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HIMMAT

WEEKLY 30p.

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ASIA'S VOICE

FRIDAY MARCH 8 1968

KENYA ASIANS

A Commonwealth
Solution

p.9



AND WHO IS TO BLAME ? asks **Rajmohan Gandhi**

Peace can be contagious

MR GUNNAR JARRING'S willingness to travel and keep his mouth shut may have produced the first break in a diplomatic front that has been as barren as the Sinai itself. This UN-appointed mediator has invited Arab and Israeli negotiators to join him in Nicosia, Cyprus. They will occupy separate conference rooms and the patient Swede will trundle back and forth between. This may bring greater reason to bear on the issues. The influence of the vocal extremists that abound in Tel Aviv and Cairo will not be quite so pressing.

Other forces in the Arab world will strengthen Mr Jarring's hand. A Tunisian statesman told a friend recently, "People say war is contagious. We must now show that peace is contagious."

The Moroccan monthly, *Réalités Maghébines*, has called for "an authentic gesture proving the will for peace of a new Jewish spirit and of a new Arab spirit—indeed a new human spirit, sure of itself and dominating its own former inclinations".

The choice, however, of Cyprus as a meeting ground seems paradoxical. The bitter strife that has set Greeks and Turks at odds is ample proof that proximity alone does nothing to solve issues. But those who have known Cypriots of both communities have long said they needed a common objective far beyond themselves to provide adequate reason for unity. Mr Jarring, perhaps unwittingly, has presented Cyprus with just such an objective.

Men in leading positions in both Cypriot communities have themselves already experienced the power that most effectively unites bitterly-divided elements. They know it lies in a change of heart, in the will to decide issues on the basis of what is right and not who is right.

With the fate of the whole eastern Mediterranean being decided on their doorstep, some of these Cypriots may have the courage to pay the cost of applying in their own lives the truth they know. If they did so, they would have evidence to offer the Arabs and Jews that would far outweigh the UN's resolutions.

Bridging the Straits of Malacca

INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA appear to be leading the way these days towards the sane elimination of friction between neighbours. Reports of the warm public welcome received by the Malaysian Prime Minister when he drove from Jakarta's airport to the Merdeka Palace are a world apart from the jingoistic slogan-shouting during the period of Indonesia's "confrontasi".

Tunku Abdul Rahman's five-day visit writes *finis* to this sad chapter of hostility which began when former President Sukarno broke off diplomatic relations with the newly independent Malaysia in September 1963. These were not restored until August 31, 1967, although confrontation was terminated on June 1, 1966.

Britain's precipitate withdrawal from the region has undoubtedly encouraged this co-operation across the Straits of Malacca. General Suharto's recent comment

that "South-East Asia has nothing to fear from British withdrawal" indicates that the security of the area, as well as economic questions, will be considered by the two Malay-speaking leaders.

The Tunku's visit follows last week's announcement that the People's Consultative Committee of Indonesia has confirmed General Suharto as full President and agreed to his postponement of elections for five years.

With not unreasonable conditions, foreign banks are permitted to operate again in Indonesia. Australia is doubling her aid following the recent visit of External Affairs Minister Paul Hasluck. President Suharto, due to visit Washington soon, can also count on more US aid in the future. And so this many-splendoured archipelago is set for an economic recovery that could make it a solid base for South-East Asian development.

Tibet invincible

MAO might well have asked of the Dalai Lama what Stalin asked of the Pope: "And how many battalions does he command?" Today, China is riven by dissension and Mao is openly challenged by his people in many provinces. But the allegiance of the Tibetan people to the Dalai Lama remains unchallenged.

March 10 marks the ninth anniversary of the uprising in Lhasa. Though the rebellion was crushed by the Chinese forces, the invaders have not had an easy time. Khamba tribesmen still engage units of the Chinese

Army. Even young Tibetans, separated from their families and indoctrinated in Peking, are not as malleable to Mao's thoughts as expected. The people of Tibet wage a physical and moral struggle against the invaders. Their will to freedom is unconquerable. Five hundred of them died recently trying to flee to India.

India has its share of blame for what happened in Tibet. But with the Dalai Lama and 80,000 of his people in our midst today, India has the chance to make up for its lapses.

Pointing the finger

QUIT C' WEALTH, CONGRESS MPs DEMAND
NEW DELHI, March 4

The consensus at a (Congress Party) meeting held here this morning was that the British political, moral and economic bankruptcy was complete.

—INDIAN EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Gentlemen, may we suggest that, on the subject of bankruptcy (political, moral and economic), if you point your finger at somebody else you may find three more pointing back at you.

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Briefly Speaking...

Rail fares

GIVE HONOUR where honour is due. The Railways' recent fare increases may be heavy, but Indian Railways passenger fares are among the lowest in the world. Last year, passenger fares per kilometre were 2.25 paise as against 14.83 on US railroads — the highest. Next cheapest rates were on Ceylon and Pakistan Railways, according to figures issued by the Railway Board.

Richest nation

ACCORDING to official figures Kuwait is the world's richest country, leading even the US in per capita income. I learn that it has now been overtaken by Abu Dhabi, another Persian Gulf sheikhdom, which has boomed since its progressive ruler, Sheikh

Zaid, took power 18 months ago from his reactionary brother, Sheikh Shakbut. Abu Dhabi's oil revenues this year exceed £50 million — Rs 36,000 per head among its population of 25,000.

Backing Britain

DAVID SASSOON, who used to write for HIMMAT from Calcutta, is now in Britain. He sends one of his first impressions as follows:

"The Back Britain campaign is not without its humorous side. A school-boy told me that when he went to school, he always wore a Back Britain badge. One day, in the middle of a French lesson, he was asked by his French teacher, who had noticed the badge: 'And how do you back Britain?'"

"'Very easy, Sir,' the boy retorted. 'By doing my English home-work in the French classes!'"

Sharp contrasts

INDIA LAST YEAR earned less per head of population than Algeria, Ghana, Iran or Nigeria, according to figures compiled by the Canadian Overseas Institute. The figures (in US dollars) were: Algeria and Ghana — 230; Iran — 210; Nigeria — 100; India — 90. Indonesia's figure was 70. Among developed nations the figure for Russia was 890; for the UK — 1810 and for the US — 3560.

Airborne greeting

AIRBORNE birthday greetings were offered Jimmy Hoffa, President of the US Teamsters' Union, now serving eight years in prison for tampering with a jury. A plane chartered by his Union flew round the prison pulling a 125 ft. banner inscribed: "Birthday Greetings Jimmy Hoffa". It is not known whether Hoffa saw it. He had been working recently in the prison shoe-shop.

Soviet seaways

WITH the Suez Canal closed indefinitely, two water routes to the East developed by the Soviet Union are gaining in importance. One is the waterway linking the Baltic with the Caspian and the Black Seas. Already, Iran sends over 400,000 tons of goods

To his dog, every man is a Napoleon —hence the popularity of dogs.

ALDOUS HUXLEY, 1894-1963

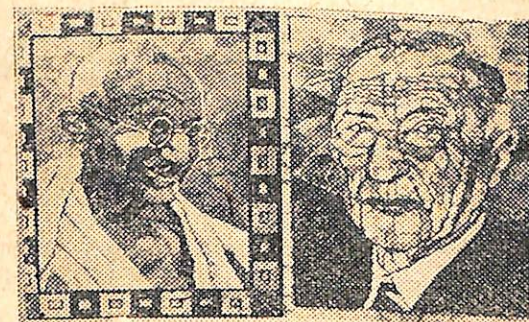
across Russia annually, mainly by this route, which cuts 2700 miles off the Suez route between Germany and Iran and halves the cargo time.

The other route is the Northern Sea Way through the Arctic from Europe to the Pacific, which Russia says she is opening to foreign ships. Modern ice-breakers can keep this route open about half the year. Japan should especially benefit as the Northern Sea Way is 4000 miles shorter than the Suez route from Yokohama to London.

These waterways give considerable strategic, as well as commercial, advantages to the Soviet Union, whose land mass lies across the direct route from Europe to the Far East.

Gandhi mosaic

THESE GLASS MOSAICS were made by a layman, 60-year-old civil servant Otto Thomas of Erbenhof, West



Germany. Out of respect for the late Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Thomas created this glass portrait (right). He recently completed a six-piece picture cycle out of small pieces of glass entitled "The Most Respected Men of Our Times". Among them was Mahatma Gandhi (left). Despite many attractive offers, Thomas refuses to sell any of his works. (DaD)

Holiday behind bars

TO AN Australian mother of five who spent five days in a Sydney jail over a traffic offence, prison was "a joyous holiday". "I met many different and interesting inmates," declared Mrs Susan Twomey. "One million dollars couldn't pay for the experience and happiness I acquired during the five days."

Birbal

FROM THE CAPITAL

The three Ks of discord

by **ANTENNA**

NEW DELHI \ Kutch, Kenya and Kachchativu — this trio of Ks has stirred up an enormous amount of political bile in the capital in the last few days and promises to generate much more before they are allowed to be forgotten. It seems as though the politicians felt the doings at Vigyan Bhavan, the venue of UNCTAD-2, were getting too much play in the Delhi press and had decided to demonstrate that anything UNCTAD could do in the way of providing entertaining reading matter they could do better.

Let's take these issues one by one. First, Kutch. For quite some time before the announcement of the international tribunal's award, it was known that some of the disputed territory would go to Pakistan. So there was no cause for anybody inside or outside Parliament to go berserk and blame the Government for guaranteeing before hand to accept the award unconditionally — for the sole reason that it went against India. Does this mean that our word stands only when things go the way we want?

