silva and Lal Goonetilleke also addressed the meeting.

ALL ISLAND TEAM TO PICK SLFP (S) CANDIDATE

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 31 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Richard Silva]

[Text]

The Central Committee of the SLFP(S) failed to arrive at a decision to pick the party candidate for the Presidential election even after four-hour deliberations at Rosmead place yesterday.

Mr. Anura Bandaranaike's name figured prominently at the heated discussions of the Central Committee. Mr. Vijaya Kumaranatunge who backed Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa walked out of the discussions half-way through.

However the Central Committee decided that the Presidential candidate of the party should be picked by the All Island working committee of the SLFP(S), and that a meeting of this body be summoned before September 15.

At yesterday's discussions it was observed that Mr. Bandaranaike had got the backing of a section of

the Central Committee which had hitherto backed Mr. Kobbekaduwa.

Mr. Ariya Bulegoda, Mr. A. M. Karunaratne, Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud, Dr. maharroof and Mr. K. Shammugalingam were among those who supported Mr. Bandaranaike.

Before the commencement of the Central Committee meeting there were several delegations from Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Amparai led by Mr. M. Nustapha, Mr. S. Samsudeen and Mr. Senarath Somaratne respectively insisting that Mr. Bandaranaike should be nominated as party candidate.

There were also several Buddhist organisations from the southern and Central provinces which met Mrs. Bandaranaike and wanted her to name Mr. Bandaranaike as the party nominee.

The order of the ballot paper

The order of the names on the ballot paper is expected to be:

1. Jayewardene, J.R. (UNP)
2. de Silva, Colvin (LSSP)
3. Ponnambalam, Kumar (TC)
4. Bandaranaike, Anura (SLFP - S)
5. Wijeweera, Rohana (JVP)
6. Senanayake, Maithri (SLFP -M)

The order of the names on the ballot paper will be arranged alphabetically in Sinhala in the order of the surnames, according to Section 29(2) A of the Presidential Elections Act No. 15 of 1981.

SLFP PLANS TO REPLACE CONSTITUTION

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 30 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by D. P. Sirisena]

[Text]

THE Sri Lanka Freedom Party would take steps to replace the present constitution which is against the will and the **pleasure** of the common masses once it is elected into power, said Mr. Vijaya Kumaranatunga, Deputy Secretary S.L.F.P. (S) group **addressing** a meeting held at Beligala in the Dedigama electorate, recently.

Mr. Dharmasiri Senanayaka the S.L.F.P. (S) Group Dedigama organiser Presided.

Mr. Kumaranatunga further added that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party led by Mrs. Bandaranaike was the only political party that was strong enough to topple the present U.N.P. government at the coming general election. At a time like this they need not explain to the poor masses of the country the hardships created by this government. This government extended its service only for capitalist and affluent classes completely ignoring the suffering of the poor people. Hence

they were **eagerly** waiting for a general election to vote against it.

He also said that after the next general election his party would definitely form a government specially to end the sufferings of the poor masses. Hence he requested them to rally round Mrs. Bandaranaike to take part this unique occasion.

Mr. D. P. Wickramasinghe said that the masses of the country have realised the difference between S.L.F.P. and U.N.P. during the past five year period according to the difficulties experienced by them. Hence they would not be deceived by the "Seenibola" offered to them by President to get their vote to rule for Six years more.

Messrs Stanley Tilakaratne, Dharmasiri Senanayaka, P. R. Rajnayake, A. Mutunayaka and Ananda Sirisena also spoke.

CSO: 4220/359

ANURA LIKELY SLFP (S) CANDIDATE

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 30 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

REPORTS from Nuwara Eliya where several SLFP (S) stalwarts have gathered for the past few days indicate that Mr. Anura Bandaranaike is likely to be the party nominee for the forthcoming elections.

Although Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwe was strongly tipped to be the Presidential Candidate and had the majority of the Politbureau backing him at a meeting of the politbureau held on August 4. Mr. Anura Bandaranaike now appears to be the likely candidate informed sources said yesterday.

One of the main reasons behind Mr. Bandaranaike's emergence is that it is considered he would be placed at a more advantageous situation as he is an MP unlike Mr. Kobbekaduwe.

If the Election Commissioner decides to recognise the Maithripala faction of the SLFP Mr. Kobbekaduwe will not be able to contest the Presidential Election as he would not be from a recognised political party.

Mr. Bandaranaike, however, will

be qualified to contest as he is a MP.

SLFP lawyers, too, have expressed the opinion that the age limit, which under the Presidential Election Act specified that the candidate should not to be under 35 years, could be canvassed in court.

At last Saturday's meeting of the SLFP (S) held at Nuwara Eliya Mr. Anura Bandaranaike addressed the meeting but Mr. Kobbekaduwe was not present.

Despite constant heckling and a brawl which took place the meeting went on. The SLFP leader Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike who turned up very late for the meeting after addressing a number of other meetings in the district said that it would be one of her last addresses at a public meeting before the Presidential Election as she was debarred from addressing meetings by law.

The SLFP (S) is likely take a decision on this early this week.

CSO: 4220/359

COLUMNIST EVALUATES OPPOSITION CANDIDATES

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 29 Aug 82 p 6

[Island Politics column by Arjuna: "Who Will Be The Opposition Presidential Candidate?"]

[Text]

The Presidential elections, which had been the subject of a massive nation-wide guessing game ever since the amendment to hold an early Presidential Election was announced, have at least been placed on the road. On Friday President Jayewardene announced his intention to seek a fresh mandate from the people thus setting in motion the machinery of a Presidential election. It is now up to the Commissioner of Elections to fix a date for nominations in accordance with his functions as set down in the Constitution.

There had been hints in the Government-controlled press that know sooner the third Amendment to the Constitution was passed by parliament and ratified by the Speaker the Presidential Proclamation would follow. True to the forecasts of these pundits, who are privy to the secrets of great men, things worked with clockwork precision. Shortly after 9.30 p.m. on Thursday parliament passed the amendment in all its stages, on Friday morning the Deputy Speaker certified it and by afternoon the same day the Presidential Secretariat was rushing the Proclamation to newspaper offices in time for the first edition.

It is clear now that President Jayewardene, who said at Matara last week that the UNP had both horse and jockey ready for the Presidential race, is banking on the confusion and disarray in Opposition ranks to canter home. But if nothing had managed to galvanise the Opposition to find a common candidate to pit against the

incumbent President the announcement of elections should invest the search with a sense of urgency at least now. But this is the prospect which appears to be least possible in the current context. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake and Dr. Colvin R. de Silva have already announced their candidatures and in spite of the LSSP overtures to the SLFP (M) it does not appear likely that either will withdraw in favour of the other. The SLFP too is determined to field a candidate. The JVP will run its leader Mr. Wijeweera and according to all indications now it looks like a multi-cornered contest, a situation which can only help the UNP.

The search for a common candidate took many devious twists and turns with the Opposition being even driven to look beyond the field of politics for a non-political choice. One such episode was revealed in Parliament last week when Education Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that Mr. Vijaya Kumaranatunge and another had approached Sarvodaya leader A. T. Ariyaratne to sound him about contesting as the common Opposition candidate. Mr. Wickremesinghe said that the Sarvodaya chief had refused the offer.

In the whole calculation the SLFP (S) still remains the unknown quantity. Though an earlier meeting of the Politbureau had picked Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa as the nominee this was never officially announced. But now the increasing possibility of the Commissioner of Elections not recognising the SLFP

(S) has placed a major obstacle in Mr. Kobbekaduwa's path.

As we have already mentioned in this column last week in the case of the Elections Commissioner not recognising the SLFP (S) its candidate (unless he is a MP) will be treated as just another independent candidate who will have to face insuperable odds even to have his name placed on the ballot paper. But Mr. Bandaranaike being a MP will not come up against this handicap for a MP can contest the Presidential Election irrespective of political party or even age.

In this context the name of Mr. Anura Bandaranaike has come increasingly to the surface. There has been a growing demand by groups close to the party such as bhikkhu organisations, nationalist groups, trade unions and intellectuals to put Mr. Anura Bandaranaike as the candidate. They have argued that Mr. Bandaranaike who is a known pragmatist not tied down by ideology but yet committed to the mass cause would be the ideal candidate who might even be able to win the support of non-SLFP sections.

It is in this context that the meeting of the SLFP's due for September 2 is awaited. But the road will not be smooth for Anura. Last week there were signs of another anti-Anura offensive when posters advertising a meeting of the party at Kochchikade carried photographs of Mr. Kumaranatunge displacing the photographs of Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike. Observers regard this as the first shot of another campaign against the mother and son motivated by the growing support that Mr. Bandaranaike is gathering among the rank and file. The situation is further compounded by the detente between Mr. Bandaranaike and Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa represented by Mr. Kobbekaduwa's appearance as the chief speaker on Anura's Nuwara Eliya platform over the week end. The Kumaranatunge faction's strength is the support it commands in the Politbureau and the Party Secretariat but if these bodies continue to be out of step with the aspirations of the party's rank and file the possibility of the struggle moving out of these party organs into other arenas cannot be ruled out.