It required the Deputy Prime Minister to state firmly that India would stand by its commitment, but by then the damage had been done. India's prestige in the eyes of the world has suffered incalculably, for who will now feel sure that this country will fulfil commitments solemnly entered into? After all, this was not a matter of simply refusing to give Pakistan something it claimed. Once a tribunal consisting of three judges from three different countries had been accepted as the final court of arbitration, the matter became an international issue and the decision, good, bad or indifferent, had to be accepted.

Amazing explanation

To cap it all, there was the amazing official explanation that the award had not really gone against India because no surrender of territory is involved since the area awarded to Pakistan is actually Pakistani territory which India has been occupying all these years. If this is so, why complaints that the award is unfair to India because it is political and not strictly legal?

And the final outcome of this episode is that there will be no further recourse to international arbitration if similar disputes should arise in the future. What do we do then?

Go to war to defend what we consider ours, rightly or wrongly? This is indeed a strange situation to find ourselves in when we've been preaching to other nations that they should settle their disputes amicably.

Hardly had the heat generated by Kutch been reduced somewhat when the parliamentary chambers were simmering over the exodus of Asians from Kenya or, to be more correct, the denial of unrestricted entry to Asian holders of British passports into Britain. This development was in a way a godsend to the Govern-

ment, for it could divert much of the anger aroused over Kutch from itself to the British Government.

Racial discrimination practised by anybody anywhere is to be condemned in the strongest terms, and there is no doubt that the British Government — and a Labour one at that — is guilty of this, not to speak of letting down British subjects. Its action shows that they recognise two classes of membership of the Commonwealth of Nations: first class, reserved for whites, and second, for blacks, browns, yellows and what have you.

But in this affair, is it only Britain that has committed race discrimination? Is not the root cause of the trouble the discrimination practised by the Government of Kenya against

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

On your toes

MENDING THINGS

DO YOU WANT an engineer to build a power station, or perhaps a five-mile bridge? Take your pick. There are plenty available. But if you want a plumber to fix that tap or an electrician to fix your fuses you're in trouble.

So great is the unemployment now among engineers that the Union Education Ministry has recommended to State Governments that they reduce admissions to engineering colleges and polytechnics by as much as 30 per cent for graduate courses.

Dr Triguna Sen, Education Minister, said that he had taken this "painful" step in view of the Planning Commission's failure to evaluate future requirements. Cut-back in Government spending plus industrial recession is mainly responsible for the present predicament.

One can sympathise with those who pursued engineering degrees, believing that in a country where industrial expansion and capital construction is so overdue their contribution to national development was assured.

But one cannot sympathise with the veneration of academic degrees along-

side disdain for more elementary technical education.

Kerala, with the highest literacy in India, is notorious for this scorning of practical skills. The fact was brought home forcefully once when a friend needed urgently an electrician in Trivandrum. A local contractor could not promise a man inside a week.

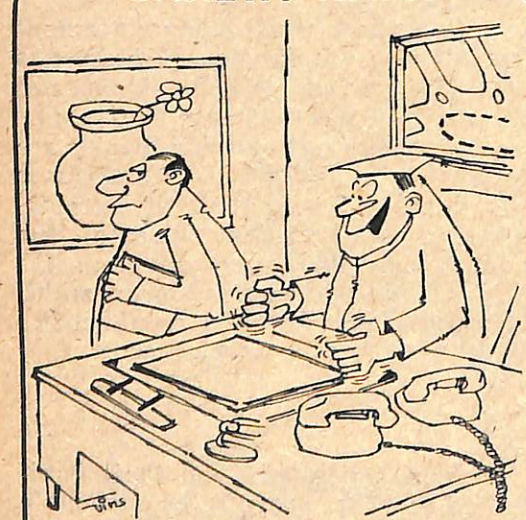
Having learned that high school teachers with BA degrees earned a miserable Rs 150 a month, my friend assumed that the contractor paid his electricians even less and hence the shortage of applicants. He was quickly corrected. "An ordinary electrician with a wiring certificate could earn Rs 400 or more," he was told. "But a man would rather earn Rs 150 as a Bachelor of Arts than three times as much working with his hands."

When Indians learn to enjoy working with their hands as much as with their intellects and tongues the nation's broken-down economy will be quickly repaired.

Perhaps some of the unfortunate unemployed engineers could make a start doing some simpler jobs for a while instead of waiting for some coveted, cool, comfortable seat at a drawing board.

Freebooter

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QUBIRAMA

VERDICT!

This week HIMMAT...

COMPLIMENTS Finance Minister Morarji Desai on his economy-stimulating Budget, but **IS CHAGRINED** at the steep increases on postage including newspaper rates.

WELCOMES the Burmese Government's releasing 200 political detainees including leading editors.

URGES the Union Health Ministry to aim at doubling the number of hospital beds by 1976, as recommended in a Ministry survey, and **SUGGESTS** the expense could be largely met by economies in the family planning programme.

CONGRATULATES Japan on again being the world's leading ship-builder in 1967, with a total of 7.5 million tons — 47.5 per cent of the world's total.

IS CONCERNED at police reports that growth of slums in Madras is due to political protection for squatters, with the result that every fourth person in the city now lives in a slum.

IS ELECTRIFIED by the action of 30 inhabitants of Kali Daulat village in Maharashtra, in advancing Rs 2000 each to the State Electricity Board to secure power for their village.

CALLS for strict efforts to curb smuggling, said to involve Rs one crore of contraband daily through Gujarat ports alone, making nonsense of import-export controls.

REGRETS the State Governments' refusal to employ 7000 physical training instructors, offered by the Centre, to teach physical fitness in schools, but **IS CHEERED** by the Education Ministry's allocating an extra Rs 9.5 lakhs to sports promotion.

DESCRIBES as blatantly hypocritical the Soviet Foreign Ministry's saying it had no authority to prevent attacks on Indian leaders in a Soviet magazine, when four young Russian writers have only recently been jailed for criticising the Soviet Government.

ANTENNA—FROM PAGE 5

residents of Asian origin? The fact that they hold British passports is immaterial. But has there been even a feeble squeak of protest from the Indian Government or from Opposition politicians, who need little encouragement to rail against the racialism of the whites of South Africa and Rhodesia and the United States, against the action of the Kenya Government in pushing out Asians — mainly Indians — who have lived most or all their lives in Kenya? The fact that Kenya is discriminating racially is proved by the law announced towards the end of last week that holders of British passports of Asian origin must get visas to return to Kenya. Why only such people of Asian origin? Why are white holders of such passports exempted from the law? If we are mute on the subject of Kenya's discrimination, it's for one reason — its Government is "friendly" to India. So no matter what it does, we must shut our eyes and seal our lips. Our "friends", as we have demonstrated again and again in the case of the Arabs and the Soviet bloc, can do no wrong.

Unwelcome in India

A close look at New Delhi's approach to the affair, reveals that it is mainly concerned that the displaced Asians, kicked out of Kenya and refused entry by Britain — don't ultimately land up in India. In short, these outcast Indians are as unwelcome in their land of origin as they are in alien lands.

After Kutch, Kachchativu. To the sensitive ears of the politicians who were already burnt up over Kutch,

the name of this islet in Palk Strait must have sounded like a derisive echo. To find that tiny Ceylon was, like India's bigger neighbours, harbouring aggressive designs against this country's territory was more than human flesh and blood could bear.

To judge from the fury aroused by the report from Colombo that units of the Ceylon police and navy had been ordered to occupy Kachchativu, where, to quote Nehru's description of another piece of disputed territory, "not a blade of grass grows", nothing less would have satisfied the defenders of India's honour and sovereignty than the dispatch of armed forces to "teach the Ceylonese a good lesson". It is very likely that, in reply to Indian protests, the Senanayake Government will suggest that the question of the islet's ownership should be settled by an international tribunal. The timing of the Ceylonese action is significant: it came soon after the announcement of the Kutch tribunal's verdict.

Chain reaction

Unofficial sources here say the Kachchativu affair could set off a chain reaction that would be a cause of grave embarrassment to the Indian Government.

Pakistan has cast its eyes on the Andamans in the Bay of Bengal and the Laccadives and Amindives in the Arabian Sea. It has even suggested that the Andamans should be divided between itself and Burma, which has also unofficially staked a claim to them. And the Indonesians think the Nicobars are theirs. All these groups of islands are Britain's imperial legacy to India. Kachchativu might provide food for thought to claimants to them.

KERALA

Thumba, Idikki mark progress

FROM G. S. KARTHA IN TRIVANDRUM

KERALA is not all politics, petty quarrels among ambitious and self-interested politicians, polemics between the two Communist parties in the coalition, or battles of anti-Communists against the Communist-dominated Government. There is another Kerala that makes significant strides in the direction of scientific and technological development.

Early in February the State drew the attention of the entire world of science and technology when Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi formally dedicated to the United Nations the Equatorial Rocket Launching Station at Thumba, one-time forsaken coastal fishing village north of Trivandrum. It is now a world facility for the member-nations of the UN for space explorations below the operational level of satellites and above the level of balloons.

Thumba, which is the first and the only equatorial rocket launching station, has from its inception in November, 1963, fired 57 rockets of different types including the Indian-made Rohini. Tiny compared to the Centaurs and Nike-Apaches launched from the station, Rohini is nevertheless a significant landmark in India's progress in rocketry as it was developed at the Space Technology Centre at Thumba by Indian personnel.

The Thumba station is completely manned by Indian scientists, engi-

neers, and technologists, most of them younger than 50. And many of them are sons of Kerala who wisely diverted their ambitions away from politics.

A fortnight after Thumba's dedication, the State took up work on an ambitious project with Canadian collaboration — the Rs 68 crore giant Idikki Hydro-electric Project. When completed, this promises to be the harbinger of an industrial revolution in Kerala where hunger for employment is at its highest.

Electricity doubled

In the presence of the Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, Dr K. L. Rao, Canadian Minister for Labour Mr John Nicholson, and the Marxist Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr E. M. S. Nambudiripad, Mr James George, Canada's High Commissioner in India, inaugurated work on the construction.

Due to start production by 1972, Idikki will generate over 800,000 kilowatt power, making Kerala a surplus State in electricity, and doubling its total electricity revenue. Industrial and agricultural output would be greatly increased through this project.

What people are worried about is whether the political parties, both those in the Government and in opposition, would be prepared to put the interests of the State above their party interests. Unfortunately, ideological rivalries between the two Communist Parties in the coalition seems to provide the greatest deterrent to the State's rapid industrialisation, for who would risk capital in industries where indiscipline, threat of gheraos, and fights among trade unions could ruin any industry however successfully managed?

But work on Idikki will go on. The project, a Canada-India collaboration under the Colombo Plan, is a long-cherished dream of Keralites. The greatest hurdle was finance. This has now been cleared with the assistance of the Canadian Government

which is aiding the project to the tune of Rs 17 crores.

On the site, which was discovered some two decades ago when a young enthusiast happened to come across it in a mountainous region while on a shikar, in a few years time will rise the highest arch dam in the world. According to Mr Nicholson, the Canadian Labour Minister, the dam will be "more than twice the height" of the spectacular international grandeur of the Niagara Falls.

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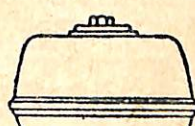
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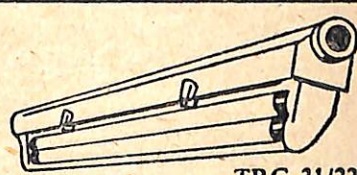
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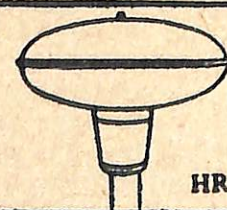
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PHILIPS

FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

Kenya Asians : a Commonwealth solution?

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON As Asian immigrants from Kenya poured in by charter plane in a desperate bid to beat the deadline of the new British Government immigration restrictions, as demonstrations and counter demonstrations take place outside 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Palace, as protests fill the air over Nairobi and New Delhi, a fair question could be asked: could there be a Commonwealth solution to the present impasse? One thing is certain. The Commonwealth can hardly stand many more subtractions from the dwindling privileges attached to membership.

This is one of those situations in which it is perfectly possible to see the point of view of each interested party. The Kenyans want "Africanisation"; the Kenyan Asians thus displaced and who hold British passports naturally expect to be able to enter Britain; a British Government, with the country's social services and housing now under pressure from the Commonwealth-wide influx of recent years, is also under pressure to introduce a curb; the Indian Government and the Governments of any Asian countries thus involved can justifiably feel deeply offended by the policies of both Kenya and Britain.

Some country of the Commonwealth needs to give a lead. Retaliation is tempting but would be tragic. One Commonwealth solution could be this: that the representatives of India, Kenya, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — all Commonwealth members — sit around a table in any of the capitals

involved and consider the plight of the 120,000 Kenyan Asians as their common cause and concern.

In practical terms this could mean an offer, particularly by Canada*, Australia and New Zealand, to take a proportion of these luckless holders of British passports, in danger of becoming stateless persons. No one can deny that these three "old Commonwealth" members have more space to absorb immigrants than, for example, Britain or India.

Australian sympathy

Australia has already liberalised her treatment of non-European immigrants, one of the contributions to progress made by the late Prime Minister, Harold Holt, and others of the present administration in Canberra. This trend suggests that there would be sympathetic consideration in Australia for a special arrangement to take a quota of, say, ten thousand from Kenya spread over a three-to-five-year period. New Zealand, where Indians from Fiji live happily enough, could take two to three thousand. Canada, by the same measure, might be expected to absorb rather more, perhaps fifteen thousand.

By a similar gesture, the British quota of work permits to be offered might be upped from fifteen hundred a year to ten thousand. And the Kenyan Government could respond to these gestures by modifying her own policy so that no more than the number guaranteed a welcome abroad should be forced to leave.

And India? Despite her own over-crowded population centres, a symbolic gesture by India towards

* Since this article was written Saskatchewan Province, Canada has offered to take immigrants from Kenya.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Ek-minit!



"For goodness sake apologise to him, Mum."

The week in ASIA

SAIGON — Four thousand US paratroopers arrived in Vietnam to bolster allied defences against Communist attacks. The new arrivals raised the strength of US forces in Vietnam to 504,000.

SINGAPORE — The Singapore Government decided not to renew work permits for unskilled non-citizens. This decision will affect about 10,000 non-citizens, mostly Malaysians and Indians.

COLOMBO — All Ceylonese above 18 years will be given identity cards and all those without cards would be regarded as illegal immigrants, according to a proposal in the new Registration of Persons Bill.

CAIRO — General Mohammed Fawzi, Egypt's War Minister and the armed forces Commander-in-Chief, set up a supreme military court to retry four senior officers punished for their part in the Egyptian Air Force defeat in the Arab-Israeli war.

CANBERRA — External Affairs Minister Paul Hausluck announced that Australia would double its aid to Indonesia in 1968-1969 to 14.1 million US dollars.

COLOMBO — The Ceylon Government was reported to have "assumed full ownership" of Kachchativu, a tiny island situated about half way between Ceylon and India.

KATHMANDU — King Mahendra of Nepal inaugurated a National Insurance Corporation. Indian Insurance Companies in Nepal will have to share their general business with this firm.

HONG KONG — The Viet Cong have seized control of most of South Vietnam's countryside in the 30 days of continued offensive, according to the North Vietnam news agency.

JAKARTA — The Indonesian Government will allow foreign banks to operate in the country provided they bring 500,000 US dollars to finance their operations and provide a further 500,000 US dollars one year later.

SEOUL — The South Korean Government plans to arm over one million veterans in order to deal with the anticipated large-scale infiltration of guerrillas from North Korea.

KARACHI — Pakistan and Russia signed a new barter trade agreement for Rs 200 million exchange of goods. Russia will give tractors, machinery and fertiliser in return for textiles.

those of Indian origin could take, say, a thousand of these educated and thrifty business families. Pakistan, Malaysia and other Commonwealth countries could all aid to some degree.

Such a co-ordinated scheme, over a three-year period, could mean that some sixty thousand from Kenya could be absorbed around the Com-

monwealth, or about half of the number involved. Surely the Kenyan Government could match these departures from present policies by meeting them half way and by phasing out the expulsions over a longer term.

Many members of the Commonwealth are prone to point the finger at both the Communist group of nations and at America and her allies. Discrimination undoubtedly exists in these two groups.

Here would be a way for the Commonwealth itself to demonstrate another way, where nations and citizens who enjoy every quality and political freedom are prepared to share their blessings.

China might even take note. The China which uses the issue of race to advance the class war on an international level might rethink set attitudes if her Afro-Asian-Australasian neighbours were prepared to revise theirs.

Papua—New Guinea goes to the polls

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

PORT MORESBY Despite being one of the least developed of the developing countries, the Territory of Papua and New Guinea is holding its second general elections on a basis of universal adult suffrage. The first elections, also on the same basis, took place in 1964.

Elections began on February 17, and will continue until March 16 when counting of votes will begin. Half of the 2.4 million people, including 30,000 non-indigenous people, are over 21 and therefore eligible to vote. Despite the tremendous difficulties of accessibility, a 70 per cent poll is expected. Helicopters and canoes have been used to transport polling booths to remote areas. Even so, many people will have a day's walk to reach the nearest polling place.

Four candidates have been elected unopposed and 484 candidates, including 52 Europeans and 3 Chinese, are contesting the remaining 80 seats in the House of Assembly. Ten more "Official" Members will be appointed by the Australian Administration.

"I want to serve"

One of the candidates is Joseph Adrian Lue, a Catholic life insurance agent from Bougainville. In October, 1967, he was the only New Guinean to attend a Congress of laymen at Rome, and was received by Pope Paul. Mr Lue's father, a chief, was the first man to welcome missionaries to his area. I asked him why he was standing for election. "I have got a good education," he said. "I have worked for myself and now I want to serve my people. I am not an experienced politician, but I will have to learn."

Bougainville is one of the most important islands in New Guinea because of its mineral deposits. Of the foreign company exploiting the minerals, Mr Lue said, "It is a good

thing, developing the country. They provide good houses, schools and roads, and teach the people to take on similar jobs."

On the Australian Administration, he said, "They have done a great deal in education, but in other fields Papuans and New Guineans need to be given more responsibility and encouraged to take initiative to learn

how to lead the country while the Australians are still here to give counselling." Quite clear that independence would be the ultimate status, he wants Australians to remain in the Territory as advisers after independence. "I would like to see West Irian, Papua and New Guinea and the British Solomons all one country."

Canada: contenders for leadership

FROM OUR CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT

THE long career of Canada's 71-year old diplomat-Prime Minister, Lester B. Pearson, almost ended in humiliation recently. By a snap vote of 84 to 82, Parliament rejected a crucial tax bill when forty-six of his MPs were out of the House and he was in Jamaica on holiday.

Only by rallying the support of Canada's splinter parties did he succeed in winning a formal vote of confidence. He thus can leave his office in two months as a retiring Prime Minister rather than a defeated one.

But he hardly leaves behind a memorable legislative record. Lamed by having had to rule with a minority Government for the five years he has been Prime Minister, he has seldom been able to lead Parliament beyond political bargaining or personal bickering. His own Party, the Liberals, have been so weakened by attacks and political misadventures that they may not be able to survive him.

Disunited cabinet

He added to its difficulties by announcing his decision to retire five months before the actual date of departure. His most likely successors are all in his Cabinet. So while running their departments and the Government as a whole, they have had to campaign and jockey for place in the leadership race. This is hardly a formula designed to give the coun-

try the sense that a purposeful and united band of men are in the lead.