CSO: 4220/359

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 'A RED HERRING'

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 22 Aug 82 p 6

[Text]

This prattle about Presidential Elections has become the latest reflex action of Sri Lanka's politics demonstrating the powerful sway of political fashion. You only have to talk about something for a sufficiently long period of time to have every one talking about it. The latest in political fashions is the Presidential Elections. Ever since the Third Amendment to the Constitution was mooted this has been the preoccupation of all political parties and the focal point of all their politics.

The Opposition has become so obsessed with the Presidential Stakes, and their search for a common candidate that the dispassionate observer is left wondering whether it is all a colossal red herring. While the Opposition is engaged in moving from one hurdle to another searching for a common candidate will there be a snap parliamentary election? As "The Island" reported last week all Heads of Departments have been circularised by the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration to instruct their officers to be ready for election duty at any time. Added to this is the President's 'Be Ready for an election at any time' remark to Government MPs at last week's Parliamentary group meeting. This too suggests countrywide General Elections rather than a single Presidential poll.

The UNP's biggest single advantage in the event of a snap poll is that it will have its lists ready commanding as they do a readymade list of sitting MPs in wide areas of the country. This is far from true of the any other

Opposition parties begin evolving a No Contest Pact (as it has been suggested by the Sri Lanka Communist Party) it will only make confusion worse confounded.

In the light of this situation a snap General Election can not be entirely discounted. President Jayewardene has long been known as a politician well versed in the art of politics and he has had to wait for a long time to reach the top. Obviously his over-riding ambition at the moment will be to perpetuate the UNP's rule for another term and whatever action he takes will be determined by this final objective.

On the Opposition front the most interesting development to merge was the re-emergence of Mr. Anura Bandaranaike as the possible SLFP (S) candidate for the Presidency. If the Commissioner of Elections acknowledges the SLFP (M) to be the party recognised by him, the SLFP (S) will be up a gum tree. This will naturally undermine the chances of its candidate, Mr. Kobbekaduwa since the odds against a person not belonging to a recognised party contesting the Presidency are seemingly insuperable. But this problem does not arise in the case of Mr. Bandaranaike since he is a Member of Parliament. Any political party or even a qualified voter can nominate a MP for the Presidency. This is now one of the biggest advantages that young Anura Bandaranaike enjoys.

The action of the SLFP (S) General Secretary Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, who last week wrote to Mr. Bandaranaike asking for his explanation for having

addressed a meeting organised in Anamadua by former MP Saddhatissa Wadigamangawa is interpreted in SLFP circles as a reaction to this sudden rise in Anura's fortunes. A strong Anura loyalist Mr. Wadigamangawa was one of the Central committee members who broke away with the Anura—Maithri faction. During the period of estrangement the two parties appointed their own organisers and Mr. Wickremanayake's charge was that Mr. Bandaranaike had addressed Mr. Wadigamangawa's meeting whereas the official SLFP (S) organiser was some one else. It is understood that Anura loyalists, angered by this Wickremanayake move, and gathered at Rosmead Place and protested to the leadership. On the leadership's intervention there will be no inquiry as stated by Mr. Wickremanayake into the affair. It is believed that the Party secretary, who had taken up the position that it was his duty to act when a complaint is made, had overstepped the mark.

It looks as if support for Mr. Bandaranaike is gathering in the light of the question mark hanging over Mr. Kobbekaduwa's candidature.

This was demonstrated to some extent at last week's Dehiwela meeting of the SLFP (S) where too Anura loyalists played a key role. The presence of Stanley Tillekeratane and C. V.

Gooneratne, who is nursing the adjoining Ratmalana constituency, were pointers in this direction. Meanwhile there is also a clamour among the rank and file for the return of J. R. P. Sooriapperuma whose absence is being felt acutely on the SLFP(S) platform which is conspicuously devoid of oratorical talent. Mr. Sooriapperuma, another who broke away with the SLFP dissidents is temporarily in exile following the SLFP(S)'s refusal to readmit him along with the other dissidents.

Meanwhile Anura is putting in a great deal of effort into the meetings at Nuwara Eliya and Ginigathena in his electorate on August 28th and 29th respectively. As revealed by this column last week the chief speaker at these meetings will be Mr. Kobbekaduwa demonstrating the new rapprochement between the two. The Dehiwela meeting too demonstrated the new mood of detente between the Anura group and the Hector-Actor section although Mr. Wickremanayake's action shows that all is still not well with the party.

Meanwhile the search for that elusive common candidate proceeds on the left. The urgency of the search was underlined by the talks held last week between the Sri Lanka Communist Party, which has always been fiercely critical of the JVP and the JVP leadership. The talks predictably failed as signalled by the

initial squabbling over the venue of the talks with each party petulantly quarrelling over who should come where. The discussions on the same subject between the SLFP(M) and the LSSP are interpreted as a sign that the LSSP, which is pressing hard for their leader to be accepted as the common candidate, is somewhat disillusioned by the SLFP (S)'s lukewarm attitude towards the subject. So the two LSSP intellectual Dr. Colvin R. de Silva and Mr. Bernard Soysa gingerly walked into Mr. Maithripala Senanayake's newly-built parlour at Jawatte Road to be confronted by a solemn SLFP(M) Central Committee battery which was not totally lacking in heavy weights at least in the physical sense. A press release described the talks as "successful" though it is a moot point how a discussion which merely agreed on the need for a common candidate without confronting the question of who should it be (after all both Mr. Senanayake and Dr. de Silva are still in the running) can be thus described.

To make the picture even more confused the SLFP(S) and the four parties which have been clustering round it for some time — the MEP, the Ceylon Communist Party, the Dharmasekera group and the Anil Moonesinghe LSSP — had met last week and while agreeing on the need for a common candidate had gone one step further and taken up the stand that his candidate should be from the SLFP (S).

SIRIMA EXPLAINS POSITION

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 17 Aug 82 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The post script to the "President Jayewardene is unassailable" controversy that arose from an interview Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike gave the Far Eastern Economic Review has been written in the current issue of the magazine.

There, a letter written on Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike's behalf says: "What Mrs. Bandaranaike meant to say was that Jayewardene was well aware that there is no leader in this country who is nationally acceptable and powerful enough to offer a challenge to him in the presidential election now that she has been deprived of her civic rights and cannot be a candidate".

The letter has been written by Mr. Gunadasa Yatawara, Personal Assistant to Mrs. Bandaranaike. Salamat Ali, South and West Asia correspondent of the magazine has replied.

The letter says: I have been directed by Sirimavo Bandaranaike, president of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), to point out that some of the remarks she made in the

course of the interview with South and West Asia correspondent Salamat Ali (Review, June 18), were incorrectly reported.

When Mrs. Bandaranaike spoke to Ali, she did say that the SLFP had a problem finding the right presidential candidate to face President Junius Jayewardene at the first presidential election, due before February 1984 but she did not mean that the SLFP cannot find a candidate in its own ranks as such. What Mrs. Bandaranaike meant to say was that Jayewardene was well aware that there is no leader in the country who is nationally acceptable and powerful enough to offer a challenge to him in the presidential election now that she had been deprived of her civic rights and

cannot be a candidate.

She also meant that this was the precise reason why Jayewardene and the ruling party have been going ahead with their campaign to kill her politically even after she had been disenfranchised. While Ali fairly correctly recorded what Mrs. Bandaranaike said during her interview, I think that this misquoting must have been due to a misunderstanding of what she told him.

Gunadasa Yatawara
Personal Assistant to
Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

Salamat Ali replies:-
The misunderstanding would not have arisen had Mrs. Bandaranaike's remark been read in the correct context of the preceding paragraph of my article, which pointed out that she was barred from seeking electoral office, thus robbing the SLFP of the only credible opponent for Jayewardene.

CSO: 4220/336

SIRMIA FACTION MAY RUN AS INDEPENDENTS

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 3 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

If the SLFP(S) is not recognised as the lawful SLFP by the Commissioner of Elections, it s candidate is expected to contest at the Presidential elections as an Independent using an independent symbol.

A party source emphasized that whatever decision the Commissioner of Elections made, the SLFP(S) would field a candidate at the Presidential election.

The majority of the party's Central Committee members, however, were against the use of the MEP symbol to contest the Presidential election.

The party hiarachy has laid down certain conditions which its candidate must fulfil. Among them are: * the candidate should subscribe to the Bandaranaike policies,

* He should be a person acceptable to the people, * The candidate should undertake to make Mrs. Bandaranaike the Head of State if he wins, * There should be no doubt about the Candidate's ability to fulfil the above conditions.

CSO: 4220/360

SRI LANKA

SIRIMA DENIES IRAQI SUPPORT FOR JVP

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 17 Aug 82 p 7

[Text] COLOMBO Monday--Former Sri Lankan Premier, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, has denied having said Iraqis financed a Sri Lankan militant organisation behind the abortive 1971 revolt against her government.

"I never believed or said that Iraq was financing the JVP (Janata Vimukthi Peramuna)," she said in a rebuttal of an interview published in the Indian Magazine 'Probe'.

In a signed statement to the Press Trust of India Mrs Bandaranaike said she had often been misreported by the western press. But it surprised her that an Indian magazine should "attribute to a responsible political leader remarks she never made

Denying she ever gave an interview to the 'Probe' correspondent the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader said: "It is a calculated attempt not only to mislead the readers of the magazine but also to spoil the cordial ties of friendship existing between the Sri Lanka Freedom party, of which I am the President, and Iraq and the Arab Baath Socialist Party

"It is true that I have strong suspicions about the source of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna funds. Certainly, the JVP could not have raised all the funds it is lavishly spending now from its small membership or from the public. Possibly. The JVP has the backing of some local and foreign sources. But never believed or said that Iraq is financing the JVP.