By contrast, the Progressive Conservative Party, the major opposition group, ended their long preoccupation



Pearson

with political infighting some months ago. Their new leader, Robert F. Stanfield, a former Premier of the Province of New Brunswick on Canada's east coast, has presented the country a picture of dignity and integrity. This has regained much of the ground his Party lost in its squabbles.

Among the contenders for the leadership of the Liberal Party are most of the old guard, men like Paul Martin, the Minister of External Affairs, and Finance Minister Mitchell Sharp. These are men not much younger in years and no younger in thinking than the retiring Prime Minister. Challenging them is Canada's youthful Minister of Justice, Pierre Elliot Trudeau. One of a group of thrusting young French-Canadian politicians, Trudeau is certainly a generation away from or ahead of the old guard and has thus great appeal.

If he were to gain his party's nomination, the next election would pit Trudeau against Stanfield and give Canadian voters something they have not had for a long time, a choice between two markedly differing political creeds and personalities. That might give Canada a much-needed jolt of parliamentary vigour as she lives out the first year of her second century.

CHILDREN'S DIGEST Bombay 5

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The week in INDIA

NEW DELHI — Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai presented a Rs 290 crores deficit budget to the Lok Sabha. The Government will earn Rs 65.73 crores by fresh taxation and another Rs 24.70 crores by steep increases in postal rates.

MADRAS — Leaders of all political parties jointly appealed to students to desist from burning the national flag and the constitution and hoisting "Independent Tamil Nad" flags.

NEW DELHI — The Lok Sabha indirectly endorsed the Government's acceptance of the Kutch Tribunal's award by rejecting a Jan Sangh-sponsored censure motion.

BOMBAY — Thirty thousand bank employees went on a one-day strike in protest against a section of the Bank Laws (Amendment) Bill which makes slogan shouting, demonstrations and other forms of agitation in front of banks a punishable offence.

BANGALORE — Thirteen people were killed and 73 injured in three bus accidents on the same day — two at Mahadeswara Hills, the third at Panjimar.

HYDERABAD — About 2000 non-teaching employees of Osmania University went on a lightning strike protesting against frequent assaults by students.

NEW DELHI — Justice M. Hidayatullah was sworn in as Chief Justice of India, in succession to Justice K. N. Wanchoo.

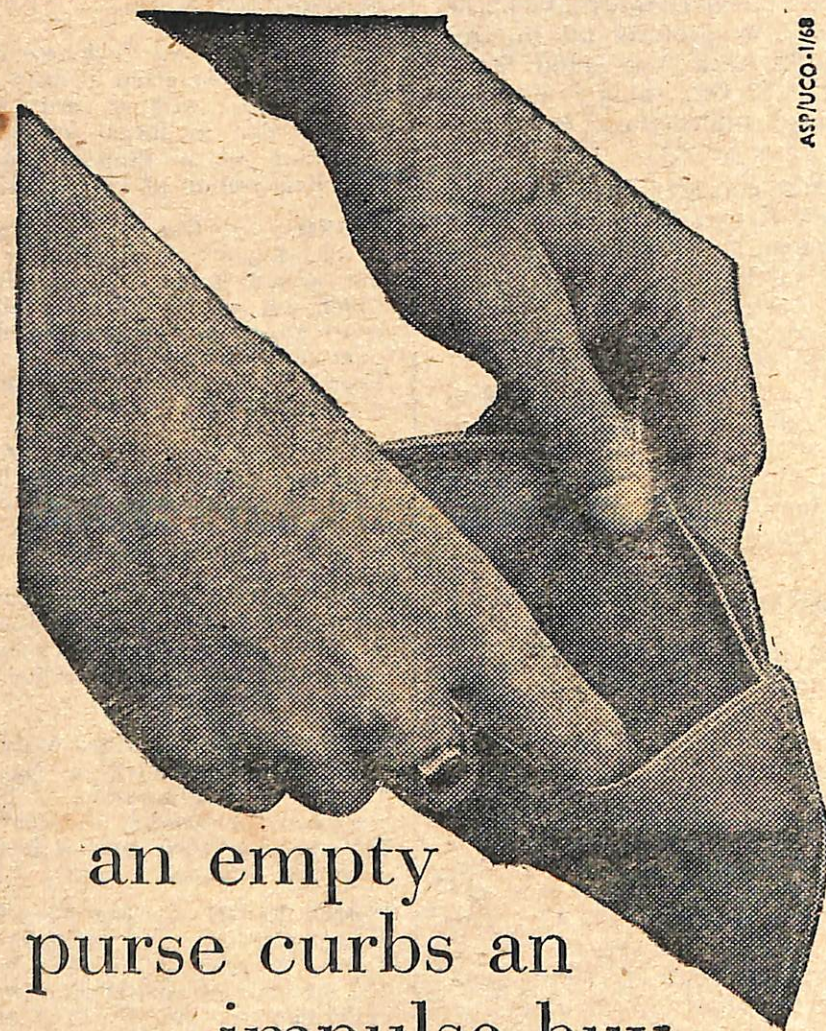
BARAUNI — Acharya Vinoba Bhave, addressing a Congress workers meeting, suggested that the retirement age of political leaders should be fixed at 65 to make room for young blood.

MADRAS — Jivaratha Odeyar, former Home Minister of Pondicherry, was arrested in connection with the alleged murder of a clerk.

AHMEDABAD — Hartals and protest demonstrations in many parts of Gujarat marked protests against the Kutch Award. The hartal was total in Kutch District and near total in Ahmedabad and Baroda.

BHOPAL — Madhya Pradesh registered 124 cases of dacoities, 689 murders and 179 cases of assaults on women in the five months ending in December, according to Deputy Chief Minister V. K. Saklecha.

BANGALORE — The Mysore Government decided to introduce Kannada as the official language up to the Taluka level with immediate effect throughout the State.



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The week elsewhere

MAKARIOS RE-ELECTED

N I C O S I A — The Greek Cypriots re-elected Archbishop Makarios as President for another five year term giving him a 94 per cent vote. Turkish Cypriots, about one fifth of the population, vote separately for a Turkish Cypriot Vice-President. The present Vice-President, Dr Fazil Kutchuk, has announced that Vice-Presidential elections will be held only when the Cyprus problem has been solved.



Makarios

GULF RULERS FEDERATE

DUBAI, PERSIAN GULF — Nine Persian Gulf states agreed to form a federation to fill the vacuum left

by withdrawal of British forces from the area by 1971. Rulers of the Arab emirates signed the federation agreement in this Trucial Coast port after a three-day meeting. The new state, with an estimated population of 300,000, stretches along the south-east coast of the Persian Gulf. It will be formally inaugurated on March 30. Oil has made some of these emirates among the wealthiest countries in the world.

O A U MEETING

ADDIS ABABA—Foreign Ministers and delegates from 38 African nations concluded a five-day Organisation of African Unity meeting. They condemned Israel as the aggressor in West Asia, called for immediate release of 37 Africans held on charges of terrorism in South West Africa, and recommended OAU members to boycott the Olympic Games if South Africa took part. Opening the Conference, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie said he supported the use of violence to overthrow the white Government of South Africa.

NEW COMMUNIST SPLIT

BUDAPEST — Rumania withdrew from the conference of 67 national Communist parties here complaining of attacks by Russian and other delegations on China, and of denial by the Soviet of the sovereign independence of each national party. The international conference of Communist parties — first of its kind in eight years — had met at Russia's urging to prepare a world Communist summit meeting later this year. 15 national Communist parties, including China, North Vietnam, Albania, Burma, Cuba, Japan, North Korea and Yugoslavia, did not attend the conference.

POLAR TREK

PORT BARROW, ALASKA—The four-man British Trans-Arctic Expedition left this northern point of America on the first ever attempt to trek across the Arctic. They will not set foot on solid land again until they reach Spitzbergen Island, north of Norway, 3800 miles away. The expedition will be supplied by air during its journey across the Arctic ice-cap, which it expects to complete in 16 months.

viewpoint

Should the marriage age of girls be raised?

Laws alone useless unless custom changes

First prize to N. B. Kulkarni, Bombay 1

IT IS A TRAGEDY that in India legislation has become an acceptable substitute for persuasion through hard work. What we see in case of prohibition is enough to point out the folly of such procedure. Yet some people won't accept the lesson taught by bitter experience. They would like to achieve a solution to the population explosion through legislating a rise in the age of marriage for girls. Such a course ignores the administrative and social aspects of the problem.

The object of raising the age of marriage is to postpone the age from which child-bearing starts. It does not guarantee a reduction in the number of children which a woman will give birth to. So much for the main purpose of the legislation.

But what about the practical side of the problem? Even the existing Sarada Act (against child marriage) is evaded on a very large scale. How do we expect that a more restrictive legislation will be accepted by the majority of people who are too ignorant to understand the purpose of the legislation? If a law is likely to be evaded almost universally, what is the purpose of passing it?

And what about the social aspect of the problem? Those who talk of raising the age of marriage have perhaps the situation in the big cities in mind. The girls receive education

and that helps to postpone marriage.

What about the bulk of the population in rural areas? The girls there become fit for marriage as soon as they get training in managing the household. Even that is not necessary in most cases as the prevalence of the joint family does not put the whole burden of managing the household on the newly-wedded wife. The age of marriage then becomes established by custom. Unless the attitude to marriage changes, customary age will prevail over the legal age.

Will help emancipate women

Second prize to Anton, Poona 14

EARLY MARRIAGE of girls in India, fostered through ignorance and sustained by the rigid caste system, has done much harm. Young girls given in marriage make poor mothers with their low mental equipment as far as hygiene, mothercraft, domestic science and general culture are concerned. The marriage age of girls should be raised, so that the mother as a responsible person may bring up her children in a healthy and intelligent way.