CSO: 4220/337

SLFP LOYALISTS REVIVE SWRD'S PARTY

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

The Sinhala Maha Sabha founded by the late Mr.S.W.R.D.Bandaranaike, was revived recently and it is now known as the Sinhala Maha Sammantha Sabha.

Veteran SLFPers who did not want to join either Mrs.Bandaranaike or Maithripala's group were instrumental in the revival of this party.

At a general meeting held at Mr.K.M.P.Rajaratne's residence in Kotte, the Maha Sammantha Sabha (MSS) resolved to call upon Mr.J.R.P.Suriapperuma or Mr.K.M.P.Rajaratne to contest the Presidential election.

A spokesman for the Sabha told 'The Island' that the two

names would be placed before the membership and a final decision taken shortly.

The MSS would also discuss the possibility of its candidate being accepted by other opposition parties as the common Presidential candidate.

Some of the objectives of the Maha Sammantha Sabha are: To win the lost rights of the Sinhala people; To protect the existing privileges and rights; To protect the Sinhala language and the Buddha Sasana; To restore the image the Sangha enjoyed in the days of the kings; To safeguard the Sinhala culture; etc.

CSO: 4220/337

OUTLOOK FOR UNP EXAMINED

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 21 Aug 82 p 6

[Text]

If the atmosphere at the Government Parliamentary Group on Thursday was any indication of the confidence of government MPs in their candidate in the coming presidential poll, then it seems Mr.J.R. Jayewardene will canter home an easy winner.

He was beaming with smiles and that optimism infected the MPs who reacted wholesmely to it.

"If the Lokka is so confident", post - mortemed an MP in the parliamentary restaurant.

"then he will walk through".

As statisticians have worked it out, the voting registers have eight million voters on their lists. Of these six million are expected turn up at the presidential poll. Of the six million votes, the UNP must poll over three million to win.

Sri Lanka has a very high parliamentary election voting percentage. In 1977 the polls registered nearly 86 per cent voters. The average has always been in the region of 80 per cent.

In the last general election (1977) the UNP collected nearly 52 per cent of the votes and the SLEF around 31 per cent. So it is against this backdrop that the presidential election will be viewed.

But this will be the first presidential election and it will be fought out on a proportional representation basis. The first time elections were held on a PR basis was for the district development councils, which the UNP swamped. But then the SLEF did not participate.

The minorities, comprising 20 per cent of the population, will play a key role in tilting the scales one way or another. The Tamils dominate the north, east, north - east and a good slice of the north - west. How will they vote?

Contrary to popular speculation, the TULF will not field a candidate. And that should be a fair pointer to the Tamil vote.

Efforts are being made to pressurise the TULF to enter the arena. But the

TULF strategy is to build the future of those living in the Tamil-dominated areas on their district councils.

To do this it cannot cross swords either with the UNP or the SLEF, because whichever party comes into power will be in charge of the purse strings till the areas are developed.

This is the main reason behind the TULF resuming its dialogue with the UNP. It had a meeting with the President and his ministers last Wednesday and from all reports, it was not quite a bed of roses.

These "dialogue" pow - wows are not always peaceful chats. The TULF has a powerful team of lawyers, headed by the alert A.Amirthalingam and the sedate M.Sivasithamparam. Both, and indeed the rest, are watch - dogs, even labelled as agitators.

The UNP headed by the ice - cool President, the tactful Prime Minister, the Eastern Province's not - always - meek Minister K.W.Devanayagam, Min-

isters Lalith, who is the legal eagle, and land chief Gamini (for land problems) — the UNP heavyweights in fact — watch government interests.

President Jayewardene it is who always applies the brakes and the balm when things tend to hot up as they did last Wednesday.

The TULF, understandably, having secured a toe — hold in the Eastern Province, is all out to get a strangle — hold on that area. Equally understandably, UNP veteran Bill Devanayagam, himself a lawyer and Home Minister, like a modern — day Horatius guards the Eastern Fort, which is his preserve.

Both he and the TULF had it out last Wednesday, no quarter asked, no quarter given. Reportedly the Home Minister came to the rescue of a high-ranking government officer in a Tamilian area, not in the Eastern Province. He defended a subordinate of his Ministry whom the TULF accused of being a UNPer.

The sparks flew and, like the Biblical Solomon (or Daniel) the President sorted things out, judiciously. Six of one and half — a dozen of the other.

TULFers grudgingly agree that the President is eminently fair and has been solicitous about their grievances. He had earlier

agreed that the government officers in the north should be replaced by Tamils and the switch was on. But the sudden outburst of senseless violence in Jaffna has halted the trend.

But the TULF came a cropper when it struggled to get the anti — Terrorist Act amended or repealed, obviously with Kuttimani (as well as others) in view.

The President stood fast. Nothing doing, he said, no tampering with the law.

The Muslims are traditionally UNPers. And although UNP critics argue that the Galle riots have eroded their vote, Muslim UNPers argue that their community benefited most from the UNP. Also their rich, who have flourished under the government, always help their less fortunate brothers. So their vote will be with the UNP.

The minorities are looking for "a sanctuary government" under which they can live without fear and under which they can be economically stable. Both the Tamils and Muslims are not gamblers. They like safe bets.

A single party, argue their spokesmen, is safer than a six-headed coalition, which is neither welded nor cemented by a common program. Could such a coalition be trusted, they ask.

Common candidate

Those who felt that Colvin was striding ahead as common candidate are no longer that confident.

Anura is being jockeyed round the bend stealthily by Sirima to oust Kobbe-kaduwe, who would eventually have been scratched.

Rohana Wijeweera has announced that he is the JVP candidate. He hopes to have a half-course handicap by announcing that he will forsake a salary. In saying so he has forsaken any chance of even being a starter, because the salaried people are jittery. They will also have to work without a salary!

And when almost on to the last lap of common candidate choice, all parties are tripping on the common program track of Colvin.

However, till judgement is delivered on the Amendments, let's hold our horses till August 26 when Parliament will be summoned to finalise the Third Amendment.

Then we will all know where we stand!

Loss of memory

Bashed by the blows she is receiving, Mrs. Bandaranaike has understandably lost her balance — and, it seems, her memory!

She was involved recently in two denials. One in regard to an interview she gave Salamat Ali of the "Far Eastern Economic Review" which appeared in that heavyweight Asian weekly on June 18. The other is a denial that she gave Indian news magazine, "Probe", an interview in which she was alleged to have stated that Iraq financed the JVP.

Her denial of the "Review" interview really deals with "what she meant to say" as against what she said. In fact what emerges from her denial or explanation is that what she said is different from what she meant to say.

Maybe in future Mrs. Bandaranaike will say what she means. Whether she means what she says is another matter!

Her outright denial of her interview to "Probe" is quite a shocker kicking up the question, "Did 'Probe' fabricate the interview?" If it did, then Mrs. Bandaranaike must probe "Probe" and sue it for uttering falsehoods. "Probe" should not be allowed to get away with it.

TULF POSITION REMAINS UNDECIDED

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 29 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

THE General Council of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) which met at Trincomalee yesterday resolved that the TULF should meet on September 15 to decide upon its course of action regarding the Presidential election.

The Island learns that the legal secretary of the TULF Mr. S. C. Chandradasan argued that the Front should boycott the forthcoming Presidential elections while the President of the TULF Mr. M. Sivasithamparam proposed that they should support the common Presidential candidate as envisaged by the opposition parties.

Thereafter the 170-man General Council determined that the decision on Presidential elections would be taken on September 15.

Meanwhile the General Council also deliberated on the proposal to establish a seven-member politbureau to oversee TULF affairs.

The senior parliamentarian of the TULF, the Chavakachcheri MP Mr. V. N. Navaratnam propounded the case for a politbureau elected on secret ballot.

The Trincomalee TULF branch proposed that the first three members elected should abstain from holding parliamentary office. The Council resolved that a decision on the politbureau should be taken on October 10.

The TULF also held a public meeting at the Trincomalee esplanade yesterday to explain the party's position on current affairs.

CSO: 4220/359

TULF TO HAVE SEVEN MAN POLITBUREAU

Colombo SUN in English 28 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front is to have a seven member politbureau to carry out its political strategy in future.

A motion to this effect is to be moved when the 140-strong general council of the TULF meets today at the residence of the MP for Trincomalee R. Sampanthan.

The Chavakachcheri branch of the TULF has given notice of this motion in the name of the MP for Chavakachcheri V. N. Navaratnam.

According to the motion, a seven-member politbureau should be elected by secret ballot by the general council, one month ahead of the annual convention of the party.

Any future political action should be launched with the approval of the politbureau which should meet fortnightly.

Upto now the policy-making body of the TULF has been its general council. But according to TULF circles, important decisions are taken by the high command of the party without summoning the general council. This would cease once the politbureau is set up.

Another amendment recommending the establishment of district nomination boards to select candidates for parliamentary, development council and local elections will also be moved at this general meeting (0034).

CSO: 4220/360

TULF URGED TO BOYCOTT ELECTIONS

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 3 Sep 82 pp 1, 3

[Article by D. B. S. Jeyaraj]

[Text]

Pressure is mounting within the TULF's radical group to declare a 'positive boycott' of the forthcoming Presidential elections.