The main advantage of raising the marriage age is that it is conducive to responsible parenthood. The higher the literacy, the higher is the marriage age and so education must be geared for this necessary social reform. Public opinion will then be stimulated, and this followed up by effective legislation should prove fruitful.

Psychologically, a certain maturity is required to be a satisfactory parent. The employment facilities for girls in factories, agriculture etc., will help towards this needed maturity and also develop a fuller realisation of freedom and of human dignity on the part of women.

Medical evidence has placed much of the blame for a high maternal and infant mortality rate at the door of early marriage. Moreover, late

marriages will diminish the number of child-widows.

Postponement of marriage can also contribute substantially to reduction in the birth rate and the population growth. Most demographers are of the opinion that an increase of five years in the age of marriage of girls (to make it twenty years) would result in a decline of about 20 per cent in the birth rate.

The fear of girls going astray is certainly the chief reason why many tenaciously prefer early marriage. However, there seems to be no proof that they go astray if marriage is postponed. Provided Indian girls keep up their traditional modesty and develop greater maturity, balance and good judgement, we can expect normal dignified behaviour from them.

The Government's task in this line will be to ensure clean entertainment, specially in films, whether Indian or foreign, and in television. Sound moral instruction in all schools — public and private — well complemented by proper parental guidance at home will then become imperative.

Raising the marriage age will further the movement of feminine emancipation, and help women to be a source of national strength.

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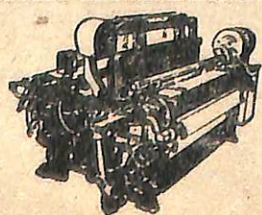
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Mid-term elections, when?

FROM S. K. MUKHOPADHYAY IN CALCUTTA

THERE HAS BEEN a certain fall in prices of some essential commodities in Calcutta ever since President's rule was imposed. Mustard oil, for example, is selling at between Rs 3.50 and Rs 3.80 per kilo, as compared to Rs 4.20 and Rs 5 per kilo immediately before President's rule.

While it was argued that this was due to a bumper crop of mustard seed in Bihar and UP, and its steady flow into West Bengal, the fact remains that hoarders are scared of the stern measures the Government intends to take against them and the blackmarketeers.

Rice has almost disappeared from the open market and there has been no open sale of rice on the pavements since President's rule came in. Police are keeping a tighter watch over smuggling of rice from the districts. If this strictness can be maintained it might help the Government to allocate more to ration-card holders.

The police are also busy, clearing the footpaths of hawkers. Political parties are planning to resist this move to woo the street vendors' sup-

port but the public seems to have welcomed it.

Different political fronts have commenced their activities again. The UF leaders insist that the mid-term elections should be held by June. They will send a deputation to Delhi shortly to press the Prime Minister for a definite date. They will also press other demands, like the removal of the Governor, Mr Dharma Vira.

Congress seeks postponement

Both Dr P. C. Chunder, President of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee, and Mr K. N. Dasgupta, leader of the Congress Party in the dissolved Assembly, are however not in favour of holding the election before next February, 1969. The monsoon, the festival of Durga Puja and

the harvest in November, they argue, are some of the problems in the way.

Meantime, internal dissensions and resentment against the present leadership are further disintegrating the Congress Party machinery and a fresh batch of Congress workers, including some former Ministers, are determined to oust present bosses.

The "ginger group" in the WBPC is expected to take up the cudgels, alleging that the "high-handedness" of the present leadership was responsible, by and large, for tarnishing the image of the Party. However, Dr Chunder and Mr Suhrid Rudra, Secretary of the WBPC, have denied the existence of any "ginger group" in the Party. Both re-iterated that the WBPC was legally constituted and hence the removal of its personnel did not arise at all. They further denied that dissenting groups existed in the Party hierarchy.

It is clear though, despite Dr Chunder's dismissing the matter, that the very fact that Congress leaders are not keen to hold an immediate mid-term election, is a rude pointer to the cracks in the Congress mansion. Whether their white-washing and patchwork will stop the rot is debatable and the organisation today is in a serious quandary.

Footballer with a goal in life

ONE OF THE greatest centre forwards Indian soccer has produced, S. Mewalall has scored more than 1000 goals in representative matches. For 11 years, from 1945-1956, he played for India and was an automatic choice for the Indian Olympic sides that went to London in 1948 and Helsinki in 1952.

It was Mewalall's great goal that won the first Asia Championship for India against Iran in 1951. Other memorable games were against the Russians at Jabalpur in 1955 and against the Chinese Olympic team at Delhi in 1956. From 1952-58 Mewalall, a Harijan, captained the Indian Railway Football Team.

Now, at 41, he coaches for the South Eastern Railways. I met him

in the Asia Games in Delhi in 1951 my young daughter got smallpox. The day I left for Delhi she died but right through the Games I received no word or letter from my parents. They did not want me to be upset while I represented the country. Only on returning to our darkened house in Calcutta did I learn of what had happened."

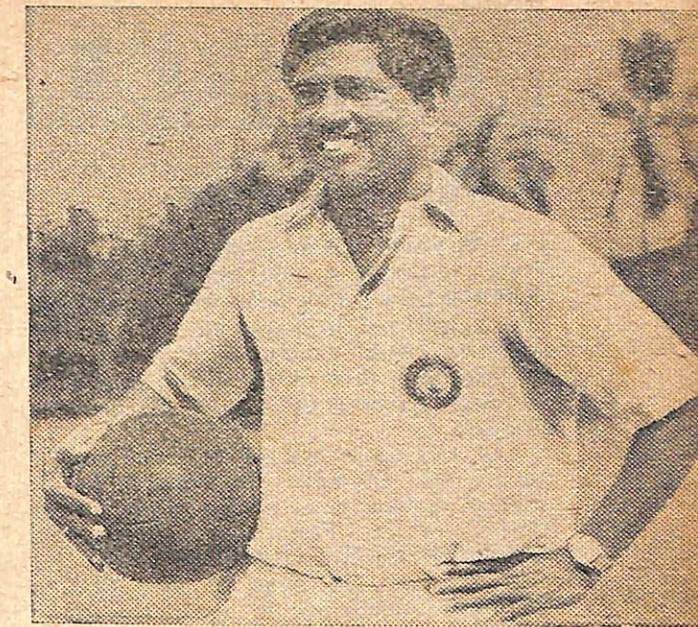
Which goal, out of all those you have scored, has given you the most satisfaction?

"It was in the semi-final of the Inter-States Contest, against Orissa in 1950. It was some way into the second half and there had been no score. My back was to the goal when the ball was headed to me. I chested it, jumped three feet in the air, turned a somersault and kicked the ball into the net over my head.

"Of course, the goalkeeper was taken completely by surprise. The whole crowd were clapping, but thought it was a fluke goal. When it happened a second time they thought it wasn't a fluke after all. Only I knew that both goals were flukes!"

What do you feel about today's footballers?

"When I was young we were tremendously keen about football, but lacked the facilities for first class training. There was not much backing from the authorities. Today every facility is given, but our young players seem to lack the drive and ambition to represent their country.



S. Mewalall — over 1000 goals

They are not prepared to accept the discipline."

Now, at 41, what do you most want to do with your life?

"First, I want to pass on all my footballing experiences to the youngsters. I want to help build up new talent.

"Secondly, I want to do something for the country through sport. In 1966 I met the international force of Moral Re-Armament and Rajmohan Gandhi in Calcutta. I changed my outlook. I have told Rajmohan Gandhi I want to work for MRA. Football bridges gaps between people. It can build up the character of people. That is what I want to pursue now."

P.W.



recently in Bombay at the Cooperage football ground where, along with 40 other top coaches, he was receiving training from the German ace Dettmar Cramer.

How did you get into football?

"I grew up in a family of four in Hastings, Calcutta. My father, who worked for the Army, put me in the Fort William Army School. There I was picked out by the games teacher, Sergeant Barnet, after he had seen me play with an old tennis ball. He offered to let me take a 'big football' from the Army Store, on signature. Soon I was the only Indian playing for the Club team of the 9th Border Regiment."

Which particular experience in your footballing career stands out the most?

"While I was training to take part

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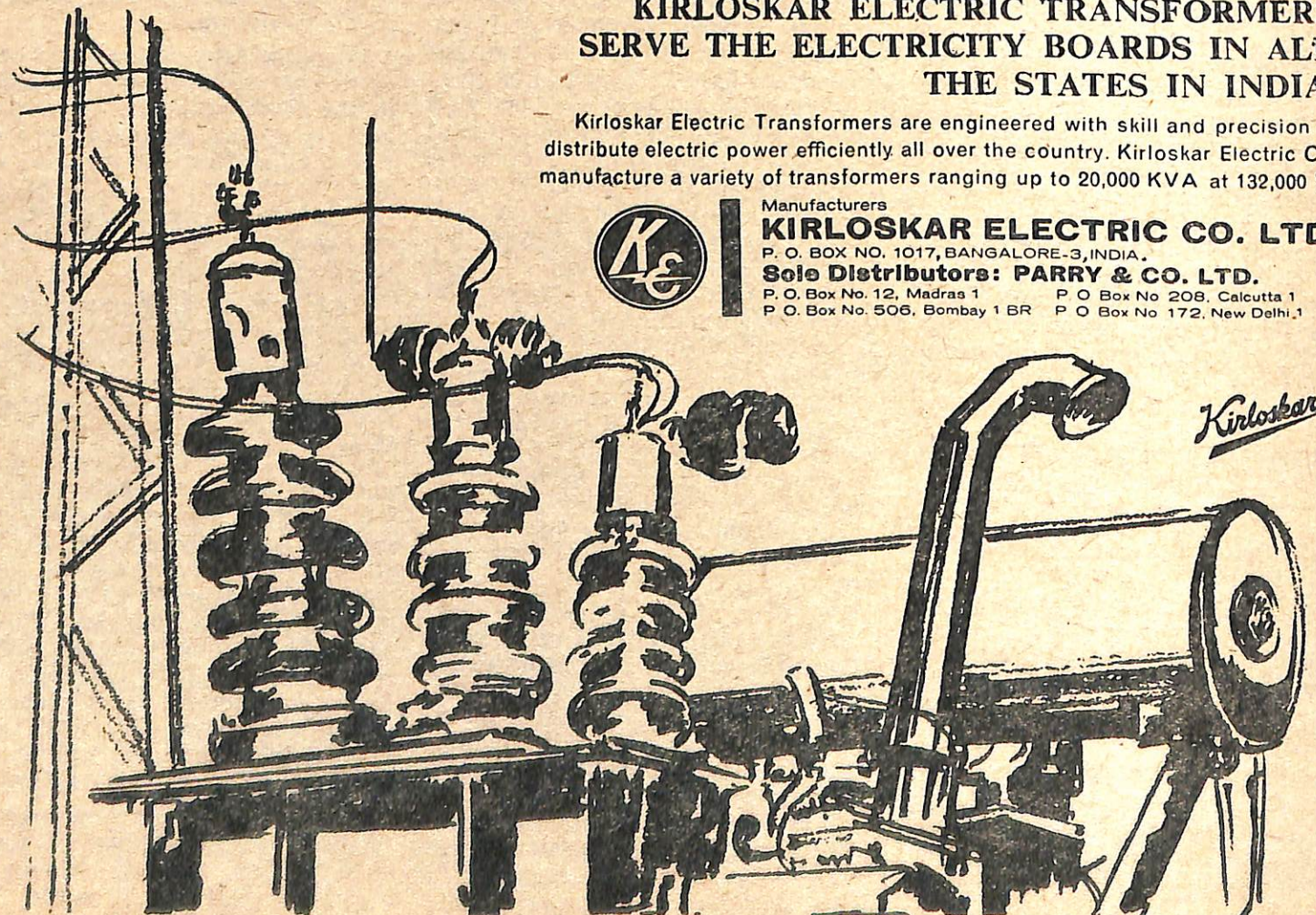
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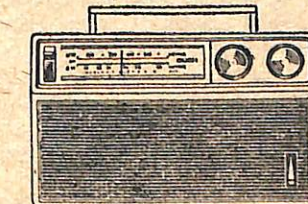
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Politics and sport

THE OLYMPIC GAMES, which began in Greece eight centuries before the birth of Christ as a purely amateur competition with a spiritual background, went out of existence after almost twelve centuries because they had degenerated into professional circuses sponsored by political interests.

Are we about to see a repetition of this? The Olympic Movement in its original concept was revived through the efforts of a Frenchman, Baron de Coubertin, towards the end of the last century, and the first of the Modern Olympics took place in somewhat crude fashion at the site of the Ancient Olympics, near Athens in Greece, in 1896. Only eleven nations participated, including the United States and Great Britain.

The Olympic Movement has grown steadily to become now the world's greatest sports organisation, with about a hundred nations taking part. The avowed aims of the Olympic movement are to spread peace and mutual understanding among the nations, regardless of race, colour, creed and political policies.

Since 1896 the Modern Games have been held regularly every four years — as in ancient times — except in 1916, 1940 and 1944 due to the Wars.

South Africa chastised

But alas! Politics and prejudices are now threatening the movement once more. South Africa, whose policy of racial and colour discrimination has been a source of justifiably strong condemnation by the rest of the world, was banned from the Olympics five years back because this policy was also practised in its sport. Chastised, South Africa has undertaken to eschew racial discrimination in its representation for the Olympic Games in Mexico next October. Since this is the first victory of outside forces over the fanatic colour policy of South Africa in any sphere, the executive of the International Olympic Committee responded by raising the ban on South Africa. So far as sport is concerned there can be nothing but approval of the IOC gesture. But unfortunately for world amateur sport the IOC decision is not receiving the welcome it should from the political world.

Mexicans worried

The IOC has been threatened by a mass boycott of the Mexico Games; and the Mexican organisers, who have spent lavishly in preparing for the Games, are greatly perturbed, not only about the Games losing their magnificence through the non-participation of several nations but also because of the big risk they run as a nation of losing their good relations

with others in political, economic and cultural spheres.

So the Olympic Movement is being brought under political pressure for the first time in its modern existence, through this mischievous farce. The movement as well as world amateur sport are on the brink of a momentous decision. Whether they will have the character to keep on doing what they in conscience feel proper or succumb and thereby pave the way for their own disintegration will be known in the near future.

Cricket upheaval

THE DIGNIFIED and leisurely game of cricket seems to be going through a critical period as an international sport. At one end of the world, in the Caribbean Islands, the West Indies seem to be fast losing their exalted status as accepted world champions. At the other the Indians, after a drubbing in Australia, are struggling hard to salvage their modest reputation by confirming their superiority over New Zealand with a two-one lead in the Test series. A salient feature of the activities at either end is submergence of even the pretence of the "bright cricket" so vehemently advocated in recent times.

West Indies' decline

Whether the touring English team is too strong for the West Indians or whether the individual players in the home team have lost confidence in their own talent, the fact remains that the Caribbeans' performance in the series to date has been far below expectations and totally out of character with their cavalier approach to the game. Perhaps the West Indian players, in expectation of finding lucrative engagement as professionals in England, have become self-conscious and less prone to take risks. Whatever it is, the standard and the attractiveness of international cricket is at a low ebb just now.

Admit all to Tests?

Indian showing in Australia also has not satisfied the many Test enthusiasts in their homeland. Nor has the success of their own team against what they consider a weak Indian opposition enthused the followers of the game in victorious Australia. First to admit that their present side is much below the calibre of past teams are the Australians themselves.

So it all boils down to international cricket losing its hold on millions of followers. Perhaps the game will benefit by the wide difference in the strength of the six official Test nations being bridged. Still, cricket pundits will not be happy over the fall in the general standard. This could be the time to open the doors of Test cricket to all nations instead of confining it to a handful of Commonwealth countries.

● **topscorer**

This India

I WEPT AS I WATCHED

DOTTED behind the bushes is a group of huts built of sticks and sheets of matted straw. There are staring gaps and holes in them. Seventy-two workers live there. They are employed on the building construction of the MRA Centre in Panchgani.

Tent-shaped, one hut covers a space of 6 ft x 7 ft, the height allowing a person to sit upright only in the centre. After work the women are seen crouching, cooking food on open fires lit with sticks and brambles collected from the fields. The food consists of thick rotis made of jowar. The men huddle in a corner gambling.

In one hut up to eight members live. Cold seeps into these dwellings at night. Soon the monsoons will come. Their temporary shacks will be washed away. There is not much clothing in sight — most children just have rags around their middle.

These folk, employed by the contractor, work on a building and when it is finished move on like gypsies to find new work. Women are paid Rs 2 a day and the men Rs. 3, if unskilled. Work starts at 8 o'clock in the morning and ends at 6.30 in the evening, with a break for lunch. The kids with dirt-streaked faces squat on grey piles of gravel playing. They wave cheerily or flash a grin as you pass by. The men dig at the foundations. The women pass bowls of cement from head to head.

One such woman is Anasuyabai. She lives with her eight-year-old son, Sanjiv. Till a month ago the boy did not speak or walk. His milk teeth had not been replaced. He began going to a school started by one of the girls at the Centre for the children of the workers. There he was taught to clean himself, say words like "please", "thank you" and "sorry" and learn to distinguish between right and wrong. Now he walks and runs, can catch a ball and his new teeth have started to grow. His mother says, "It is a miracle."

Even with miracles like this, they also need economic advancement. Seeing the stark reality in which these people and millions like them live was a revelation. I wept as I looked at those homes.

Having studied architecture I mean to design quarters for them that are simple, waterproof and which restore a rightful dignity to these men, women and children. I want to raise the money to build these homes. The millions of this India are my responsibility.

Neeraja Chowdhury

This was a Life

MESROP MASHTOTS circa 360-440 AD

SPEECH (the arbitrary attachment of certain sounds to certain meanings) is that great invention of the human reason which distinguishes man from the beasts. Writing (the arbitrary attachment of certain shapes to certain sounds) is the next brilliant stroke, which, two degrees removed from the thought it conveys, yet gives it everlasting life.

The Armenian nation, which emerged from barbarism into civilisation in the early fourth century AD, had then no alphabet. Official decrees and documents were written in Greek, Syriac and Persian. The honour of giving his nation the instrument which has preserved its traditions and culture and indeed nationhood, through 1600 years of oppression, fell to Mesrop Mashtots.

He was born in the village of Hatsik in Taron shire. Having learnt a little Greek from his father Vardan he was taken to the Court as a scribe by the Catholicos (archbishop) Narses the Great. Under him he soon mastered Greek, Syriac and Persian.

Weary of Court life he retired to a hermitage with a few disciples. They moved to Goghthn shire, where the old barbarous ways still prevailed, soon won the district chief, and with him reformed the character and manners of the people. The problem was how to make it permanent?

Mesrop left his hermitage and returned to the Court in AD 397. He asked Sahak, now Catholicos, to help in devising an Armenian alphabet. Sahak in 402 AD laid the proposal before King Varahram-Shapur and his Great Council. The King recalled that a Syrian Bishop named Daniel had an alphabet once used for Armenian.