These radicals wish to ensure the complete abstinence of the Tamil voter by launching an intensive pre-Presidential election campaign in the North and East.

'We will go from house to house and call upon the Tamils to refrain from voting', stated TULF radicals who went on to say that they would hold religious observances at places of worship in the Tamil areas on election day.

The General Council of the TULF will, however, meet on September 26, in Jaffna and take an official decision on the election.

At the last meeting of the TULF General Council held at Trincomalee last week, the party decided not to field a candidate of its own. The majority of the Council had wanted a boycott of the elections. The decision on the line the party was to adopt, however, had been deferred.

The radical TULF members feel that a mere statement calling on the Tamils to boycott elections would not be enough and wished to ensure a complete and effective

boycott of the elections.

Meanwhile, 'The Island' learns that discussions have been held by the TULF with the UNP, SLFP (both sections) and the LSSP.

They had discussed the question of TULF support at the Presidential elections. Different individuals and groups from the TULF participated in the talks.

TULF sources, however, told 'The Island' that, so far, nothing substantial had materialised from these talks. These sources said that although the question of TULF support for another political party was still 'open', the mood of the General Council was in favour of a boycott.

The TULF is unable to support the JVP although that party supports the principle of 'self-determination'. The TULF feels that it has exercised that right in 1977 while the JVP does not agree, the sources said.

The chances of supporting the Tamil Congress candidate Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam, too, is very remote, as at the Trincomalee meeting some TULF sections had wanted a statement to be released calling upon the Tamils not to vote for the Tamil Congress.

CSO: 4220/360

TULF WILL NOT CONTEST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Colombo SUN in English 30 Aug 82 p 3

[Article by Sinniah Gurunathan]

[Text]

TRINCOMALEE: TULF MPs and the members of the General Council yesterday decided not to field a candidate at the forthcoming Presidential election. This decision was taken at a meeting held at the residence of Trincomalee MP R. Sambanthan.

The meeting was presided by the MP for Nallur M. Sivasithambaram. All TULF MPs were present except Mulaitivu MP H. M. Sellathambu. Out of the 141 members of the General Council 78 were present.

At the commencement of the meeting the Secretary General of the TULF and leader of the opposition A. Amirthalingam introduced a motion, that the TULF should not put forward

a candidate for a Presidential election and not to support any candidate including the Tamil candidate Kumar Pon-nambalam.

Mr. Chandrasen proposed that the TULF must boycott the Presidential election and ask the Tamil voters to boycott the election. The majority of the MPs and the members of the General Council were in favour of the motion.

After a long discussion, it was decided to have a special general meeting by mid September to take a final decision on the matter.

A decision for the setting of a politbureau was taken up for discussion and later put off for another meeting. -- (0034).

CSO: 4220/360

KUMAR BIDS FOR TULF BACKING

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 3 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

The General Secretary of the Tamil Congress Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam is willing to come forward as an Independent Presidential Candidate if the TULF will support him.

Mr. Ponnambalam told 'The Island' that he was trying to get TULF Secretary-General Mr. A. Amirthalingam and the CWC General Secretary Mr. M. S. Sellasamy to sign his nomination papers.

Mr. Ponnambalam said that he would come forward as an Independent Candidate if the TULF and the CWC had qualms about supporting him as a Tamil Congress Candidate.

'Since there seems to be a mental block in these parties towards supporting a Tamil Congress candidate, I will be an Independent Candidate if they wish' he said.

CSO: 4220/360

TULF MAY OPPOSE UNP

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 19 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by D.B.S Jeyaraj]

[Text]

The Chief Parliamentary Opposition party, the TULF is likely to oppose the UNP at the forthcoming Presidential elections.

Political observers feel that in view of the strained relationship between the UNP and the TULF, the latter would either support a common Opposition candidate or field a candidate of its own at the elections.

The General Council of the TULF will meet at Trincomalee on August 28 and decide on its stand at the Presidential elections.

Political observers have been surprised at the recent transformation of UNP-TULF relations during the past few weeks.

The TULF is said to be overtly concerned about the Government's reluctance in bringing an amendment to the Prevention of Terrorism Act so as to remedy a present anomaly in the law which provides for a person to be punished under the Penal Code without certain provisions of the Evidence Ordinance being made applicable. TULF sources said that they were pained that the Government had not done

so. The TULF Working Committee too, had called for the complete repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance.

Meanwhile, 'The Island' learns that the primary objective of the 'high-level Committee' talks which was to empower the DDCs, too, is not likely to bear fruit immediately. All indications are that the regulations granting powers to the DDCs will be gazetted only after the Presidential elections. This delay, too, seems to have irked the TULF considerably.

Another problem is the UNP-TULF tussle at the Batticaloa DDC which has resulted in a stalemate as far as development is concerned.

The Communist Party had earlier written to the TULF about discussions regarding a Common candidate on four conditions. The TULF at that stage was not intending to field a candidate. However, the entry of Kumar Ponnambalam into the Presidential fray and the deterioration in UNP-TULF relations will pave the way for a TULF re-think on the Presidential issue, predict political observers.

CSO: 4220/338

BETTER SECURITY PLANNED FOR DIPLOMATS

Colombo SUN in English 16 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Chris Dharmakirti]

[Text]

A multitude of details concerning Colombo's diplomatic community is now being compiled by the Foreign Ministry.

The data will go to the new Anti Terrorist Squad that has been set up to provide heightened security for the diplomatic community.

The details sought include particulars of building plans of offices and residences of Colombo based diplomatic personnel their addresses, vehicles they use, the schools their children attend etc. Details of their existing security arrangements too are being sought.

According to informed sources all these details will be held by the new Anti-Terrorist Squad which will function on the lines of Italy's "Teste di Cuoio", nick-named the Leatherheads after their daring rescue operation of US Brigadier, James Dozier, from a hideout in Padua.

Personnel of the new squad will move into action whenever incidents involving embassies or their personnel are reported to police, the same sources added.

The new squad comes under the personal charge of Edward Gunawardena, DIG (Metropolitan) and assisted by Mahesan Selvaratnam, Commissioner of Police and M. Shanmugam, Superintendent of Police.

CSO: 4220/338

CALM RETURNS TO GALLE

Colombo SUN in English 16 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Trevine Rodrigo]

[Text]

A state of normalcy has returned to the city of Galle following an outbreak of violence in the area some weeks ago.

The clashes which spread throughout the town and in suburban areas left an aftermath of destroyed houses, some deaths and a number of injured.

A special delegations appointed by Prime Minister R. Premadasa and a representative of Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed visited Duwa, one of the affected areas, in which 35 fleeing families had sought refuge in the premises of a mosque following attacks on them.

The mission of this delegation was to provide temporary relief to the affected families in the areas, mostly Muslims, who had been cooped up in a small structure for the past 16 days.

Colombo's Deputy Mayor Hussein Mohamed, representing his father M. H. Mohamed, presented Rs. 125,000 in cash which was to be distributed to these families—Rs. 2,000 for home re-building and Rs. 1,000 in cash.

The majority of the families however told the donors that with the money allocated by these voluntary organisations, it was impossible for them to put up structures or even sheds

on their own as they lacked the knowhow to do so. They therefore requested that a long shed be erected, which could be partitioned to house all of them together.

After much deliberation, it was decided that provision would be made to house all these families in one place as requested, and the task was handed over to the Galle Municipality.

The decision was arrived at by Galle MP W. Dahanayake and District Minister Rupa Karunatilake in consultation with high ranking Muslim representatives.

The delegation headed by F. A. Yassen, handed over 263 parcels containing mostly clothing to 39 affected families in the area. Mr. Yassen was Premier Premadasa's representative.

A cheque for 25,000 rupees from the President's Fund was also added to the contribution to be distributed among these families.

A proposal to acquire 10 acres of land for the rehabilitation of all victims in the area is under study in a long term plan drawn up by the government. This is to be built up into a model village.

The payment of full compensation to victims is also being assessed.

CSO: 4220/338

PRESIDENT EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Sirimal Abeyewardene]

[Text] President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday discussed details of the crime picture countrywide with senior defence ministry and police officials and stressed the need for concerted action to bring hardcore criminals to book.

Mr. J. R. Jayewardene noted that there had been an increase of gang robberies and hold-ups in recent months and called for positive action to deal with this problem.

Present at yesterday's meeting were Deputy Defence Minister T B Werapitiya. Defence Secretary C. A. Dharmapala, IGP Rudra Rajasingham and DIGs R. Sundera. lingam (Crimes, Operations and Ranges) and R. Rajaguru who is responsible for the Northern Range.

Discussing criminal activity in the North the President required the police to do their best to contain lawlessness, be it terrorism or ordinary crime.

Set up special investigation units where necessary to deal swiftly and effectively with all crime, he ordered

The IGP said that the force was doing its best to prevent and contain crime. The [letters illegible] had been several recent arrests in different police divisions that had enabled the authorities to crack many cases that had long remained unsolved on police records.

The police apprised the President, who is also Defence Minister that prosecutions tended to snag in the courts with the country, 52 Magistrates finding it difficult to cope with their work load.

That resulted in some bad hats out on bail committing crimes.

The IGP said that joint patrols by the police and the military had proved effective with several good arrests made.

It was agreed that the prisons authorities be asked to keep hard core criminals away from other prisoners in the remand jails It is believed that exposure of hardened criminals to relative newcomers into the crime scene results in the plotting of many big crimes.

POLICE TO TAKE STERNER ACTION IN JAFFNA

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 18 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

Vigilance Committees are to be organized in all villages of the Jaffna district in a bid to curb the rising incidence of violence in the area, said Mr. M. S. M. Nizam A.S.P. (Crimes) Jaffna Police, at the press conference recently.

The A.S.P. further said that "crime is on the increase. The houses of the public and shops are being burgled".

Some of the vigilance committees now in operation are a great help and are working in co-operation with the police.

The vigilance committees will be very useful in apprehending the culprits, he added.

The ASP further said that the mini buses go against the Motor Traffic Act and transport passengers on the foot boards, and on the rear of the vehicles.

Owing to overloading the mini buses they meet with accidents, he pointed out.

Stern action will be taken against the drivers and passengers who do not adhere to the Motor Traffic Act, he said.

Stern action will also be taken against motor cyclists and pillion riders who flout the law while cyclists who ride abreast will be arrested, the A.S.P. said.

The police will also take action against drivers who don't keep to the one way lane rule.

CSO: 4220/338

INTERNATIONAL COUNTERFEITER OPERATIONS

Colombo SUN in English 16 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Aruna Kulatunga]

[Text]

Has an internationally organised ring of counterfeiters found Sri Lanka an easy dumping ground for their forgeries?

CID men now probing a spate of detections of forged foreign currency notes, over the past three months, are examining this possibility.

The discovery of these notes, particularly counterfeit dollars and dirhams, has led the CID detectives to suspect that the work may be the brain-child of an organised counterfeiting ring with international connections.

One of the most recent detections of forged foreign currency was made recently by a Hong Kong broker of the Bank of Ceylon. He is said to have returned a large amount of dollar notes and United Arab Emirates dirham notes (amounting to Rs. 150,000). They had been sent to him by the Bank of Ceylon to be remitted to its branch in London.

According to CID sources, Sri Lankan cashiers are not experienced enough in handling foreign currency to distinguish forged notes from the genuine ones.

However, West Asian employees and an increasing number of tourists are pouring in a massive amount of foreign currency to the country, thereby creating a situation where international racketeers have been able to move in and exploit the weakness of our cashiers, these sources stated.

REWARDS POSTED FOR 'TIGERS' IN NORTH

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by D.B.S. Jeyaraj]

[Text]

Three posters offering rewards to those who supply information leading to the arrest of eleven suspects wanted in connection with terrorist offences have been pasted in the North.

A top Police spokesman said that these men were supposed to be members of the 'Tiger' group headed by Prabhakaran who is currently on conditional bail in India.

The spokesman said that the men were wanted in connection with the recent shooting at Nelliaddi which resulted in the death of four policemen.

The spokesman also said that some of these men had been already proclaimed as 'most wanted men' by Gazette notification in connection with the Neervely Bank robbery of Rs.8.1 million.

An interesting feature, however, is that one of the wanted men, Sivakumar alias Raghavan was arrested

by the Madras Police and is on conditional bail there.

Of the posters, one offers Rs.1 lakh for information regarding Pradeepan alias Rajapillai Sundararaj of Valveddithurai and another Rs.25,000 for information regarding Nediyaikadu Santhiran and Pathmanathan alias 'Kutti Master'.

The third poster offers Rs.50,000 for information regarding 8 persons, viz: Kugan Sabaratnam alias Sunderam, Kulasegaram alias Thevan, Paarthasarathy alias Thevan, Sathiyathan alias Sankar, Santhalingam alias Shanti, Sivakumar alias Raghavan and Selvendran alias Ravi.

The recent incidents of assault and arson alleged to have been committed by certain 'khaki' clad persons are also said to have occurred mainly in areas where these wanted men were living earlier.

CSO: 4220/337

TULF CALLS FOR END TO ANTI TERRORIST ACT

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 18 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

A RESOLUTION calling for the cancellation of the "Anti-Terrorist Act" and the inquiries and actions taken on this act has been adopted by the TULF Executive Committee at its meeting held at its President, Mr. M. Sivasithamparam, MP's house at Nallur last Saturday.

The meeting was presided by Mr. M. Sivasithamparam, MP, President of the TULF.

Mr. A. Amirthalingam, MP, Opposition Leader, Pundit K. P. Ratnam, MP Kayts, Mr. K. Thurairatnam, MP Point Pedro, Mr. V. Tharmalingam, MP Manipay, Mr. K. Rajalingam, MP Udupiddy, Mr. I. T. Sambanthan, Mr. K. Thangathurai, Mr. S. Vel Murugu, Mr. N. T. Selladurai and Mr. Mavi Senathirajah were present at the meeting.

The resolution states that when the accused is found guilty on the inquiry based on the statement given by the accused to the police which statement cannot be taken against an accused in the ordinary crime act, the accused should not be condemned to death. This kind of policy has been accepted in all acts brought in to control sudden situation as this.

The greatest fault of the Terrorist Act is that death penalty can be enforced under the Terrorist Act for crimes committed before July 1969, when it is accepted, that there is no death sentence for crimes committed under the Terrorist Act before the date of enforcement of the Act. This fault has been pointed out to the government many times and even though the government accepted to correct it the government has not done so.

As such this committee requests the government to cancel the Terrorist Act which the International Jurors have condemned as an Act more cruel than the Oppression Act in South Africa.

This Committee requests the government to adopt an act to stop all inquiries conducted under the Terrorist Act and proclaim that all inquiries conducted so far under the Terrorist Act are "null and void", the resolution adopted at the TULF Executive meeting adds.

It was also decided to hold a protest public meeting of the TULF at Veerasingam Hall, Jaffna on the 22nd of this month.

CSO: 4220/338

ARMED YOUTHS ATTACK EXAMINATION CENTERS

Colombo SUN in English 21 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Tyronne Devotta and K. Arasaratnam]

[Text] Gun toting youths who Police believe are terrorists stormed two GCE (A/L) examination centres in the north yesterday, tore off question papers and left with the admission cards of a few students.

The first incident had occurred at Kanagaratnam Maha Vidyalaya, Jaffna around 7.30 a.m. yesterday. Three youths, two of them carrying revolvers and the third armed with a machine gun had entered the examination centre, pulled off a set of Physics question papers and torn them.

An hour later the same group is said to have gone to Kopay Vidyalayam and resorted to the same act. They had also taken the admission cards of a few students.

W.B. Rajaguru, Deputy Inspector-General of Police (North) who is stationed in Jaffna rushed to the two examination centres along with Richard Wijesekera, SP. They later ensured the smoother conduct of the examination.

In Colombo, the Commissioner of Examinations, Gunapala Wickremaratne, told 'SUN' he had called for a full report from his officials in the north. He said no official report had yet reached him.

Mr Wickremaratne also contacted R. Sunderalingam, DIG (Crimes, Operations and Ranges) in order to work out tighter security measures for the examination centres.

Police sources said investigations were now underway to ascertain the motive for yesterday's incident.

Police believe it has coincided with a protest day reportedly organised by the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF) calling upon the Government to withdraw the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act.

However, the protest day which included a call for businessmen in Jaffna to close shops has been a failure.

Besides Police protection at examination centres, joint Police-Army patrols are to be introduced from Monday in areas in the north where the examinations are going on.

In view of the ongoing state of emergency, all measures necessary for the smoother conduct of the examination will be taken, the sources added.

CSO: 4220/351

FOREIGN TRAINED TERRORIST SOUGHT

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 29 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

Security forces in the North are now on the trail of a foreign-trained terrorist sex-pervert. He, according to Defence Ministry sources, has been responsible for two cases of sexual assault during the last few weeks.

'The Island' learns that a 14 year old boy from Puttur was sexually assaulted last week by an unidentified person. A group of youths had forced this boy at gun-point to go to a secluded spot where he had been sexually assaulted. The act had been so brutal that the boy was admitted to hospital.

Defence Ministry sources told 'The Island' that a few weeks earlier another boy and a 13 year old girl had been assaulted and raped in the same manner.

These sources said that they had information that a few youths who had undergone training in PLO Camps in Lebanon were now operating in the North. Homosexuality had been more-or-less accepted as a way of life in those camps, these sources said.

The foreign-trained terrorist is also suspected of being the master-mind behind the Nelliadi shooting which resulted in the deaths of four Policemen.

CSO: 4220/359

TAMIL TERRORISTS TRAIN IN INDIA

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 2 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by D. B. S. Jeyaraj]

[Text]

Two Jaffna youths allegedly involved in guerrilla operations in the North-Eastern Indian State of Assam are reported to have been shot dead by Indian forces.

Defence Ministry sources told 'The Island' that sleuths engaged in investigations into terrorism had received this information from a terrorist who had come back from India and is now under detention.

According to the information given by this person, a batch of 15 Northern youths had been taken to India via Talaimannar a few months ago.

These youths were recruited for training in guerrilla tactics in secret training camps in the Indian States of Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland. Those states which have strong separatist movements had had a continuing incidence of anti-Government guerrilla activities.

The Northern youths had received an initial phase of training

after which they had been required to participate in a guerrilla operation as a form of 'blooding' during which the two were shot by Indian security forces in a guerrilla skirmish in Assam.