Messengers were sent to fetch this alphabet. After two years' attempt to teach it, Mesrop found it contained too few letters for Armenian. He pondered and prayed over the solution for many months and then, as his biographer informs us, in 406 AD found it: "not in sleep as a dream, nor as a vision while awake, but in the workshop of his heart...Rising from his knees he created our written characters."

The rest of Mesrop's life was devoted to translation and to teaching his fellow countrymen to use the beneficent instrument of record and vehicle of thought which he had put at their disposal.

F.J.G.

NATIONAL FLAG

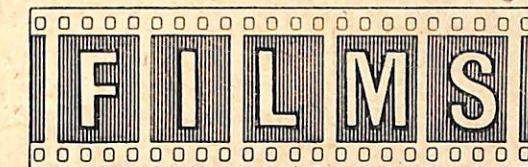
I WAS very shocked to hear that our National Flag had been burnt by students in their anti-Hindi agitation. What is the connection between the flag and Hindi? The flag is a symbol of a great nation. Insulting one's own National Flag means insulting one's own mother, one's own country and one's own dignity. The students must realise the value of one's country's flag and respect it. And the Madras Government must take suitable steps against this type of behaviour.

SHANKAR G. AMMANUGI, Dharwar

"FAIR GO, MATE!"

As a citizen of Melbourne I thrilled to the exciting stroke play of your touring Indian cricket team but have been bored with the comments in your sports section and letters column berating your men.

Recently I visited a village in Maharashtra and was rather astonished to be approached by a farmer in his sixties who wanted to know how the Indian team had done in Australia. "I know they have not always made a mountain of runs," said the farmer, "but what I want to know is do the Australians feel they have played the game in the right spirit?" I assured the farmer that the cricketing public and sports writers in



"A Countess from Hong Kong"

STRAND, BOMBAY

PERHAPS one expected too much. Direction by Charles Chaplin, script by Chaplin, music score by Chaplin, even the promise of Chaplin acting the part of a seasick steward on an ocean liner, led one to hope that the great genius of comedy was to present another glimpse of his legendary skill. The film disappoints. There is pathos — an emotion employed so brilliantly by the Chaplin of old, but not now — in his attempt to make a comeback after 12 years.

Even with Academy Award winning stars Marlon Brando, Sophia Loren and Margaret Rutherford, the "Countess" never really sparkles.

Countess Natascha (Sophia Loren), a White Russian stranded in Hong Kong, meets American oil man and Ambassador Ogden Mears (Marlon Brando) when his cruise ship visits Hong Kong. Desperate to flee her sordid emigre surroundings,



Letters

Australia had concurred that your men had played the most attractive cricket since the famous visit of the West Indian side.

So, as is often shouted from the grandstands of the Melbourne Cricket Ground or "the Hill" at Sydney's Oval, "Give 'em a fair go, mate!"

CRICKETING COBBER, Melbourne, Australia

FARMERS GIVE HOPE

I REALISE the value of your paper more fully than those who have not had the privilege of visiting India. The tremendous possibilities for the farmers of India in the new varieties of grain, and new methods of cultivation can not only bring hope but can revolutionise the whole industry and make India self-supporting. That is why the spirit that HIMMAT spreads abroad is so important.

ROBERT A. MUIR, Leduc, Canada

the Countess stows away aboard the ship and claims Ogden's reluctant help.

Universal would have done better to give us a few reels — silent, jerky and black and white — from the vast library of side-splitting films the great Chaplin (Charlie to us) made 30 years ago.

"The Spy with a Cold Nose"

NEW EMPIRE, BOMBAY

THE two-legged spy who puts to work the four-legged English bulldog Disraeli is Stanley Farquhar (Lionel Jeffries), more gawky than a camel, more bumbling than a clown. He gets the idea of putting a nail-sized transmitter into the body of the bulldog that is to be presented to the Soviet Prime Minister.



Dr Francis Trevellyan (Laurence Harvey), a smart vet, does a fine job of it. Within a few days after the arrival of Disraeli in the parlour of the Soviet Prime Minister, agent after Soviet agent is rounded up by Scotland Yard and MI-5. The Kremlin is in consternation.

Disraeli, however, is soon in poor health. The "bug" must be removed from him before an X-ray reveals it. So Dr Trevellyan and Farquhar, that anti-thesis of James Bond, fly to Moscow to lure away Disraeli.

Despite mediocre performances, "The Spy with a Cold Nose" cheers warmly.

SCREENER

The Kenya Asians

by Rajmohan Gandhi



MANY PASSIONS have been roused by Britain's new Immigrants Bill restricting the flow of Kenya Asians into Britain.

Feelings for or against the Bill tend to hide a graver issue: the evident collapse of the multi-racial experiment in East Africa. Most voices raised over the exodus of Kenya Asians to Britain seem to accept this break-up as something that was inevitable and is now irreparable.

It was not long ago that observers from different parts of the world visiting Kenya expressed confidence about the future of the blacks, browns and whites living in that country. Today the same people appear to believe in the impossibility of the three races being able to live in partnership.

The Wahindi, as the Africans call the man of Indian or Pakistani origin, is a much-hated man. An anti-British campaign in India may conceal from some people here the division between black and brown in Africa. But by now the Wahindi is aware of the strength of African bitterness against him.

A letter in *The Times* says: "I think it quite unacceptable that scores of thousands of Asians living in East Africa, where they, or their parents or grandparents, went quite voluntarily to promote their own interests, and where they have been offered, and have for their own reasons refused, Kenya citizenship, should now be permitted *en masse* to make a convenience of the British Isles."

Receivers or contributors?

There is a concern in the British people, who are not generally hostile to Asian citizens, that self-interest will prevail among immigrants. They feel that, at a moment when sacrifice and effort and a certain selflessness are urgently needed to get Britain on its feet, these men and women may be on the receiving rather than the contributing end of the British economy.

Africans have felt that Indians in their countries have milked the national cow, not fed it. This may be a sweeping view, but it is held.

An Indian industrialist I met in East Africa claimed that he was

so progressive that once every year he shook the hands of his African workers. The boot now must hurt, but we cannot pretend that it is totally unexpected.

African students in India, often giggled at in the street, uninvited to Indian homes, excluded from college groups, and given no vision of what they could do for Africa or India, have a habit of writing home and returning there to key positions. Their experiences here do not increase Africa's love for India or Indians.

We Indians may need to ask ourselves why we are the unwanted ones — in East Africa or in Britain. People on the give are not only needed but desired. The Indian who admits his mistakes and faces the cost of his selfishness will be a rare, and popular being on the African or the British landscape.

Trusted Britain

President Kenyatta and the other leaders of Kenya may also need to ask themselves some straight questions. Will their troubles really cease with the brown man's exit? Has the brown man been unmitigatedly selfish? Has he served no purpose, filled no need? Kikuyu and Luo may today unite against the Wahindi, but it would be unwise to regard this alliance as friendship, or to expect it to last without a new element. The truth is that black, brown and white need one another.

There is no question that Indian authorities were greatly hurt when only 4000 out of 186,000 Kenya Asians opted for Indian citizenship, and the overwhelming majority chose British passports. Our kith and kin trusted Britain more than their relatives this side of the Arabian Sea.

The men at our helm must have felt let down by governments like that of Kenya and offended by the Kenya Indians unwilling to settle here. However, to seek relief from feelings by attacking the British and by attempting to create almost a joint Afro-Asian front to do so seems unprincipled.

The political pressures on the different governments are obvious. The difficulties and insecurities of the East African Asians are real.

Yet the whole thing could have been solved if representatives of the governments and the Kenya Asians had met together in a spirit of intelligent co-operation.

If Ceylon and India could find an agreement concerning the repatriation of over 500,000 Indians in Ceylon, could not the Governments of Kenya, Britain, Pakistan and India have agreed on a thought-through, phased-out plan of resettlement in India, Pakistan and Britain?

The British move, of course, is a blow against the image of a nation and government that keep their word. Men of all parties and backgrounds in Britain have stressed this point of integrity in their opposition to the Bill. For instance, Cardinal Heenan, supporting the Archbishop of Canterbury, says, "Legislation involving the abandonment of honourable undertakings, however, would be quite unacceptable to a nation which twice during this century has risked its survival in defence of the sanctity of the pledged word."

Damaged prestige

It will not be easy for Britain to repair the damage to her prestige. But the following letter in *The Times* by an Indian woman gives hope that ordinary people everywhere can set the standards the world needs:

"...I feel compelled, as a coloured person, to state that during my six years' stay in this country I have not found all that prejudice among the average ordinary people...I have been living in Llandudno for the last 15 months. During this period I had one confinement and one serious illness due to a car accident which lasted for over eight weeks. During these periods my friends and neighbours cleaned my house, bathed my babies, cooked my meals, did my shopping, lent their cars and arranged among themselves for one of them to be with me practically all the time. All these people are white people, Welsh and English. They belong to the different strata of the society from top to bottom. But they all keep an open house for us and for all their social events we are invited."

FIND THE BALL Competition No 62

WIN
Rs. 50
or more

2nd Prize: **2HIRA** LUXURY TOOTHBRUSHES
WITH DELUXE CONTAINERS

HOW TO PLAY

The ball in this cricket action picture has been painted out. All you have to do is to **mark a cross** (not circle, arrow, etc) where you think the ball is. Then cut out the picture and coupon and send it to "Find the Ball", c/o HIMMAT, 294 Bazargate Street, Bombay 1 before noon on Monday, March 18.

The winner will be announced in the following issue. You may make not more than **Six Entries** in any competition. **N.B** only **one cross** may be marked on each picture. The Editor's decision is final.

Nearest entry wins Rs. 25
On the ball wins the Jackpot*

*Each week half the prize of Rs. 50 will be awarded to the nearest entry. The other half will be carried forward to a "Jackpot" to be won by the first competitor who marks **EXACTLY** the centre of the ball. This Jackpot Prize will accumulate by Rs. 25 per week until it is won.