Defence sources told 'The Island' that after the deaths of the two youths, one of the groups had returned to Sri Lanka and had been nabbed by Sri Lankan security forces.

The 15 youths had been recruited by terrorists under the guise of recruitment for employment.

Defence sources said that they were now trying to obtain confirmation of the information obtained through appropriate channels.

These sources said that the link-up would have been with the All-Assamese Students Union which is responsible for sustained campaign of agitation for the slogan 'Assam for the Assamese'.

CSO: 4220/359

NEW TERRORISTIC METHODS REPORTED

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 19 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Norman Palihawadana]

[Text]

The latest plan by terrorists of the Northern Province is to plant fake bombs along with lethal ones, according to CID sources.

This plan had been discovered by CID investigators after a bomb explosion at the Main Street, Jaffna killing an employee of an undertakers' establishment on Monday night.

Earlier in the day two parcels of faked bombs had been discovered at the post off at Karinagar, and at Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya in Jaffna respectively, the same source said.

CID investigators believe that the fake bombs had been placed in order to mislead the police and the army and to make them think that all bombs were duds and when real bombs were planted, the authorities would handle them carelessly believing them to be duds.

The bomb explosion on Monday took place at a point where police patrols meet during their night rounds, according to police sources.

CSO: 4220/338

EDITORIAL DISAGREES WITH TAMIL DEATH SENTENCES

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 16 Aug 82 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

It looks as if Kuttimani and Jegan, the two Tamil youths who were last week sentenced to death by the Colombo High Court over the murder of a police constable are well on their way to becoming folk heroes in the Tamil pantheon.

This is the first time that some members of the Northern terrorist movement have been tried and convicted in the country, and the death sentence passed on the two young men will naturally generate a sense of heroic sympathy among the Tamil people. Already the Tamil United Liberation Front has commended the 'courage, heroism and sacrifice' of the two and in the wake of the conviction, called for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act under which they were tried.

Anarchistic terror has historically been a weapon used all over the world and the attitude towards such methods naturally vary depending on the perspective from which one looks at the question. To the hard-core Eelamist, the terrorists will be liberation fighters, folk heroes, cult figures. To the rest of society, they will be terrorists using violent methods to achieve political ends. But the fact is that individual acts of dare devilry have never achieved broad political objectives anywhere in the world and the presence of such a band of persons whose openly professed credo is political violence cannot but disrupt the social fabric.

It is in this context that the whole problem has to be viewed.

No right-thinking person in this day and age would seriously dispute the fact that the Tamil people do labour under a sense of accumulated grievance. This is the end-product of a certain degree of indifference shown by successive governments, the rise of Sinhala chauvinism and the resultant alienation of the Tamil people from the mainstream of national life.

Indeed, this fact was recognised by no less a body than the UNP itself in its election manifesto at the last general elections.

But such basically political problems can only be solved by political methods. What happened in the North was that the accumulated grievances built up into a sense of bitter disenchantment which drove hundreds of youth into embracing violent methods of protest. Thus was born the clandestine movement named the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, in a sense the Northern counterpart of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act was promulgated when the acts of violence perpetrated by the terrorists had almost pushed the social fabric to a point where it was faced with the imminent threat of being torn asunder. Drastic problems need drastic solutions and the Prevention of Terrorism Act was the answer to the burgeoning Northern anarchism. It has been criticised by human rights votaries and foreign jurists but the fact remains that it was enacted in a situation where the tide of violence was threatening to inundate society.

In this context, the repeal of the Act at this stage will hardly solve the problem. Terrorism in the North has still to be totally quelled and the repeal of the Act will only give rise to a further round of violence by euphoric terrorists. It must also be borne in mind that the country cannot afford another outburst of terroristic violence. Elections are to be held shortly and it is imperative that the elections should be held in a climate where the people are able to cast their votes without fear. This is hardly the time when the country can risk any disruption of the social order.

What is necessary is not to repeal the Act but to explore the possibility of offering a political solution to the problem. Terrorism is the result of the alienation of the Tamil people from the rest of society and one cannot eliminate the result without first eliminating the cause.

The monthly talks between the TULF and the Government was the vehicle so far adopted for such a political solution but for some months now it has not been very clear what point the talks have reached. The whole talks centered on the implementation of the Development Councils but the news from Batticaloa where the operation of the Development Council there has virtually come to a standstill because of squabbling between the UNP and TULF members is not a happy portent for the future. There is again the risk of the TULF turning its face away from the mainstream of politics in the country.

On the opposite pole there are signs of a resurgence of Sinhala Buddhist militancy. All these facts signal the advent of a troubled period for communal relations in the country. It is, therefore, imperative that not only the Government but all political parties now wrapped up in grand visions of capturing the Presidency, through a common onslaught, give their minds to offering a political solution to the long festering national question.

On both sides of the communal barricades political leaders must resolve to abandon petty prejudices and dangerous rhetoric and approach the problem with the seriousness which it deserves.

EDITORIAL CONCERNED ABOUT ARMS THEFTS

Colombo SUN in English 28 Aug 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Law & Order"]

[Text]

The police are understandably getting jittery about the latest spate of robberies of firearms and explosives in the country. And the Defence Ministry has reportedly ordered an immediate investigation into this most dangerous trend.

For, Lanka once before experienced the bitter taste of spontaneous violence when the government in power at the time was taken unawares by anarchist elements.

According to informed police sources a sudden increase of robberies of firearms has been recorded in provincial towns.

Although the general pattern has been that such robberies were concentrated in the north where terrorists are active, some of the recent thefts have taken place in the Southern and North Central Provinces.

The latest discovery made by police is that some of the licensed firearms owners have rented their weapons for a fee, while holding on to their licences. The police have lost no time in taking a count of

all licensed firearms. They must not only ascertain who the unauthorised users are, but also why they need these guns and explosives — in such a mighty hurry.

With an oncoming election in a few weeks time or so, the police and the other forces must be extremely vigilant. Sinister and diabolic forces are apparently burning the midnight oil hatching satanic plots to create chaos and confusion — for that is the only way the bankrupt elements could gain an upper hand and terrorise the people and their democratically elected government.

Besides the political aspect, the authorities must also look out for habitual criminals trying to take advantage by resorting to miscellaneous crimes against innocent people, thus aggravating the law and order situation in the country.

There have been several incidents in the provinces that should be viewed with utmost seriousness by the law enforcers. For instance the acid fight between two leftist gangs and the fiascos at Badulla and Bandaragama should

not be overlooked as routine affairs.

Even the increased incidence of highway robberies recently by armed gangs must be probed with utmost diligence. They may well be done with a view to amass funds for political purposes by those who eschew violence.

The coming weeks are very crucial indeed and the law enforcers have a grave responsibility in maintaining law and order. The people themselves must rally round to help them perform their duties and safeguard them from the miscreants.

CSO: 4220/360

EXHAUSTION OF IMPORT RESERVES FORESEEN

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 17 Aug 82 pp 1, 3

[Text]

A World Bank report titled 'The Economic Adjustment in Sri Lanka: Issues and Prospects', has sounded a grim warning that Sri Lanka's gross reserves by the end of 1983 would amount to only four weeks of imports and would be exhausted in early 1984. The Report says that this fate will await Sri Lanka if there are no borrowings beyond those already identified and if the remaining gaps are financed from international reserves. But if these gaps are covered by commercial borrowings, the debt service burden will rise sharply.

The World Bank has warned Sri Lanka that the present low debt service ratio of about 8 per cent will increase to over 26 per cent by 1986. The Bank says that while this figure is relatively high compared to most developing countries, it should be noted that exports themselves, at 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are also high compared to most low-income countries. Thus, the ratio of debt service to exports on its own tends to understate the true burden of debt service on the economy.

The World Bank report says that these debt service projections also assume that Sri Lanka's current account deficit would have been

reduced sufficiently by that time to enable it to cover its debt repayments without having to resort to new commercial borrowings.

But what would the position be if this does not happen? There would then be a need for fresh borrowings to repay existing debts, thus, leading to a vicious cycle of ever-increasing borrowings to repay existing debts.

The World Bank report states: 'While Sri Lanka could, thus, stave off an early foreign exchange crisis through heavy commercial borrowings, this strategy, too, must inevitably fail, forcing severe economic hardship upon the country'.

The World Bank points out that over the past four years, Sri Lanka's total external public debt (disbursed and undisbursed) has increased by over 150 per cent. Sri Lanka's decision to begin commercial borrowing on a significant scale has also changed the composition of the total debt. The level of disbursed and undisbursed suppliers credits (including official export credits) and loans by financial institutions (mainly Eurodollar borrowings) increased almost seven-fold between December 1978 and December 1981.

The difference in commercial

debt is that it is of shorter maturity than official development aid and most of it carries commercial rates of interest. The rates are certainly favourable to Sri Lanka but the fact remains that they have to be paid back in a short period.

In addition to what has already been borrowed, the Government is expected to need US Dollars 100 million for budget financing in 1982 and another US Dollars 150 million for the balance of payments gap in 1982 and 1983.

The US Dollars 404 million in outstanding IMF credit will have to be repaid between 1982 and 1991. There is also US dollars 180 million in outstanding short term trade credits, which are adding about US dollars 20 - 30 million annually to the debt service bill.