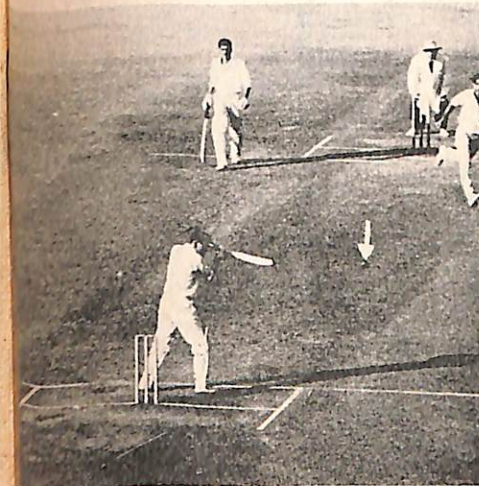
Name	BLOCK LETTERS
Address	
I agree to the rules of the competition as outlined above.	

WINNER OF COMPETITION 60

is P.C. Aswani, A 8, Narayan Society, Turner Road, Bandra, Bombay 50. Rs 25 for nearest entry (2 mm from ball).

2nd Prize (Swish Shaving Foam in Aerosol Can) also goes to P.C. Aswani, Bombay 50. (3.2mm from ball).

Next week's Jackpot: Rs.225

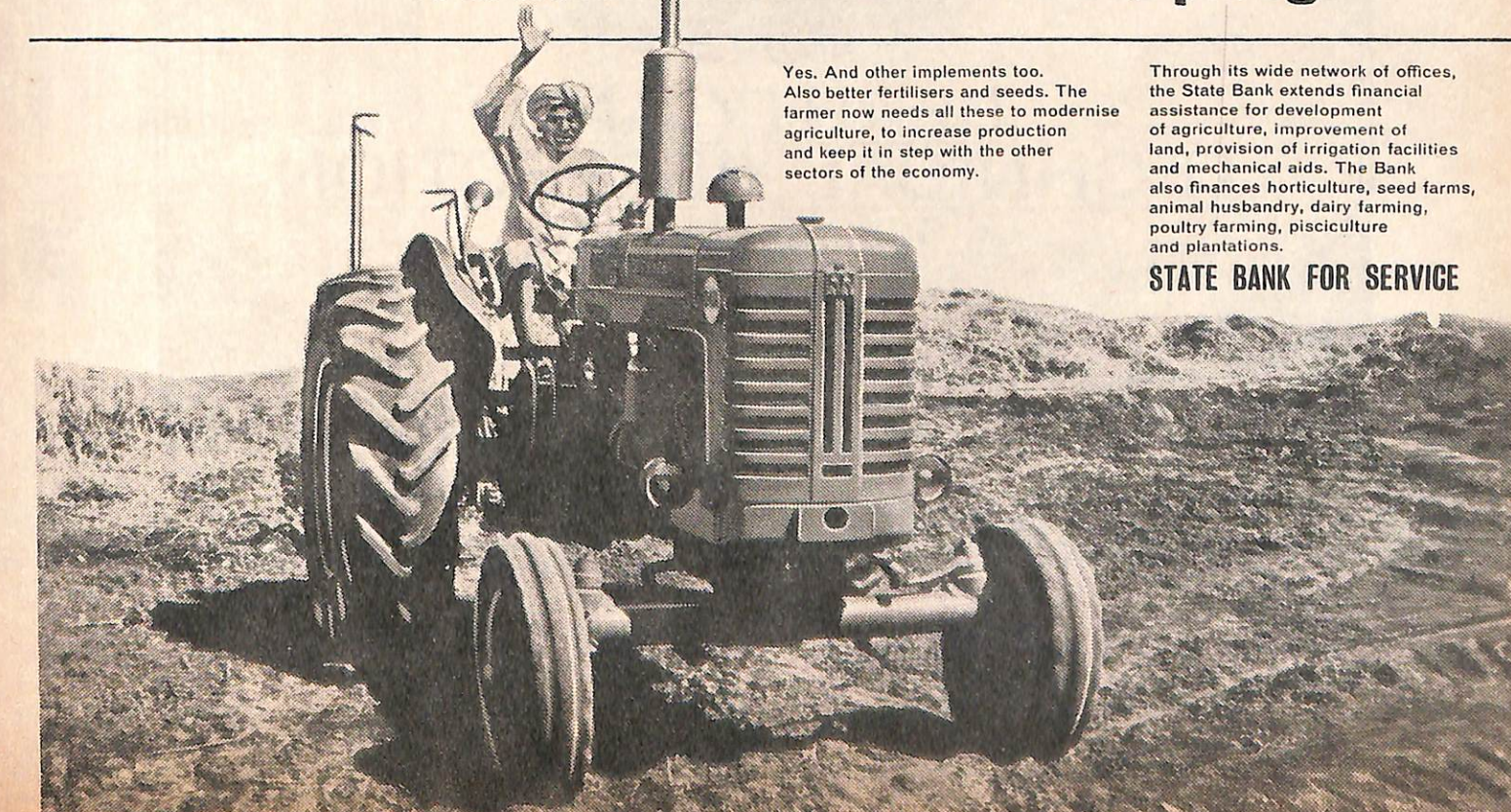


FIND
THE
BALL



PLEASE CUT HERE

A tractor instead of the old plough



Yes. And other implements too. Also better fertilisers and seeds. The farmer now needs all these to modernise agriculture, to increase production and keep it in step with the other sectors of the economy.

Through its wide network of offices, the State Bank extends financial assistance for development of agriculture, improvement of land, provision of irrigation facilities and mechanical aids. The Bank also finances horticulture, seed farms, animal husbandry, dairy farming, poultry farming, pisciculture and plantations.

STATE BANK FOR SERVICE

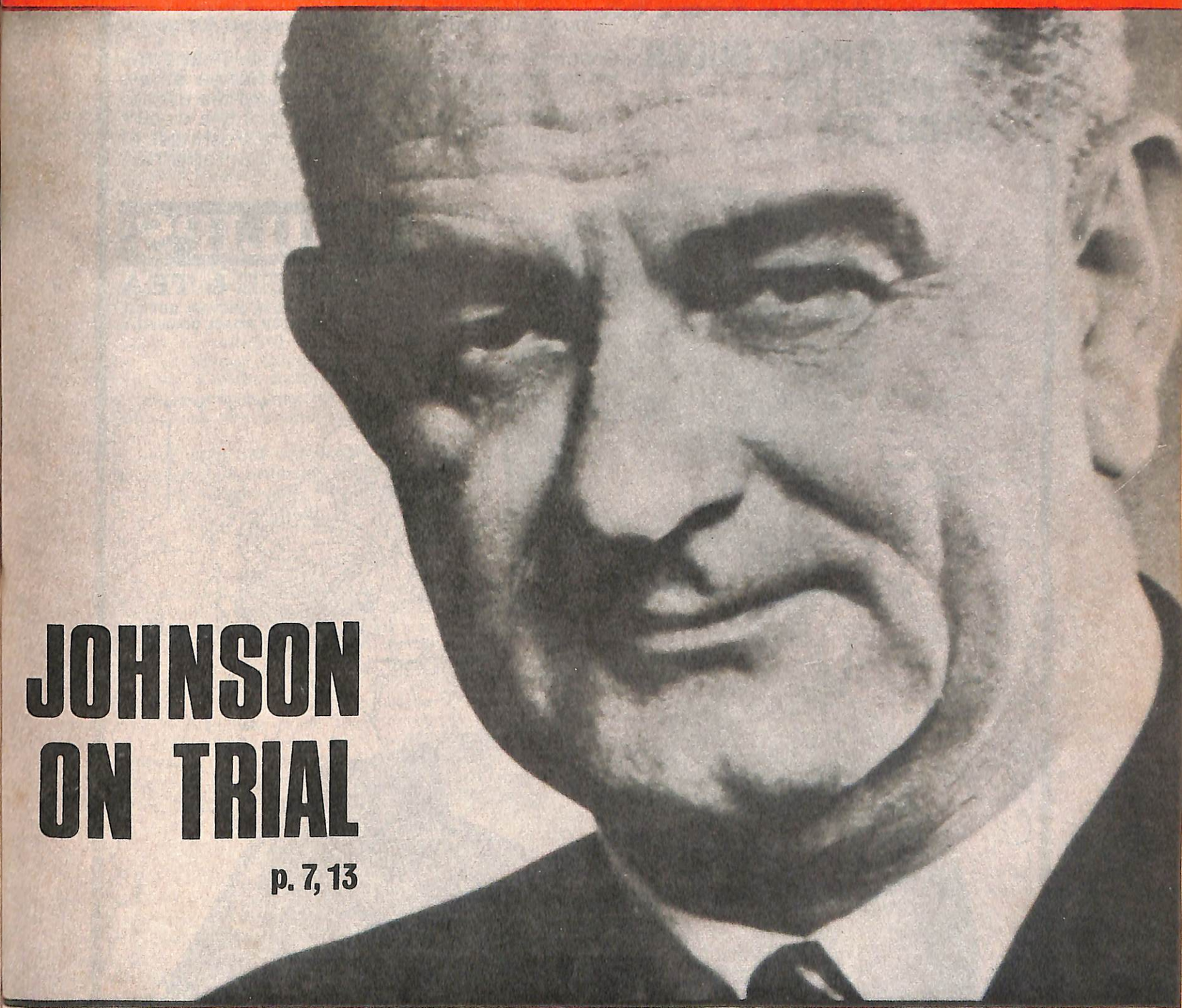
HIMMAT

WEEKLY 30p.

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JOHNSON ON TRIAL

p. 7, 13

VIETNAM AND THE NEGRO

Rajmohan Gandhi

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