There are two other items which could be considered 'Quasi-debt service', says the World Bank. These are the lease payments on the two new Lockheed aircraft purchased by Air Lanka which will have to be repaid over the next 12 years and the profit and dividend remittances abroad which are in the region of US dollars 10 million annually and are expected to grow steadily.

CSO: 4220/337

DEVELOPED NATIONS REFUSING FURTHER AID

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 30 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

Our country is facing a severe financial crisis. Already the government is in debt to the tune of over Rs. 8,000 million. Therefore the developed countries are refusing to give further the aid to Sri Lanka. In order to avoid the repurcussion the UNP government is attempting to hold general election and Presidential Elections before the due date. The down trodden masses will teach them a good lesson when the elections are held." said Mr. Athauda Seneviratne, former MP for Ruwanwella at a meeting held at the Vani Vidyalaya Nawalapitiya recently.

Mr. Lal Wijenaikie Attorney-at-Law and Chief LSSP organiser for Nawalapitiya presided at this meeting.

Mr. Seneviratne added that by any chance if the UNP comes back

to power the masses will undergo severe hardship. The government is seriously thinking of abolishing the free education, free medical facilities and to increase the prices of fuel. Therefore the time has come for the masses to decide their future in a way which will benefit them.

Mr. Lal Wijenaikie speaking said for the last few months the intellectuals, Maha sanga, teachers, workers and peasants requested the party and Dr. Colvin R. de silva to come forward as the opposition's Presidential candidate. They feel that it is only Colvin who could boldly challenge the incumbent President.

Therefore the masses should organise themselves immediately as elections are due soon.

Messers. S. Ramanujan, K. Navaratne and others spoke at this meeting.

CSO: 4220/359

PRESIDENT TO APPOINT ECONOMIC MONITORING COMMITTEE

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 2 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

The Government has decided to appoint a number of high level expert committees to be charged with the responsibility of keeping a finger on the pulse of the commanding heights of the national economy

The members of these committees, who will monitor the working of areas of vital economic importance, make suggestions and recommendations and serve in an advisory capacity, will be appointed by the President.

"The fact that these will be presidential appointments is an index of their importance", an authoritative official source said yesterday.

The following areas will come within the purview of the proposed committees: tourism,

plantation industries, agriculture and animal husbandry, fisheries, export promotion, technical training, population, power and energy, the GCEC, administrative reforms, industrial policy etc.

The proposal that these committees be appointed was made recently by Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel.

Other areas of activity for monitoring by these committees, comprising technical and other experts at a high level, may be identified later, sources said.

CSO: 4220/360

COLUMNIST VIEWS ECONOMIC SITUATION

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 21 Aug 82 p 6

[Article by C. Rajasingham]

[Text]

SRI LANKA has never had it so good. The rainfall of currency notes has taken the form of a deluge. Unemployment, the biggest problem facing the country since living memory, has been sought to be solved through this deluge. Our 'economic' thinking over recent times has so far only declined to the level of being a constraint to progress. When we think of the progressive substitution of capital for labour we have begun the process of multiplying worthless currency.

There is a 'mathematical' precision in the way we have formulated our monetary policies bringing it altogether within the confines of sophisticated econometric models. Keynes has already cautioned about this:

"Too large a portion of recent 'mathematical' economics are mere concoctions, as imprecise as the initial assumptions they rest on, which allow the author to lose sight of the complications and interdependencies of the real world in a maze of pretentious and unhelpful symbols.

In all our theorising we have left out the *Man* in every man even if we have no time for these introspections. But the economic man of our times is a consumer of sorts and must increase his consumption as his income increases. The Sri Lankan community, as all modern communities are, has the propensity to consume. Like in metaphysics, every possibility of manifestation

has its roots in a corresponding possibility in the unmanifest, so the artificial stimulation of prosperity has its reverse in the gross presence of poverty and privation.

All the effort to sustain a sinking economy through foreign aid, joint venture arrangements with foreign investors, development of new technologies and sophisticated markets have had their opposite effects. There is more unemployment, environmental damage through pollution and less self-dependence than ever before.

The open economy and liberalisation policies, though it has led to a boom in company formation — an all-time record of 1,030 companies have been floated in 1981, says the Registrar of Companies — the cost-of-living and accompanying poverty have kept on escalating. Sri Lanka's total trade deficit in the first nine months of last year was Rs. 11,862 million or SDR 535 million. Wheat and sugar imports during 1981 alone totalled Rs. 3,444.9 million. Dependence on the vagaries of foreign imports has cost the country dear. For example the CIF price of a metric ton of sugar was Rs. 7,905 in 1980 which in 1981 shot up to Rs. 11,236 per metric ton.

The flood of petro-dollars into the country and foreign monies from expatriates is staggering. These have filled the holds of every Bank in the country flooding the scarce market

with essential and luxury commodities. The cleavage between haves and have-nots have widened at the same time causing the present monetary crisis.

The economic sophistications of our times have made thrift a sacred credo. The accumulation of savings today has in fact become anti-social in character causing economic instability. A nation which has ceased to produce cannot be depended on to save. When present consumption is starved, saving cannot take the place of future consumption.

In Sri Lanka the propensity to consume is the licence of the rich but to the vast majority it is denied because our currency is fast losing its value. The individual does not have any sufficient real income to combat the competition from foreign currencies flooding the country.

Produce

We had three crops — a legacy of colonial rule. Tea, rubber and coconut are today in the doldrums. The global recession, they say, has

hit tea and rubber. China is no longer interested in the latter because we will not buy rice from that country. From 1980 onwards the performance of tea has been dismal. Coconut too has joined suit.

People in Sri Lanka prefer the toddy to the fruit. Whole villages in the Coconut Triangle make only toddy to serve as base for a more potent illicit drink called 'kasippu'. That fills the pockets of enforcement officers whilst causing ruin to the physical and spiritual stamina of the people. Kasippu is also the cause of the nation's cultural degeneracy.

We have reached the lower order in all things including the economic which has deprived the country of all quality.

Even in that narrow field of economics we have chosen the lower term of concept and application and in that process reduced all reality to the most narrow sectarian and opportunistic levels.

The question has now arisen whether human nature is nothing but an economic nature. Our thinking today has been deprived of any qualitative distinction.

CSO: 4220/351

MALNUTRITION IS NUMBER ONE KILLER

Colombo SUN in English 27 Aug 82 p 7

[Article by Lucy Thompson]

[Text] One scourge that beleaguers many Third World nations and saps the vitality of the less-privileged classes especially children, is malnutrition. While hunger is the constant companion of the poor, serious malnutrition can also stem from gross ignorance particularly on the part of rural mothers who know little or nothing about nutrition.

Indeed, in their ignorance, most mothers feed their children on the wrong type of food, especially as they seek to relieve their children's hunger by serving up cheap, starchy items with very little food value and even less of vitamins which are essential for good health. The ultimate result of this exercise is severe malnutrition because carbohydrates like roti, pittu, boiled manioc and sweet potatoes with a little sambol cannot supply the protein and nutrition that a human body, especially that of a growing child, needs for normal and steady growth, maintenance and sound health and resistance to disease.

In catering to the needs of a family, a mother need not spend lavishly on meat and fish in her search for body-building protein for the children. Vegetable protein is much cheaper and just as valuable as animal protein. Foods like soya, dhal, beans and green gram all contain protein and vitamins. Even the lowly dambala which was the subject of much controversy recently is supposed to contain protein and minerals. The most important factor in popularising those items of food is the relatively low cost in comparison with what we must expend if we wish to feed our children on animal protein like meat, eggs, milk, fish, chicken, all of which are very expensive and beyond the reach of large numbers of our people.

So it would seem that poverty is the chief reason for the high prevalence of malnutrition in vast areas of Sri Lanka, with perhaps ignorance as the runner-up. With a steady improvement in the economic condition of the people at large, we may (hopefully) see a corresponding improvement in nutrition among the population, particularly school going children.

Ostrich-like Attitude

If the authorities choose to adopt an ostrich-like attitude towards so serious a problem like malnutrition, they will in the years to come have to face the outcome of such inertia which may be more serious than malnutrition itself. According to Dr Nihal de Silva, a brain biochemist attached to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, our traditional foods such as rice and curry, hoppers and pittu supply us with only a part of the nutrient requirements of the body and this is inadequate for brain nutrition and function.

The doctor has gone on to say that "taking in large amounts of empty calories and carbohydrates will only upset the brain metabolism. What is even more frightening is the prognosis that malnutrition in today's children would be evident in 15 or 20 years when "Sri Lanka will have many mental institutions." Such a warning should not go unheeded, especially as it comes from one of our own countrymen. Who wants to raise a nation of people who are physically enervated and mentally sick? Especially as the cause of such ill-health--malnutrition--can be eliminated right now--20 years before we need asylums!

Readers in their numbers will read about it all and gravely nod their heads, an indication perhaps, that they have taken cognisance of these stark facts, as no doubt they will certainly do; yet, what action will the authorities take to halt the downward turn that the nation's nutritional standards have taken in the last two decades? With the relentless march that malnutrition has made on our country, it can be termed public enemy number one, for it can sap the vitality of innumerable men, women and children, thereby reducing the entire population to weaklings who cannot cope with strenuous work, who are unable to participate meaningfully in development or contribute to the glorious task of nation-building, even if they sincerely wish to do so.

Food Stamps

True, in an effort to help the poorer sections of our society the government issues food stamps which help the indigent to obtain their foodstuffs, the purchase of which (in the absence of food stamps) would be beyond their means. The milk feeding centres which are being set up by the government with aid from Sweden are of immense value in providing nutrition for school children. The 13th Centre was opened recently by Minister Lalith Athulath-mudali. This free distribution of milk, a perfect food, should be appreciated by parents in their numbers who can avail themselves of this facility for their children who need extra nourishment. Another innovative step is the distribution of "kolakenda" among school children, by social workers.

This gruel or soup contains all the vitamins and minerals that are essential for good health and vitality and a cup of this soup taken every day helps to keep growing children, particularly students, not only strong but also alert to what's going on around them so that with inertia combated, they are able to imbibe knowledge readily.

Tripsha, fortified as it is with protein and vitamins, is invaluable for pre-school children. As this is a nutritious and relatively cheap item of food, it is of great help in eradicating malnutrition. Increasing numbers of rural folk rely on tripsha to supplement the diet of their children, especially the smaller ones. In our 'war' against malnutrition, emphasis must be laid on the importance of ensuring quicker and better transport of perishable food like vegetables, fruits and green, edible leaves from the producers in remote, farflung areas of the country to large numbers of consumers in urban districts where much more home-grown food is required than is available now. There should be a glut for prices to fall; when food is inexpensive, more people, even those who eke out a miserable existence on very slim resources, will find more food on their plates at mealtime. We need hardly stress that in the absence of an efficient transport service, large amounts of perishable food, especially vegetables and fruits, may deteriorate and by the time these reach the hungry consumers, they may even be unfit for human consumption. Therefore, reliable transport is essential if those who cultivate and sell food crops are to be successful in their enterprise.

CSO: 4220/351

EDITORIAL EXAMINES PLIGHT OF PLANTATION WORKERS

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 14 Aug 82 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE law's delays are a notorious reality which litigants have now come to accept almost fatalistically and they are nowhere dramatised more starkly than at Labour Tribunals where helpless workers are trapped for years by the unyielding legal machinery. When these workers are the plantation workers who are the poorest of the poor in the country the situation becomes all the more sad. "The Island" reported yesterday that a large number of cases filed by plantation workers against estate superintendents were pending judgment and that this was snarling up the process of repatriation.

Plantation workers have for long been the voiceless million in Sri Lanka's society, the wretched of the up-country earth for whom few shed tears. Since they were disenfranchised by independent Sri Lanka's first Government, they have been without effective representation in the legislature, and voteless and helpless they were relegated to the estate ghettos cut away from the mainstream of national life. The social workers and the do-gooders, the liberal intellectuals and the clergy did not bother about them for the plantation workers did not rise from their estate ghettos to haunt the liberal conscience.

The politicians did not bother about them because they had no vote. The rest of society did not bother about them because the state machinery itself, by its indifference to their plight, had officially branded the plantation workers as the social lepers of our age.

The Indo-Sri Lanka agreement on the repatriation of the estate workers constitutes a genuine attempt to resolve the problem of the "stateless" as they were called. But now with the delays in repatriation, the agreement itself is in doubt.

At every step of the repatriation process the helpless worker is caught up in the bureaucratic trap. He has to wait for months to get his Employees Provident Fund dues. On top

of this comes the delay in Labour Tribunal hearings. All these cannot but slow down the process of repatriation.

The Labour Department should put its machinery into motion and ensure that these cases are disposed of as soon as possible. This is all the more urgent because the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement itself hangs in the balance. The period set aside for repatriation has expired and while India has taken up the position that the pact is dead, Sri Lanka maintains that it is still operational. It is worth finding out how much the delays in Labour Tribunal hearings had contributed to these delays in repatriation.

The other aspect of the matter is that Sri Lanka is bound to honour its obligations as embodied in the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, and for this, too, it is necessary to ensure that the repatriates are able to set out for their new homes with the minimum delay and inconvenience.

Uprooting oneself

from the soil in which one's family had taken root for generations is itself a traumatic experience.

The whole process of repatriation is fraught with great poignancy for those who are destined to leave. Humanity warrants that they should not be further impeded by the law's delays.

The excuse that is given is that there is a shortage of Tamil interpreters and English stenographers. This is just not good enough.

The Labour Department must even bring back personnel who had retired and ensure that there are sufficient interpreters and stenographers to man the Labour Tribunals in the affected areas.

It is imperative that the Department takes early action to rectify the situation at the Labour Tribunals where cases affecting plantation workers are piled up.

CSO: 4220/337

LANKA ESTATE WORKERS UNION BACKS COLVIN

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 30 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

Nawalapitya 22. 08.82

"The whole country is eagerly awaiting to overthrow the reactionary UNP government, which has brought suffering to the masses. The workers have been denied their legitimate rights. When they demand their rights, they are harassed, assaulted, victimized, sacked. The ruling party adopts violent methods to crush the workers".

So said Mr. S. Siwasamy general-secretary of the Lanka Estate Workers Union at a meeting held at the LEWU office at Nawalapitya.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. U. Navaratne, Vice

President of the union.

Mr. Siwasamy said that the masses today had an opportunity to show their solidarity by supporting the candidature of Dr. Colvin R. de Silva at the forthcoming Presidential election.

Today the general opinion among all sections of the masses was that only Dr. Colvin R. de Silva would be able to defeat the present President.

The opposition parties should not waste time. They should forget their political differences and unite.

Mr. S. Ramanujan, Mr. R. Prematilake, Mr. V. Pandian and others spoke at this meeting.

CSO: 4220/359

BRIEFS

SPECIAL POLICE UNIT TO COUNTER TERRORIST PROPAGANDA--President J.R. Jayewardene has decided to set up a special police unit in Jaffna to counter propaganda by terrorist magazines and periodicals. This decision was taken at a meeting held by the President on August 16 with the officials of the Ministry of Internal Security and the Police Department. President Jayewardene, at this meeting, directed the Minister of Internal Security, Mr T.B. Weerapitiya to take the following steps in order to improve the situation in the Jaffna peninsula: Seventy-five percent Tamil speaking officers to be sent to the North; all criminal cases to be handled by Tamil police officers; allocation of vehicles to be increased to all the police stations in the Jaffna peninsula; delays in hearing court cases to be examined. The Minister of Internal Security is expected to submit a report on this matter to President Jayewardene before the end of this month. [Text] [Colombo THE ISLAND in English 24 Aug 82 p 6]

FIREARMS THIEVES SOUGHT--The Defence Ministry has called for an immediate report on the marked increase in the number of firearm thefts. This came after statistics revealed that the number of thefts had doubled this year. A study has shown that while most of the firearm thefts had taken place in the north in 1981, this year a greater percentage of the thefts took place in the North Central and the Southern Provinces. Security forces who had noted an increase in the dacoit type operations manufacture of firearms and theft of explosives from development project worksites in these areas, are attempting to determine whether there is a pattern in the development. The weekly crime bulletin submitted to the Defence Ministry yesterday morning by Police Headquarters 'SUN' learns, stated that while 39 firearm thefts were reported between January 1 and August 23 last year, during the same period this year 79 cases were reported. While in 1981 most of the firearm thefts were from the north, this year only six cases had been reported from north, including the Kurikattuwan pier incident and the Nellieaddy shooting incident. Meanwhile, 'SUN' learns that the manufacture of illegal firearms, mainly the type known as 'Galkattas' similar to a sawn off shot gun, has also recorded a notable increase, according to information available to the Police. There has also been an increase in the number of highway robberies during this year. The increase of the availability of firearms to criminal elements of the country, Police sources said, had directly contributed to the doubling of the number of highway robberies this year. While only 30 cases of highway robberies had been recorded till August 23 last year, more than 70 cases were recorded until last Monday this year 'SUN' learns.

According to the crime bulletin submitted to the Defence Ministry, the Police have also recorded a slight increase in the number of homicides, gang robbery and theft and robbery of vehicles. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 25 Aug 82 p 1]

JVP LEADER TO RUN--The JVP leader, Mr. Rohana Wijeweera, announced at a meeting at Nildandahinna that he would definitely be running at the forthcoming Presidential election. He said it would be no easy task to win, but if he did he would assume office immediately and not accept any salary until the problems of the masses were solved. Mr Wijeweera also said that the JVP would be fielding candidates in all 196 seats countrywide at the parliamentary elections [Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 20 Aug 82 p 1]

SLFP (M)-LSSP HOLD TALKS--The SLFP (M) and the LSSP held talks yesterday to explore the possibility of agreeing on a common opposition candidate for the forthcoming presidential election, the SLFP (M) said. The talks were held at Mr. Maithripala Senanayake's Colombo home. The SLFP (M) was represented by Messrs. Senanayake, P. B. G. Kalugalla, S. K. K. Suriarachchi, M. Halim Ishak, C. Kumarasuriar and Mahinda Senanayake. Dr. Colvin R. de Silva and Mr. Bernard Soysa represented the LSSP. The two parties agreed on the principle of fielding a common candidate to oppose the UNP. They also agreed that before thinking of such a candidate, they should first seek agreement among anti UNP forces on the essential program of action of such a candidate. Mr. Sooriaarachchi said. [Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 20 Aug 82 p 1]

CSO: 4220/337

END